

Inspiring Australia (NSW) and NSW Office of Science and Research NSW Regional Science Hub Strategy – Terms of Reference

1. Terms of reference

1.1 Purpose

The NSW Regional Science Hub Strategy seeks to create a network of organisations that will collaborate to deliver ongoing community science engagement programs, including during National Science Week.

NSW Regional Science Hubs bring together multidisciplinary teams to develop and deliver high-profile science events in regional NSW. With a broad membership base, each Science Hub serves to formalise disparate and informal science communication networks in regional areas and further the science communication goals of Inspiring Australia, the Australian Government's national strategy for engagement with the sciences.

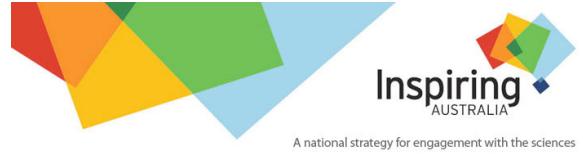
The NSW Regional Science Hub Strategy fits within the framework of the NSW Premier's [Priorities](#) that outline immediate actions to improve state outcomes including in the areas of jobs, education and services. The Strategy also aligns with the [Australian Government's Innovation and Science Agenda](#) by promoting the value of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) and fostering communities driven by curiosity and innovation.

With links to multiple community groups through regional NSW, NSW Regional Science Hubs create a dynamic network that can plan strategically for ongoing programs of events and activities to promote the value of STEM to Australians from all walks of life.

1.2 Regional Participation

The annual NSW Regional Science Grants program has established and supported Science Hubs in the following regions:

- Central West–Dubbo
- Murrumbidgee–Caroothal Shire
- Riverina–Wagga Wagga
- Far South Coast–Bega Valley
- New England North West–Armidale
- Murray–Albury–Wodonga
- Snowy Region–Jindabyne
- Northern Rivers–Lismore
- Mid-North Coast – Port Macquarie
- Hunter–Newcastle
- Central Tablelands–Bathurst
- Cowra Cabonne – Cowra
- Far West – Broken Hill
- Shoalhaven – Nowra
- Dungog – Dungog
- North West Slopes – Gunnedah
- Macarthur – Camden
- Eastern Sydney - Centennial Parklands
- Inner Sydney – Sydney CBD
- Western Sydney – Penrith



- Illawarra–Wollongong
- Blue Mountains – Winmalee
- Southern Sydney – Sutherland

Based on strong regional enthusiasm for the concept, and the willingness of organisations to participate, there is potential to develop additional NSW Regional Science Hubs in other local government regions.

1.3 Strategic Framework

The development of the NSW Regional Science Hub Strategy is consistent with priorities established by Inspiring Australia and the NSW Government’s Premier’s Priorities, particularly through promoting collaboration and partnership development in regional areas.

1.4 Engaging Australians with science

The central theme of the NSW Regional Science Hub Strategy is to improve scientific literacy for Australians with the following goals:

- More young people are motivated to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM);
- People across NSW understand the relevance of STEM to everyday life and feel more confident in their decision-making relating to scientific issues;
- Communities work together to deliver events that suit the interests of those in their region; and
- An appreciation of the value of STEM to Australia’s future economic and social wellbeing and the important work undertaken by NSW scientists and engineers.

New South Wales is home to many of Australia’s leading engineering firms, universities and research bodies. It is important that inspiring stories about these STEM achievers are shared with the broader community.

1.5 Developing community programs

Each Science Hub agrees to deliver a series of initiatives that showcase STEM disciplines, build cooperation between community, government, research bodies and industry and engage people in activities that are both educational and entertaining.

Using a ‘national-framework-local action’ approach, Science Hubs determine what kinds of activities suit the needs and interests of their local communities. As initiatives are identified and planned by the Science Hubs, the Inspiring Australia Manager (NSW) is available to offer support and high-level strategic advice.

Participating organisations volunteer to contribute staff resources to initiatives, with support of other relevant agencies and industry sponsors secured on a case-by-case basis.

1.6 Funding

The NSW Inspiring Australia vision is to build enduring partnerships that in time will be able to be self-sustaining. While the NSW Regional Science Grants program is able to offer limited funds to support each Science Hub to present a community event, participants are encouraged to seek additional funding from project partners and local sponsors.

1.7 Governance and Reporting

Each Science Hub is coordinated by a lead organisation that takes responsibility for receiving and acquitting grant monies, disseminating information and coordinating events.

The Inspiring Australia Manager (NSW) provides Science Hubs partners with information, media and communications support and strategic advice, while also ensuring that each Science Hub aligns its activities to state and national STEM engagement priorities.

NSW Regional Science Hubs that receive grant funding report to the Inspiring Australia Manager (NSW), using processes established for reporting according to contracts established between the University of Sydney and the NSW Department of Industry and the University of Sydney and the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Members of each Science Hub are responsible for developing their own strategies and reporting to their own organisations.

2. Co – Chairs

The NSW Regional Science Hubs network is co-chaired by Inspiring Australia (NSW) and representatives from the NSW Office of Science and Research.

3. Membership

3.1 NSW Regional Science Hub members

NSW Regional Science Hubs can be comprised of science experts, professional organisations, educational institutions, research bodies, industry and community groups. In order to promote all the STEM disciplines, strong efforts should be made to engage universities, technology entrepreneurs, engineers and local government departments. As Science Hubs seek to formalise disparate and informal STEM networks, membership is anticipated to grow over time.

For more information about the NSW Regional Science Hubs Strategy, please contact

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