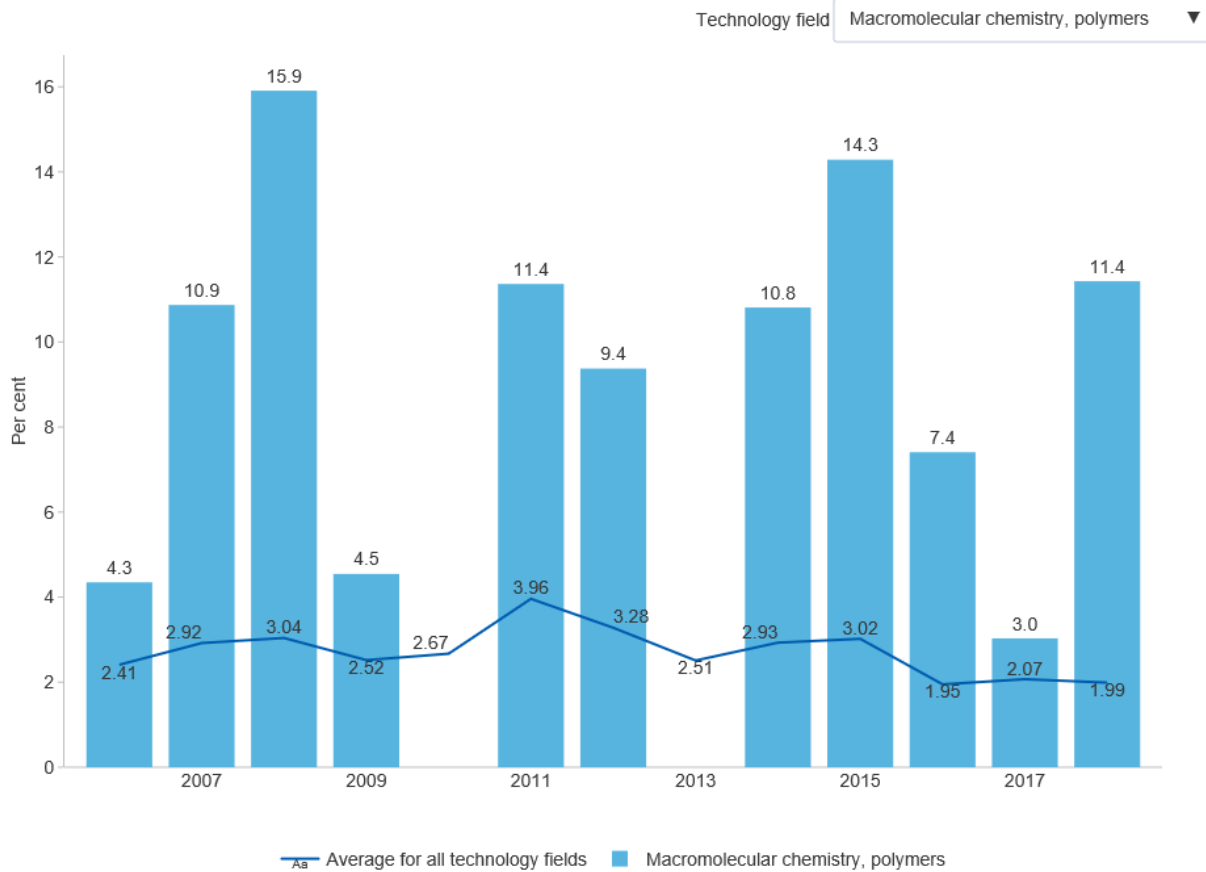


#### 4.1.4 Businesses collaborating with publicly funded research organisations

Collaboration promotes innovation, as collaborators build on other’s knowledge and experience. Patent data on collaboration between businesses and publicly funded research organisations (PFROs) suggests limited interaction between the two sectors in Australia. Among all patent families that include an Australian applicant, just 2 per cent involved collaboration in 2018. That said, collaboration varies substantially across technology fields and years; and it is also not present in all fields. In 2018, the technology fields with the largest share of patents involving business and PFRO collaboration were in *Macromolecular chemistry, polymers* (11.4 per cent), *Biotechnology* (8.2 per cent) and *Optics* (6.3 per cent).<sup>1</sup> A recent report by IP Australia found that collaborative grants have a higher impact on boosting all types of patent applications than non-collaborative ones. Further, a greater impact is seen for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications, where PCT applications are submitted to obtain patent protection within multiple countries.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure: Businesses collaborating with PFROs, share of patent family filings involving Australian applicants, by technology field, per cent, latest 2018**



<sup>1</sup> European Patent Office (2020) *PATSTAT 2020: Autumn edition* (<https://www.epo.org/searching-for-patents/business/patstat.html>)

<sup>2</sup> IP Australia (2018) *IP Report 2018: Collaborative research grants lead to better IP outcomes* (<https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/ip-report-2018/research-grants>)