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Children in a spin in the giant kaleidoscope at Questacon, the National Science and Technology Centre.

Local

UWS Questacon-style centre vision for the west

Lauren Tesolin, Penrith Press
June 29, 2015 9:55am

THE University of Western Sydney has hatched a plan to build a \$51 million science and technology centre rivalling Canberra's Questacon at its Werrington campus.

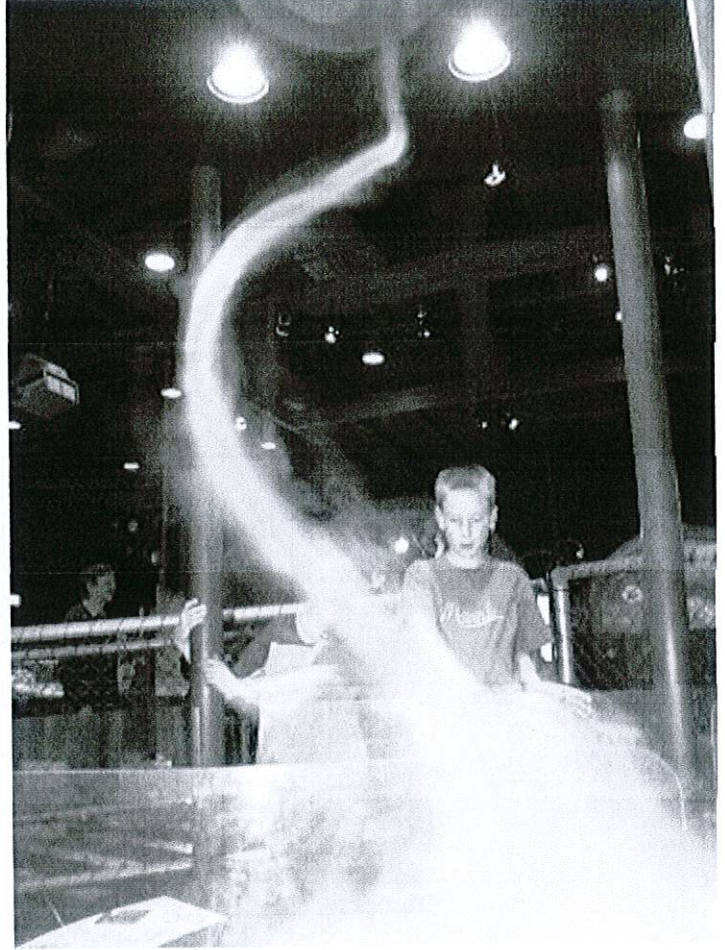
UWS vice-chancellor Barney Glover said the innovative idea would be a major game changer for the science industry regionally, nationally and globally.

Prof Glover said the university had already committed \$30 million towards the project.

"There will be a big population growth in western Sydney. We are expected to see another 900,000 people in the next 20 years ... which is why we need to create new jobs," Prof Glover said.



📷 Questacon slide.



📷 Visitor looks at Questacon in Canberra.

“If we fail to act: productivity will decline, the labour market will be disconnected, investment will go elsewhere and of course there will be a intergenerational disadvantage.

“We need to recognise the importance of stimulating much, much more interest and engagement from young people in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines because they are the core of the innovative future that we need in Australia.

“Part of our innovation strategy is to establish a science centre that is bigger and more impressive than Questacon. A science centre that incorporates introducing young people to these technologies.”



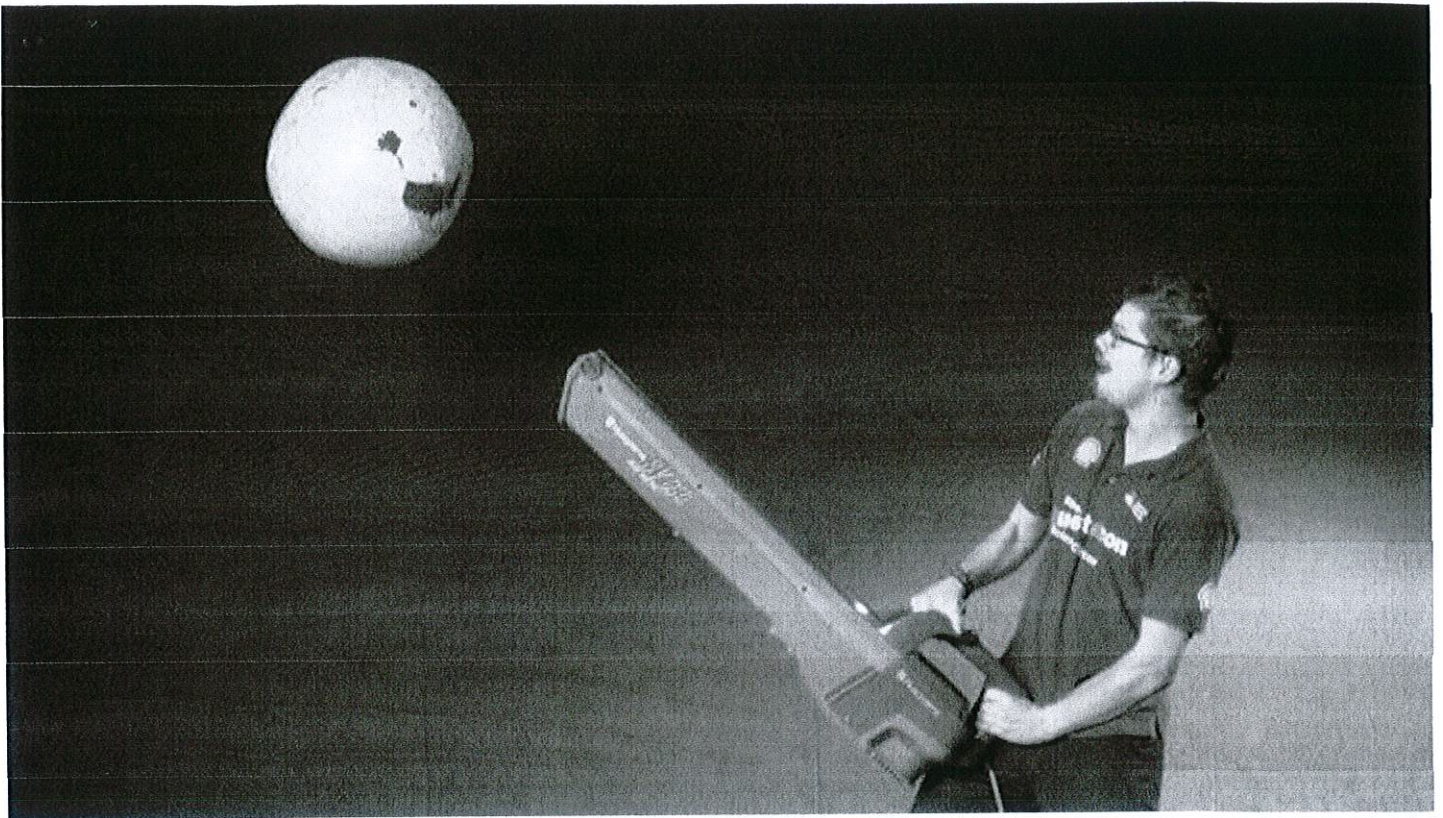
📷 Children at Questacon in Canberra. Pic Questacon.

UWS director of government relations Andy Marks said another \$21 million from government or private sectors was needed for the project.

“We have already identified a building on the Werrington South campus for this science centre (the former performing arts centre) and we have already put up more than half of the cost of the building, however, we do need that extra \$21 million to refurbish,” Dr Marks said.

If that funding is found, he believes the precinct could be up and running within 18 months.

“Western Sydney deserves to have something of this scale and on this magnitude,” Dr Marks said.



📷 The Shell Questacon Science Circus.

“The centre will be a mix of both education and fun. We want schoolchildren to attend and immerse themselves totally in STEM and want it to be highly interactive and engaging.

“The plan is to have 150,000 schoolchildren coming through the facility each year.”

So far interest has been gauged at a local, state and federal level.

“For the past few months we have been discussing our plans with political representatives including Penrith City Council, the Premier Mike Baird and with Lindsay federal MP Fiona Scott,” Dr Marks said.

“We are very impressed by the positive reception we have been getting.”

PRIME MINISTER BACKING WESTERN SYDNEY TO BECOME SCIENCE HUB

CONTROVERSIAL PLAN TO MOVE NATIONAL ART SCHOOL TO THE WEST



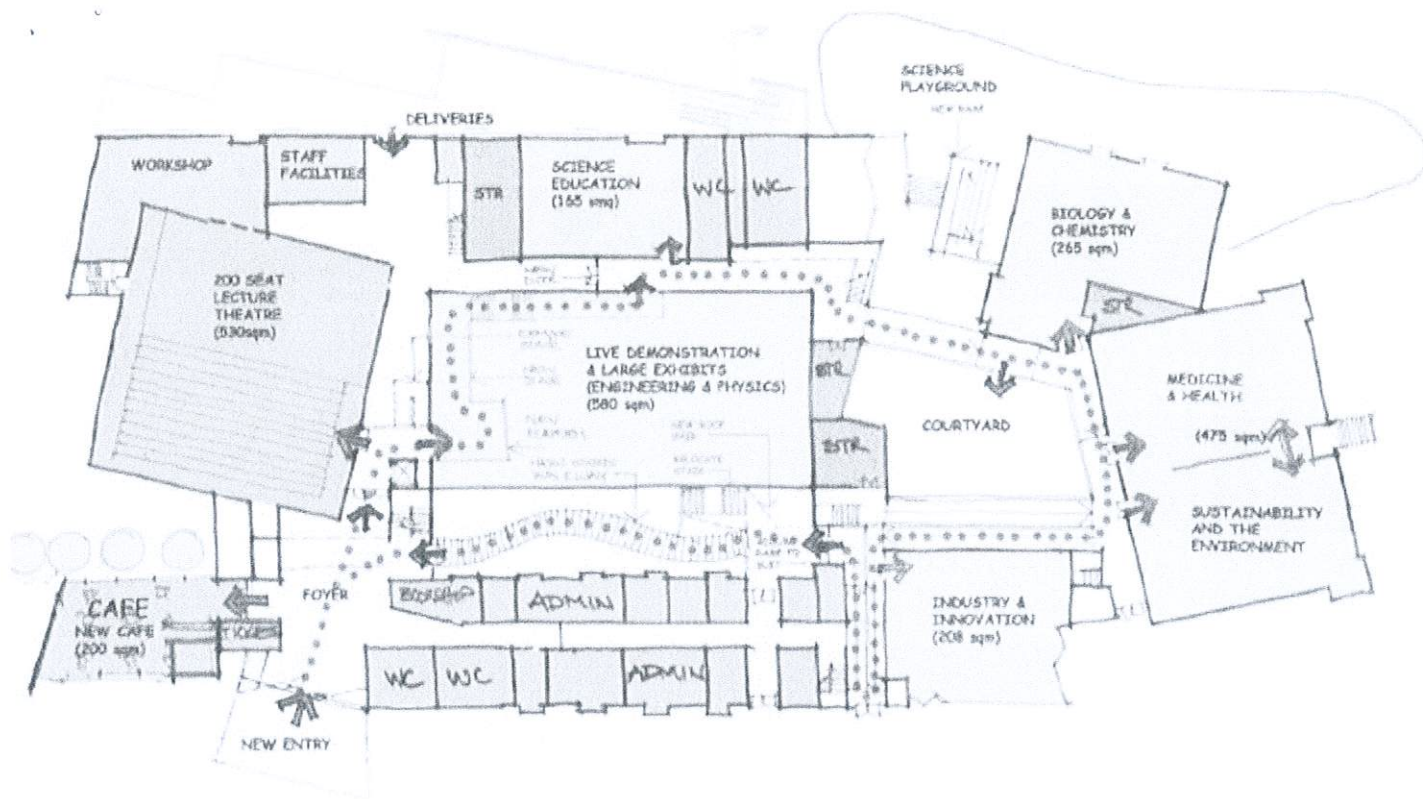
📷 Proposed plans for the science and technology centre at UWS Werrington South campus. The building that is intended to be refurbished is the old creative and performing arts centre

Ms Scott said she wholeheartedly supported the UWS development.

“This science centre that UWS are spearheading is a huge innovative step in the right direction to help our children have the right education and skills in STEM,” Ms Scott said.

“Every child deserves smart jobs for the future and deserve an education that provides those smart jobs.

“I am pushing for this to be successful. I am loudly advocating for this project but it will have to go through the due processes.”



Proposed plans for the science and technology centre at UWS Werrington South campus. The building that is intended to be refurbished is the old creative and performing arts centre

WESTERN SYDNEY BUSINESS CONNECTION

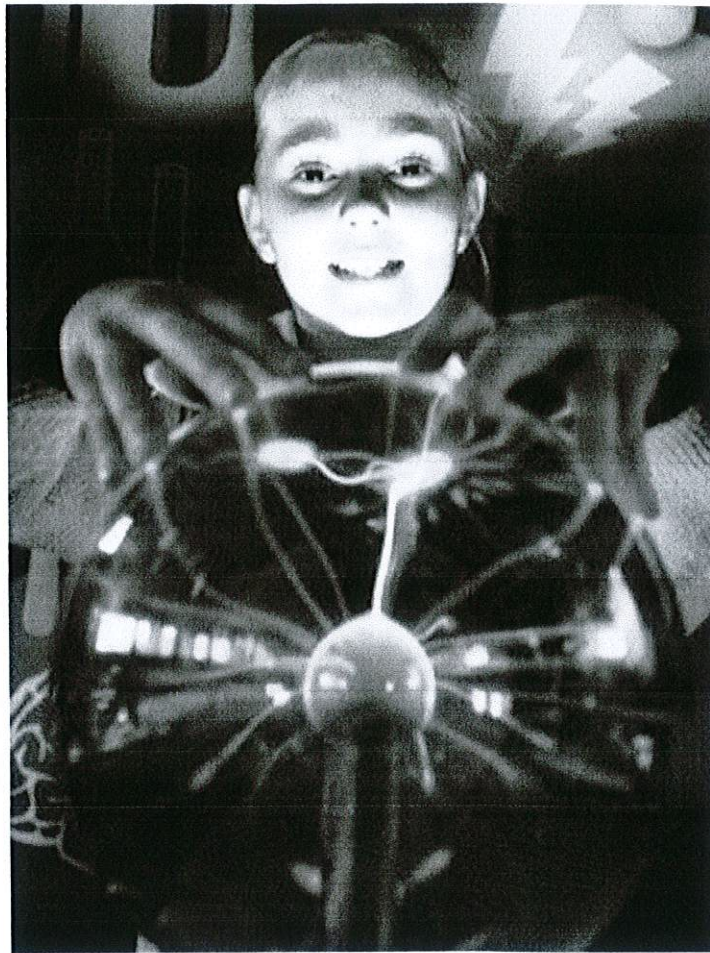
Western Sydney's innovation corridor was at the forefront of a Western Sydney Business Connection luncheon at Penrith Panthers last Thursday.

UWS vice-chancellor Barney Glover presented the keynote speech about bringing business innovation to western Sydney and enacting a vision for outer west.

"We want government to be directing interest in outer western Sydney, but we need to get on with infrastructure projects first," Prof Glover said.



Cooper Crisp, 5, really gets into the study of space and volume at the Questacon Science Play exhibit.



Natalie McDonald experiences the plasma globe at Questacon.