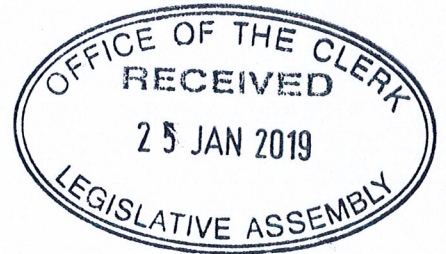




**The Hon. John Barilaro MP**

Deputy Premier  
Minister for Regional New South Wales,  
Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business

18/44#46



Ms Helen Minnican  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to Report No 4/56 of the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development entitled *Support for Start-ups in Regional New South Wales*. The enclosed Government response is provided in accordance with Assembly Standing Order No 303A.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Ms Nicole Cook, CEO, Jobs for NSW, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

The Hon. John Barilaro MP  
**Deputy Premier**  
**Minister for Regional New South Wales**  
**Minister for Skills and Minister for Small Business**

cc: Premier, the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP





NSW LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, INDUSTRY AND  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT FOR START-UPS IN  
REGIONAL NSW (REPORT 4/56, AUGUST 2019)

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

The NSW Government welcomes the Report of the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development into Support for Startups in Regional NSW (the **Report**), which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 16 August 2018.

The startup sector is rapidly evolving globally, which presents unique policy challenges and opportunities, especially in regional areas. Support for startups is still a relatively new area of Government activity across Australia, but the NSW Government is leading the way with a suite of products and programs to encourage the viable growth of the regional startup ecosystem, to enable the jobs of the future.

The Report makes eight recommendations in connection to supporting regional startups. The NSW Government fully supports the recommendations' aim of improving communication of Government programs currently available and providing alternate options to assist startups located in regional areas. The Government is also committed to supporting regional innovation activities and ecosystems.

The Government notes that several recommendations relate to the development of programs which since the launch of the Committee Inquiry and Report are now being addressed. This includes the Local Innovation Network (LIN) and Regional Investment Attraction Fund, as well as improved information and processes for startup funding.

Information on the support available to regional entrepreneurs is available on the [Jobs for NSW website](#) as well as information on startup events. There is clearer information about the application process and assessment criteria and monthly information sessions are run via live feed. The newly formed LIN will also be a key channel to publicise existing support to regional startups.

Through the LIN, the NSW Government has committed \$2.1 million to seven regional centres to facilitate connectivity for regional startups to one another, to the Sydney Startup Hub, to global networks and investors, as well as promote global best-practice, and expand infrastructure to create higher density across the regional startup network. The LIN will also build investor networks with local angel investors and high net worth individuals. There is also a free Regional Landing Pad at the Sydney Startup Hub and a regional travel stipend for all successful minimal viable product (MVP) grant recipients from regional areas to enhance their access to these resources.

Usefully, a [Funding Roadmap](#) has also been developed in collaboration with the federal government, to provide a complete picture of financial support available both at State and Federal level. The Government also offers all startup grant applicants the option for further feedback if their grant application is unsuccessful.

The NSW Government also supports the preeminent local and international startup competitions which hold regional as well as state or national finals (AusPost Regional Pitchfest in 2017 and the Spark Festival Regional pitchfest in 2018). This will now be coordinated through the LIN to ensure the selected events have the most impact regionally.





Additionally, the Government works closely with the Federal Government to avoid duplication of programs and provides connections where appropriate to federal startup funding programs, Industry Growth Centres and the National Innovation and Science Agenda.

The NSW Government supports and facilitates collaboration and connections between regional entrepreneurs and universities and technical colleges, including through the Sydney School of Entrepreneurship and the Boosting Business Innovation Program.

This Government recognises the importance of fostering innovation and entrepreneurial learning for all students, regardless of locale and socio-economic factors and encourages entrepreneurship to be incorporated into STEM and project-based learning. Opportunities for learning about entrepreneurship are included in a number of NSW syllabuses. The NSW Education Standards Authority is reviewing the NSW curriculum to ensure the education system is preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

Government supported programs such as STEM Industry Schools Partnership, Young Change Agents and iEntrepreneur are already directly assisting entrepreneurs in regional areas. A number of schools have already engaged with regional entrepreneurship programs, such as the inaugural 'Student GATEway' at the NSW DPI's Global Agri-tech Ecosystems (GATE) in Orange, NSW.

The NSW Government appreciates the work of the Committee members and the Committee Secretariat.