



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

8 November 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

Paving a bright, technological future for NSW regions

Today, the Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development (IIRD) tabled the report of its inquiry into technology and the agriculture and mining sectors.

The Committee commenced the inquiry to identify the opportunities for regional NSW presented by agriculture and mining technologies and innovations, and to examine barriers and possible measures to support the take up and use of technology.

During the course of the inquiry the Committee received 11 submissions, held one public hearing and conducted two site visits, to Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga campus and Newcrest's Cadia Valley Operations in Orange. The Committee has made eight findings and 11 recommendations aimed at addressing the issues raised during the inquiry.

Member for Monaro and Committee Chair, Nichole Overall, said that inquiry participants broadly agreed that technology will be critical to the future of the agriculture and mining sectors in NSW. Many stakeholders were excited about the potential benefits that technologies and innovations presented to these sectors and those regional communities where many agriculture and mining centres are located.

"As new and emerging technologies continue to be adopted in agriculture and mining, it will transform and attract a more diverse and skilled local workforce. This could drive economic and cultural development in regional NSW," Mrs Overall said.

However, inquiry participants highlighted a number of key challenges and barriers limiting the ability of primary producers, industries and regional communities from fully realising the potential benefits of new and emerging technologies.

"Our regions are already facing skills shortages and we need to ensure that we are building a workforce today that will meet the skills demand of a technological future," Mrs Overall said.

"We need to ensure regional communities have the right infrastructure and supports in place to capitalise on the possibilities offered by technology. This includes improving regional connectivity and encouraging the uptake of skilled careers in agriculture and mining."

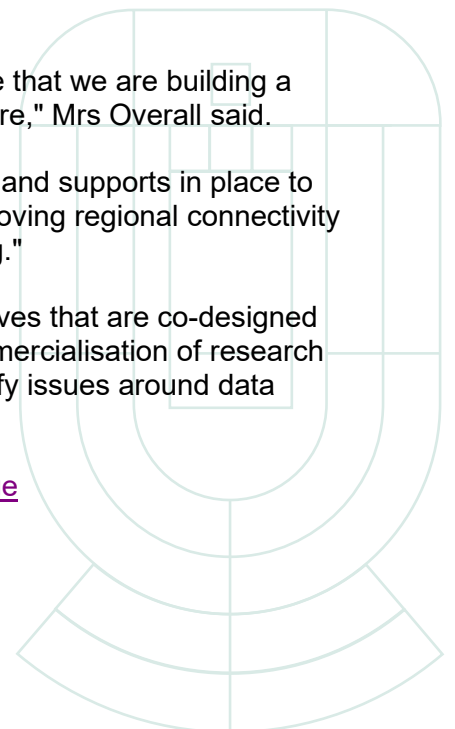
In the report the Committee also addressed prioritising research initiatives that are co-designed with primary producers and industry stakeholders, supporting the commercialisation of research and development outcomes, and reviewing existing regulations to clarify issues around data regulation and ensuring regulations do not hinder technology adoption.

A copy of the Committee's report can be viewed on the inquiry [webpage](#)

[ENDS]

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