



## The Hon Craig Laundry MP

Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science

MC17-005288

Mayor David O'Loughlin  
President  
Australian Local Government Association  
8 Geils Court  
DEAKIN ACT 2600

18 OCT 2017

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2017 to Senator the Hon Arthur Sinodinos AO, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, concerning the June 2017 meeting of the National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA). I am responding as the Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science. I welcome the Australian Local Government Association's interest in driving innovation in regional Australia and acknowledge the NGA's resolution to support regional start-ups.

The Australian Government is committed to creating an environment that encourages innovation across all sectors – public and private – and for businesses, workers and communities, in both our cities and regions. The National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) recognises the importance of start-ups and entrepreneurs through measures such as the Incubator Support initiative. As part of the 2017-18 Budget, the Incubator Support initiative was refocused to provide additional support for regional businesses, helping to spread the benefits of innovation to our regions and communities.

The Government also creates an enabling environment for innovation through its broader investment in regional Australia. This investment is outlined in the Regional Australia – Driving Our Economy 2017-18 statement. It includes 2017-18 Budget initiatives, such as the \$420 million Regional Growth Fund and \$100 million Advanced Manufacturing Fund, which will help foster investment, skills, and collaborative opportunities to drive innovation, including in rural areas and regions undergoing structural change.

As the Government continues to implement and monitor the impact of NISA initiatives, we will be looking at ways to further strengthen Australia's innovation system and to improve the competitiveness of Australian businesses, including regional entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Thank you for bringing the NGA's resolution to the Government's attention. I trust my comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Laundry', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Laundry