



FLYING HIGH: Dr Sue Keay with Gizmo, the CSIRO Hexapod, in the Robotics Innovation Centre. Picture: Tara Croser

ROBOTICS LAB MAKES STATE A WORLD LEADER

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BRISBANE'S position as a world-leading hub for the multi-billion robotics industry will take another leap forward today.

A purpose-built Robotics Innovation Centre will open at Pullenvale.

Operated by the CSIRO Data61 group, the 600sq m facility will be used as a test-bed for robots and drones,

recreating a range of environments including an underwater pool, mines, caves and a forest with a creek.

Dr Sue Keay, the new head of Data61's cyber-physical systems program, said the \$3 million centre would be a wonderful addition to the operation.

"Next, we really want to see how we can make this a national facility," Dr Keay said.

The new centre is an important step towards establishing a formal robotics cluster in Brisbane to take advantage of the enormous potential in the industry, which is forecast to be worth \$25 billion worldwide by 2025.

Establishing a dedicated cluster as part of driving the growth of future industries was one of the 20 key points in an action plan developed from *The Courier-Mail's* Fu-

ture SEQ series exploring the challenges and opportunities in the region during the next 25 years. The city already has a concentration of robotics and drones expertise across universities, research organisations and businesses and it produces 80 per cent of the world's mining-related software. "I'm optimistic we will see some really tangible results around a cluster," Dr Keay said.