Moderna mRNA onshore partnership

Whole of Government talking points

- The Australian Government has formally agreed to a partnership with Moderna that will result in a world-class mRNA facility being constructed in Victoria.
- This partnership is designed so that Australia will have sovereign mRNA vaccine manufacturing capabilities in the event there is another pandemic.
- Australia will be one of very few countries in the world with this capability.
- This will reduce the risk of relying solely on imports for mRNA vaccines, providing Australia with greater certainty and faster access in relation to the supply of vaccines.
- An onshore mRNA capability is important as this reduces the likelihood of extended lockdown periods and associated social and economic costs.
- The long-term strategic partnership will give us access to world leading COVID-19 vaccines and other respiratory vaccines as they come into production, and it will provide the Australian public with priority access to innovative vaccines.
- This could include
    - new variant COVID-19 vaccines,
    - other respiratory viruses such as influenza, and
    - potential future pandemics or local outbreaks of diseases.
- Our partnership with Moderna will establish a burgeoning mRNA ecosystem, supporting Australian medical research and innovation projects that leverage and enhance emerging technologies, platforms, equipment and infrastructure to conduct clinical trials of mRNA-based vaccines and/or therapeutics.
- This is a long-term commitment by the Australian Government to establish an onshore mRNA manufacturing facility and we look forward to seeing mRNA technology unfolding in what is an extremely promising area of medical science.

Attachment B

Whole of Government questions and answers

Announcement of Moderna Partnership

1. ***Why is the Government establishing a sovereign capability?***

- The Government has three primary objectives for establishing an onshore capability:
    - Provide reliable access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines and other mRNA treatments to the Australian population;
    - Ensure we have priority access to mRNA vaccines to respond to future pandemics and other health emergencies; and
    - Strengthen Australia's biopharmaceuticals ecosystem and place Australia at the forefront of the development of transformative mRNA technology.

2. ***Why was Moderna chosen as the supplier?***

- Moderna is the best option to establish onshore population scale manufacturing to protect the health of Australians.
    - They are one of only two companies with TGA-approved mRNA vaccines in the world (that product being the COVID-19 vaccine, Spikevax).
    - Moderna has the IP and demonstrated ability to quickly ramp up production of mRNA vaccines in a pandemic scenario.
    - Moderna is an mRNA vaccine specialist and has a substantial product pipeline such as for COVID-19 variants and melanoma.

- Moderna is a growing company and shares the Government's commitment to building Australia's biopharmaceutical ecosystem.

3. ***Why was Pfizer not chosen as the supplier?***
    - Pfizer have the capacity to manufacture mRNA vaccines for humans as demonstrated by the approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19.
    - The Australian Government had discussions with Pfizer early in its considerations.
    - However, Pfizer advised Government that it was not prepared to undertake mRNA manufacturing in any other country other than those where it had already established facilities.
4. ***When will the Moderna facility/vaccines be ready?***

- We anticipate Moderna will commence production of vaccines from 2024.
    - Before it can do so, Moderna needs to build the manufacturing facility, establish supply chain arrangements, and secure all relevant regulatory approvals.

5. ***How much will establishing the facility cost?***

- s 45 [redacted] Moderna is still in the planning stages and the cost of establishing the facility has not been finalised.

6. ***Is the Moderna Agreement binding?***

- Yes, for a period of 10 years.

7. ***Where will the Moderna facility be located?***

- Subject to the Victorian Government finalising its arrangements with the Commonwealth and Moderna, the facility will be located in Victoria.

8. ***Why Victoria?***

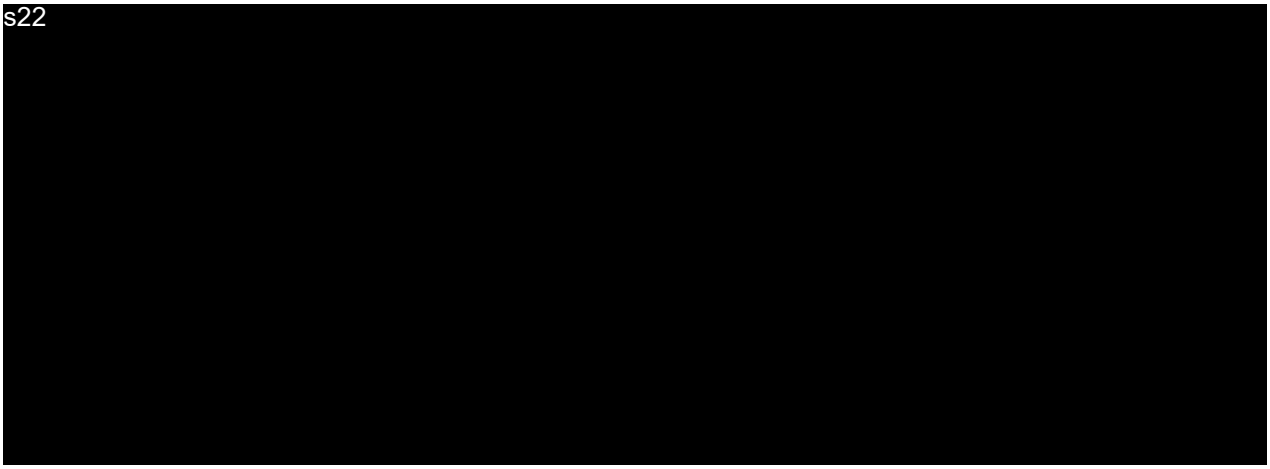
- The intention to locate the manufacturing facility in Victoria was the result of discussions between the Australian Government, Moderna and the Victorian State Government.

9. ***How much is the Commonwealth contributing versus the Victorian Government?***

- Funding arrangements are confidential, due to commercial sensitivities.

s22 [redacted]

s22



mRNA Technology

11. ***What is mRNA?***

- mRNA is short for **m**essenger **R**ibo**n**ucleic **A**cid or messenger RNA.
    - mRNA vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein—or even just a piece of a protein—that triggers an immune response inside our bodies.

12. ***Where is it used?***

- mRNA is the technology behind the Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines.
    - mRNA vaccines are in development for cancer, respiratory illnesses, and other conditions.

13. ***Why is it used?***

- mRNA technologies have the potential to transform many areas of medicine as it:
    - can be used to create a variety of vaccines and treatments in less time and at a lower cost than traditional vaccines, and scale up well; and
    - mRNA is an ideal platform from which to respond to a pandemic or disease outbreak. It is relatively easy to change the vaccine sequence to target almost any pathogen or variant.

14. ***Who currently manufactures COVID-19 mRNA vaccines***

- Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech are the only two companies with approved mRNA COVID-19 vaccines on the global market. Their vaccines and boosters have been authorised for use in multiple countries, including Australia.

- They have the mRNA vaccine technology and know-how, with approved delivery systems which are IP protected.

Importance of mRNA to Australia

15. ***Why is onshore mRNA capability important?***

- Onshore mRNA manufacturing capability will provide Australia with insurance against future pandemics. It will help ensure the entire Australian population is vaccinated more quickly than if we relied on vaccines from overseas.

- This reduces the likelihood of extended lockdown periods and associated social and economic costs.

    - Treasury analysis of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021 estimated the direct costs of nationwide lockdowns could range from AU$2.35 billion to AU$3.2 billion a week.
- It will also provide priority access to innovative vaccines and treatments and help build an Australian mRNA ecosystem.

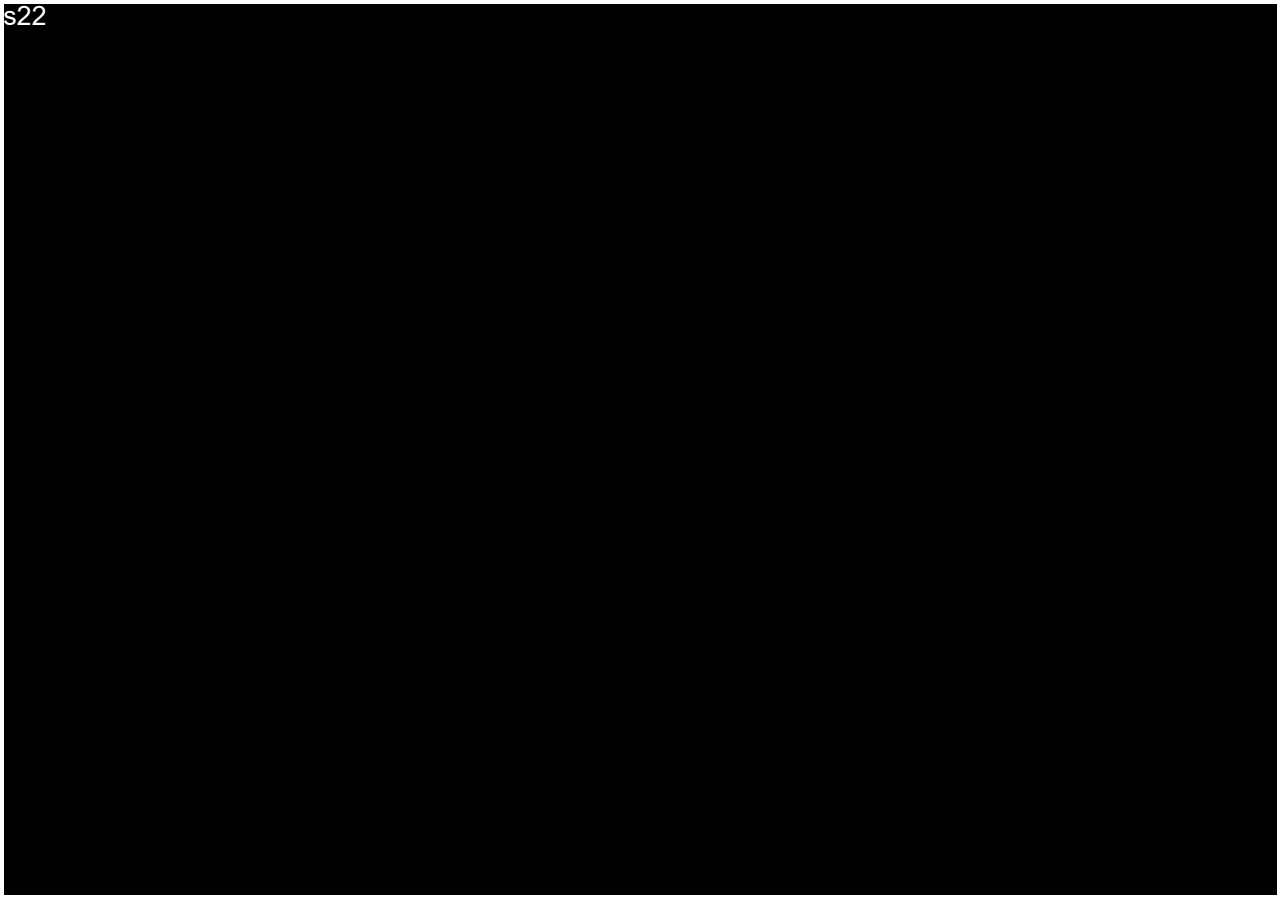
16. ***Is a pandemic likely in the next 10 years and how will this facility help?***

- The timing of the next pandemic is inherently uncertain – it could come in a few months, years, or decades.
- This facility will provide a robust platform to respond to a pandemic or outbreak. mRNA technology makes it relatively easy to change the vaccine sequence to target almost any pathogen or variant.
- Having the facility onshore means Australia will have a facility ready to produce vaccines as soon as they become available.

17. ***What research and development and other investment will Moderna make in the biotechnology ecosystem? How many jobs will it contribute?***

- Moderna are committed to engaging with the local research community, developing genuine research and data partnerships; and undertaking clinical trials.
- The establishment of the mRNA facility onshore is anticipated to create up to 500 jobs during its construction phase with an ongoing workforce of 500 across the broader industry.

s22



s22

[redacted]

23. ***If asked about media report(s) of Moderna's two shortlisted greenfield manufacturing sites in Melbourne?***

- Moderna is assessing locations for the vaccine manufacturing facility in Victoria, as per our agreement.
- We look forward to Moderna announcing its preferred location in the near future.

24. ***If asked about how a reported potential Moderna facility in the United Kingdom affects Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability?***

- The reported potential facility in the United Kingdom will not affect these arrangements.

s22

26. ***If asked about the 8 December Pharma in Focus article 'PM blasted for pharma closures'?***

- The Government appreciates a variety of factors are taken into consideration by private companies when they make decisions concerning manufacturing in Australia. The Government sympathises with all affected workers.
- The Moderna partnership is about building our onshore capability.
- Moderna's facility will create new jobs, and will help establish Australia as a world-leading hub for RNA science and manufacturing, stimulating broader national benefits.

27. ***If asked about the Victorian Government's $21m mRNA Victoria Activation Program:***

- We welcome the announcement on 8 December 2021 from the Victorian Government to support Australia's RNA ecosystem.
- This funding is complementary to our partnership with the Victorian Government and Moderna.

28. ***If asked about the NSW mRNA pilot manufacturing facility:***

- We welcome the announcement on 1 December 2021 from the NSW Government about establishing a pilot mRNA manufacturing facility. This is an important contribution to building Australia's mRNA capabilities.
    - It provides a capability for clinical trials and large scale manufacturing.

29. ***If asked about IDT mRNA 'manufacturing':***

- We welcome the 21 October 2021 announcement from IDT concerning production of mRNA material as it represents an important contribution to building Australia's mRNA capabilities.

s 45 / s 47 [redacted]

s 45/ s 47 [redacted]

s 45/ s 47 [redacted]

- The wellbeing of the Australian population in the face of future pandemics is a priority of the Australian Government.

32. ***If asked: How is the Australian Government ensuring 'value for money' in the Moderna deal?***

- The Government has carefully considered the deal with Moderna. Onshore mRNA manufacturing capability will provide Australia with insurance against future pandemics. It will help ensure the entire Australian population is vaccinated more quickly than if we relied on vaccines from overseas.
- This arrangement reduces the likelihood of extended lockdown periods and associated social and economic costs.
- s 45/ s 47 [redacted]

s 45/ s 47 [redacted]

s22 [redacted]

s 45 / s 47 [redacted]

- We are working in close partnership with the Victorian Government and Moderna to bring this capability to Australia.

s 45 / s 47 [redacted]

- This provides a level of insurance to the Australian population in the event of a new pandemic.
- The funding associated with establishing an onshore mRNA manufacturing capability is confidential, due to the commercial sensitivities.

s22 [redacted]