



23 August 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

New start-up competitions to drive regional innovation

More regional start-up competitions have been encouraged across New South Wales under new recommendations made by the Legislative Assembly's Investment, Industry and Regional Development Committee. The Committee has recommended that the Government support start-up competitions in each regional electorate within the State. The report on support for start-ups in regional New South Wales was tabled in State Parliament by Mr Michael Johnsen MP, Committee Chair, last week on 16 August 2018.

'People in regional NSW are naturally entrepreneurial and innovative, and we have seen a number of promising start-ups begin their success in regional areas' said Mr Johnsen.

'The start-up sector is rapidly evolving, but the question is how can the Government support innovation and growth of start-ups located outside Sydney across regional New South Wales.'

'We need to support existing innovation ecosystems and communities across regional NSW to help entrepreneurs to develop start-ups.'

'New regional competitions will provide new ways for regional start-ups to gain exposure and support. We also have recommended that the Government ensure its funding programs are easy to understand and information is easily accessible online. Entrepreneurs throughout our State have shown us the rewards that come from being bold and brave in business and we should recognise and support our start-up founders.'

'We want to encourage a culture of entrepreneurship in the State, and particularly in regional areas. We have recommended a greater focus on entrepreneurship at primary and secondary school levels, with more education programs incorporating successful entrepreneurs to inspire the next generation of regional start-up founders.'

For more from the Chair about the Inquiry, see the [Chair's video](#). The Committee's report and submissions received are available on the [Committee's website](#).

Media: Michael Johnsen MP, Chair –

Office: (02) 6543 1065

Mobile: 0419 696 756