

**Submission
No 26**

**INQUIRY INTO FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NSW
TERTIARY EDUCATION SECTOR**

Organisation: Liverpool Innovation Precinct

Date Received: 30 July 2020



22 July 2020

Portfolio Committee No. 3 – Education
NSW Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Re: Inquiry into The Future Development of the NSW Tertiary Education Sector

Dear Committee,

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Inquiry into the Future Development of the NSW Tertiary Education Sector. This inquiry comes at an important time in the economic future of Western Sydney. Our universities are going to play an even more important role in skilling our people and attracting knowledge jobs to our growing communities such as those in South-Western Sydney.

Liverpool Innovation Precinct

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct is comprised of nine of Liverpool's largest organisations with strong stakes in the future success of Liverpool and are working together in collaboration to position Liverpool as a centre of excellence in health and education and to attract more private sector jobs and investment to the city.

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct is independently chaired by the Western Sydney Business Chamber and its members include South Western Sydney Local Health District; Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research; South Western Sydney Primary Health Network; TAFE NSW; Department of Education; and Liverpool City Council. Three universities including University of NSW (UNSW); University of Wollongong (UOW); and Western Sydney University (WSU) are crucial members of the Liverpool Innovation Precinct and are the linchpin in growing the diversity of employment in Liverpool and South-Western Sydney.

Our Achievements & Activities

The presence of UNSW, UOW and WSU in Liverpool and their commitment and support to partnering with other key stakeholders in the city have been integral to our many achievements since the inception of the Liverpool Innovation Precinct in 2017 including:

- Launching our [vision statement](#) with the then Greater Sydney Commission Chief Commissioner Lucy Turnbull AO;

- Campaigning for the NSW Government to invest \$740 million in the upgrade of Liverpool Hospital. Major works are scheduled to begin in January 2021, with completion by 2026;
- Launching the Liverpool Innovation Precinct [Land Use Analysis and Precinct Strategy](#) with NSW Planning Minister Rob Stokes;
- Appointment of a dedicated Liverpool Innovation Precinct Manager, Lance Chia;
- Signing of major MOU agreements with Hitachi & GE Health (partners with the Western Sydney Aerotropolis) and Samsung;
- Location of the Greater Sydney Commission’s first “[Collaboration Areas](#)” and the development of the Liverpool Place Strategy to guide government investment;
- Award winning thought leadership on health integrated education and research with the K-12 sector;
- Supporting Liverpool City Council’s City Centre Public Domain Master Plan.

Current projects underway include:

- Formulating ‘*Connect 2170*’ commercialisation pre-accelerator program for local researchers and start-ups;
- Finalising Memorandums of Understanding with:
 - [New Zealand Food Innovation Network](#)
 - [Plant & Food Research, New Zealand](#)
 - [Northrop Grumman \(Australia\)](#)
 - [Consortium for Medical Device Technologies](#)
- Designing and securing industry and other stakeholder support for an ‘AgHealth’ Food Research, Innovation & Manufacturing Centre of Excellence;
- Collaborative projects (with Hitachi) on:
 - pre-hospital stroke patient management;
 - improving community safety to support an 18-hour economy in Liverpool.
- Continue to engage with start-ups (to date >20 start-ups engaged with and 7 with ongoing interaction);
- Developing a global capability in the field of Robotics and Applied Medical Technologies (RAMeT); and
- Industry engagement and investment attraction.

The Inquiry

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct puts forward our partnership as an example of the benefits of working in collaboration with strong and growing universities. The presence of three universities – and we hope more in the future – in Liverpool is having a transformative effect on the city and will be integral to the strategy of establishing Liverpool as Sydney’s third CBD and as a world-recognised centre of excellence in education, health, research and innovation.

We would encourage the Inquiry to provide recommendations that supports our tertiary education sector and their role as key institutions that will shape our future economic success. A focus on engaging future students from lower socio-economic or disadvantaged communities is very important for communities such as Liverpool that has 42 suburbs which are home to a diverse range of peoples from across the world. This is a cultural and linguistic asset that we should be utilising far more effectively to Australia’s international competitive advantage.

In addition, the area has a younger than average population profile with many younger families moving into the area. Currently, 65 per cent of Liverpool’s workforce travels outside the region to access work opportunities and a significant number of people also do the same for education. We are advised that the awareness of the presence of the universities in Liverpool is still low in the surrounding community. There is a strong opportunity for universities to continue to raise their profiles in local communities such as Liverpool and connect with a new cohort of students that could study locally rather than commute across Sydney to other campuses.

Liverpool has several precincts that demand specific skills and professionals. These precincts include logistics, manufacturing, innovation, health and education. To ensure that industry, business and professional practices can create a framework that offers local jobs for local people, it is important that we have strong tertiary institutions that can work with industry to understand job profiles and offer courses that reflect skill demand. Liverpool City Council has, for example, recently initiated a Local Jobs for Local People program, aimed at improving local pathways for local residents into meaningful and long-term employment. This program will ensure tertiary institutions and local industry engage at a grass roots level to better understand future needs for an educated and job ready local workforce. Collaboration with industry and business should also include a rigorous workplace program whereby students can apply knowledge, experience the relevant workplace and give themselves the best opportunity for future local employment.

The universities in Liverpool play a crucial role in supporting and collaborating with industry and government organisations such as local health districts on research, upskilling and training. We believe that continuing and expanding on these partnerships will be of utmost importance to Australia’s economic future in an international market in which competition



for knowledge workers is becoming increasingly fierce. Any impediment to this by government policy or inaction would be very disappointing and counterproductive.

We strongly endorse partnership and investment in university and community infrastructure. We support two projects that have been proposed to the NSW Government for co-funding including the Liverpool Health, Education & Research Hub (a partnership between Ingham Institute, UNSW and WSU) and the Health Innovation Link Lab for Liverpool Hospital (proposed by WSU). These are important projects that will leverage the NSW Government's \$740 million investment in the Liverpool Hospital redevelopment and support the positioning of Liverpool as a centre for excellence in education, health, research and innovation.

We have also been very pleased with the increasing level of dialogue and partnership between different universities with each other and other educational institutions such as TAFE NSW. While competition between universities has its place and encourages universities to strive for excellence in delivery of their services, that should not restrict the opportunity for universities to share resources and facilities if it delivers the flexibility for students to complete their education. We encourage these partnerships to continue in Liverpool and other important precincts such as the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

Liverpool has always been a community that has punched well above its weight. From the time of Elizabeth and John Macarthur, Liverpool can rightly claim to be the original site of research, innovation, and industrial application as the foundation of Australia's first significant economy and export trade. Two hundred years later the opening of the Western Sydney Airport and neighbouring Aerotropolis in the coming decade will most definitely continue to highlight the opportunities that abound in our region. Our university partners have been crucial to what we have achieved so far and positive government policies that support their growth and role in our communities as centres for skill development, learning and innovation will be crucial to our ongoing success.

The Liverpool Innovation Precinct commends the separate submissions of our university partners and we look forward to the support of all levels of government in building a stronger tertiary education sector.

Yours sincerely

David Borger
Chair
Liverpool Innovation Precinct