



Australian Academy of
Technology & Engineering

2019 NEW SOUTH WALES ELECTION

Policies to promote innovation, technology and prosperity in New South Wales

The future prosperity of New South Wales will depend on embracing new technology and promoting innovation.

Technology change, globalisation and demographics will create major opportunities and challenges for business and society in our State. This could result in massive jobs growth and increases in export business connections.

The 2019 NSW State election provides an opportunity for government to develop an inspirational vision to ensure the State remains a leading economy and a fair and inclusive society.

The Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering¹ provides impartial and evidence-based advice on science, technology and engineering issues for the benefit of all Australians.

We stand ready to engage the expertise of our Fellows to assist with innovative technology-driven policy development for the advancement of prosperity in NSW. Key areas for urgent attention are:

Industry and Jobs Growth

- > Promote the “recycle and regenerate” economy for the State, encouraging innovative waste management to produce commercially viable commodities such as construction and road materials.
- > Bring together Space Sector initiatives in the State, to create long-term jobs growth via software, technology and engineering development.
- > Establish coordinated plans for city and regional development that include future-proofing for mass transit systems and water resources as the population grows.

Energy Drivers

- > Promote the national Integrated System Plan for dispatchable electricity generation and sustainable improvements to transmission and distribution.
- > Legislate new energy utilisation and efficiency standards for new and existing buildings and industrial processes to reduce energy use within a specified time period.
- > Stimulate greater commercialisation of renewable energy technologies: e.g. provide incentives to accelerate the transition to electric vehicles.



Infrastructure Innovation

- > Legislate robust regulations for sound building developments, particularly including fire safety, with better consideration of the impact of developments on local communities.
- > Tighten the selection process for infrastructure projects, with independent assessment of a full business case before commencement, including impact on existing businesses; make public a review of projects when completed.
- > Reform the infrastructure planning and approval processes so that developers provide amenities and transport options for new housing developments.

Education Dynamism

- > Prepare young people for future employment, with a school curriculum emphasising more strongly science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).
- > Recruit and retain more highly qualified teachers in STEM areas across the whole State, by increasing targeted training, support and incentives.
- > Reinvigorate the TAFE sector and focus on upskilling the existing workforce for emerging technologies and advanced manufacturing (Industry 4.0), where the future jobs will be generated.
- > Encourage the use of technology to bring a richer learning experience to students, especially in regional and remote NSW.

Action on Health

- > Develop telehealth strategies for rural and regional NSW, with community-based prevention programs to bring avoidable mortality rates to city levels.
- > Support the State medical devices industry in robust quality control of device development and deployment.
- > Facilitate closer cooperation between the medical research sector and the technology and precision engineering industry to promote innovation across priority areas such as remote community diagnosis and telemedicine.

Technology for Regional & Rural NSW

- > Promote investment in technology enabled farming to keep NSW farming and food industries globally competitive and environmentally sustainable.
- > Actively develop an interconnected water management strategy covering four States, to mitigate environmental crises such as massive fish kills, floods and irrigation shortfalls.
- > Introduce initiatives to counter stagnation in regional employment.

Further information

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1 The Academy brings together Australia's leading experts in science, technology and engineering to provide impartial, practical and evidence-based advice on how to achieve sustainable solutions and advance prosperity.

We are a Learned Academy made up of almost 900 Fellows elected by their peers. Some 250 Fellows live in NSW.