



**Stuart Ayres**

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **BUSINESSES CALLED TO FIGHT COVID-19 WITH R&D INNOVATION DISTRICTS CHALLENGE TWO**

Businesses, universities, and CSIRO are leading the charge to combat COVID-19 and save lives with NSW's second R&D Innovation Districts Challenge now open for expressions of interest.

Minister for Jobs, Investment, Tourism and Western Sydney Stuart Ayres said the state would invest a further \$500,000 in seed funding to help get ideas out of the lab and into peoples' hands.

"We're leading the way in health and economic recovery and we're looking to the future as we invest in technology to help in the battle against COVID-19," Mr Ayres said.

"While the first of three challenges is now complete, the second is open for expressions of interest, and we encourage businesses to partner with CSIRO and local universities across the state for the chance to join the list of successful funding recipients.

"This is about unlocking innovation and laying down the pathway for NSW to lead Australia's efforts in fighting the pandemic and reopening our country's economy."

"We are hoping these Challenges will shine a light on those businesses that are bringing ideas to life and are taking NSW innovation to the world.

"Whether you're in Wollongong or Wagga Wagga, there is no better time to innovate and grow to help us tackle the challenges of COVID-19."

Innovation Districts Challenge Two calls for solutions that *strengthen the economic resilience* of NSW business to recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Expressions of interest for the Innovation Districts Challenge will open today through local challenge partners. The list of Innovation District Partners and more information on the challenges can be found at <https://www.business.nsw.gov.au/support-for-business/innovation-districts-c19-r-and-d-challenges>

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