



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **AIIA welcomes \$700 million boost for digital in NSW**

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), has welcomed the New South Wales' (NSW) investment of more than \$700 million to drive a digital revolution for the state as part of the state's budget handed down today.

The Budget's investments in ICT cements the NSW Government's leadership in government digitisation including in courtrooms, classrooms and living rooms as well as important investments in cybersecurity.

The AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci said: "The NSW Government in its Budget today continues to invest in its digital leadership position which will assist in local growth and capability of the ICT sector. The AIIA strongly believe that the road to post-COVID economic recovery is paved with innovation and technology."

Of the total investment made by the NSW Government, the AIIA is pleased to specifically see \$366 million going towards closing the digital gap in schools, especially in rural and remote areas.

Earlier this year, the AIIA released a White Paper, titled '[Building Australia's Digital Future in a Post-COVID World](#)' which recommended a need to ensure the schools curriculum in Australia includes an emphasis on digital literacy, making sure that the graduates of the future can fill the jobs of the future.

"Providing equitable access for students no matter where they live in NSW so that they are not disadvantaged through a digital divide is critical. The AIIA is fully supportive of the significant investment into this digital transformation," Mr Gauci said.

The AIIA NSW Council Chair Bridget Tracy, said: "Last month, the AIIA welcomed the recent Federal Budget's \$7 billion investment in ICT as a down payment to recognising the Prime Minister's ambition to be a leading digital economy. The AIIA is pleased to see NSW building on this promise.

"We are looking forward to continuing to work with government on driving digital reform for the state across regional, education, cyber security and the justice system. The announcement solidifies their commitment to the future economic growth of Australia's ICT industry," Ms Tracy said.

Mr Gauci continued: "The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a once in lifetime opportunity for major reform and restructure of our economy and society. We have a unique opportunity as a country to build a national digital backbone, to build an Australia that is secure and resilient and harness local skills, businesses and economy to position ourselves as a global leader in technology."

The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at fuelling Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

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**About AIIA**

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.