

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR VICTORIA

## NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM MESSAGE

I am pleased to congratulate the Victorian students selected for the 2022 National Youth Science Forum Year 12 Program.

As well as congratulating you, I want to thank you for having the confidence and tenacity to go through the selection process at a time that has held so many challenges for you, your studies and your lives more generally. You have put yourselves forward, and you have succeeded.

Never have I been more aware of the importance of the opportunity presented by this prestigious program. It extends to you the privilege to develop a broad understanding of the diverse study and career options available across the exciting fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The pandemic has, of course, made us more mindful than ever of the role of science. We have looked to it to unravel the mysteries of the virus through genomic sequencing, through modelling to predict its patterns and through discoveries to prevent and cure the illness.

In the meantime, it is science that has created the virtual world that has kept us connected. And it will be science that helps us in the rebuild of our communities and our economies as we recover, including through solutions on climate change, digitisation, advanced manufacturing and new energies.

Thank you to the selectors, and everyone connected with the National Youth Science Forum, and to Rotary, especially for managing the process in challenging circumstances.

I have no doubt that many of you, the successful students, will be inspired to develop and contribute STEM expertise to Victoria and far beyond, in the future.

It will be a joy to watch.

Congratulations to each one of you. Good luck in January, and good luck in your future studies.

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC

Governor of Victoria