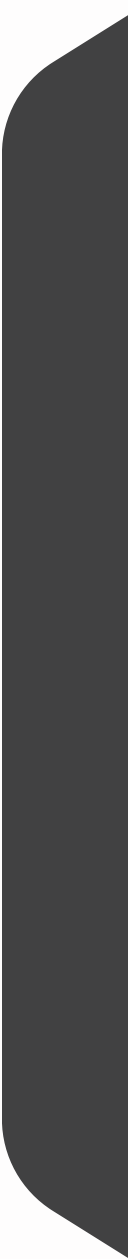


**AIIA'S
NEW SOUTH WALES
ELECTION PLATFORM 2023**



AIIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

ELECTION PLATFORM 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New South Wales is at the forefront of the digital transformation of Government in Australia and the post-COVID opportunity exists now to take digital government to the next level. Changes in NSW to the way people live and work, current fiscal conditions and the importance of buying from businesses with Australian capability can be harnessed to increase net economic benefit to NSW and improve government productivity. The AIIA is offering this platform to the new Government, whichever Party might lead our State, to ensure that the State continues to be a leader in digital investment, thereby achieving procurement transparency, digital skills, regional development, digital identity & data sharing, and sustainability. It is time for New South Wales to cement and elevate its role as a leading digital state, as a safe, vibrant and economically strong society that is also socially responsible and environmentally sustainable.

THE TECH SECTOR IN NEW SOUTH WALES

New South Wales is a technology leader in the Asia-Pacific region, with 2000 active startups and serving as home to 60% of Australia's fintech startups. It is the world's 9th most attractive city for digital experts, has the southern hemisphere's top ranked global startup ecosystem in Sydney, and is home to 3 of the top 100 global universities for Computer Science and Information Systems subject rankings. The State is home to more than 331,516 technology works (Deloitte Digital Pulse Report 2022) and this is projected to rise to 469,871 by 2026, with an annual average growth rate of 6%. The NSW technology profession punches above its weight in proportional size, accounting for 38% of the national tech workforce where NSW accounts for 31.7% of the nation's population. Tech workers represent 8.1% of New South Wales' total workforce.

THE TECH SECTOR'S 6 PRIORITIES FOR NEW SOUTH WALES

In order for the NSW Government to maintain, sustain and take its digital leadership to the next level, the AIIA has identified six priorities.

1: DIGITAL AND DATA INNOVATION FUNDING & GOVERNANCE

a) Reinstate funding for what was known as the Digital Restart Fund for the next 4 years with at least \$1.6bn and rebrand the Fund as the Digital Maturity Fund.

This Fund would build digital and data capability in government, climate and sustainability, and cyber security including new data insights and climate & sustainability streams to support the most pressing challenges in government and to continue to stimulate the NSW economy including start-ups, especially through the 'seed' funding of smaller discovery and innovation type projects that otherwise wouldn't get started.

b) Fund Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning adoption initiatives to ensure NSW government agencies integrate leading-edge technologies into appropriate NSW agencies optimise and automate current digital and data solutions, including citizen services, in line with the AI Assurance Framework and Artificial Intelligence Strategy

c) Continue to take an modular delivery approach to ICT, ensuring that projects funded by the Digital Maturity Fund have a focus on speed to value with timeframes that value is being delivered to citizens and businesses

d) Keep the world-leading citizen (or customer) focused service cluster structure and reinstate the dedicated and proven data and digital DaPCo model by which the NSW Government Delivery & Performance Committee sits alongside Cabinet and the ERC to assess the data or digital components of every new policy proposal to ensure services are more seamless and uniform. This recognises that in tight fiscal times ensuring dollar invested in technology and productivity.

e) Endorse whole-of-government platforms such as licensing, grants, websites etc. but review the capacity for delivery and the ensure the service models will deliver long time value for the relevant agencies who use them. These should be considered as public digital infrastructure assets.

2: PROCUREMENT TRANSPARENCY

Implement, report on and enforce all seven recommendations of the NSW Sovereign Procurement Taskforce.

Action, report and enforce the four planned future priorities arising out of the Taskforce: policy measures, education activities for suppliers and NSW government buyers, improving access for SMEs to government procurement opportunities, and reporting requirements to track implementation impact. This must include a review of selection criteria that does not discriminate against domestic capability.


Reduce the cost of tendering for work by **embracing smart, data-driven procurement**, leveraging the progress of the Innovation Procurement Pathway more broadly across the digital procurement landscape.

3: DIGITAL, DATA ANALYTICS & SCIENCE SKILLS

a) **Bridge the experience gap, not just the skills gap**, with first experiences and local experiences in tech galvanised through work-integrated learning, placements and integrated academies.

b) **Better collaboration between the Skills Board and Institute of Applied Technology Digital**, brought together in a community of interest to drive digital skills development and continue to drive investment in the IATD.

c) **All Ministers with their respective Secretaries to attend a Digital Transformation in Government bootcamp** before the end of 2023 to drive awareness of the potential impact on citizen services, their responsibilities and technical understanding



4: NSW REGIONAL TECH HUB STRATEGY

Develop a NSW Regional Tech Hub Strategy, with innovative TAFEs and Universities serving as a key partner and fulcrum to drive tech talent in country areas. The Strategy would look to bridge the skills hub by facilitating tech companies accessing regional talent and existing tech company initiatives and partnerships. Government-hosted tech career days in major regional cities which make it easier for tech companies to access regional talent would be a key deliverable of the strategy. Regional connectivity and bridging the digital divide would be a key consideration, coordinating with the Critical Communications Enhancement Program and NSW Connectivity Strategy.

5: CUSTOMER SERVICE, DIGITAL IDENTITY & DATA SHARING

- a) **Enforce data sharing laws** and review to make them easier for agencies to navigate and enable the sharing of high-value data sets and develop a framework to encourage more data-sharing within government including local Government.
- b) **Take a national leadership position in digital identity uptake** including at the national Data and Digital Ministers' Meeting (DDMM)
- c) Building on the progress achieved by recent announcement that NSW and the Commonwealth would share Medicare and digital driver's licence credentials in their respective service apps, **continue to look for ways that State and Federal agencies can share interoperable digital infrastructure**
- d) **Review the Service NSW digital platforms** akin to the myGov Audit and consider long term funding approaches to treat this like a national public digital infrastructure asset

6: EMBED SUSTAINABILITY

- a) **Embed sustainability evidence** as a determining evaluation factor in procurement with reference to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** and take a data-driven approach to measuring the path to net-zero

- b) As a result of the adoption of the latest carbon tracking technologies, require that **annual reports include how much carbon Agency activities produce** to track reductions over time.