

MEDIA RELEASE

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Gippsland focus on innovation and science agenda

Innovation and science opportunities for Gippsland businesses were on the agenda at the AusIndustry information session organised by the Committee for Gippsland at Federation University in Churchill this week.

Committee for Gippsland Chief Executive Officer, Mary Aldred said the information session provided business, industry and education providers from across Gippsland with valuable information on how local businesses can maximise their success under the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA).

“The NISA seeks to improve opportunities for local Gippsland businesses in advancing their business through technology, creating an environment that promotes entrepreneurialism, while boosting commercial returns from research.

“One of the key challenges in not only Gippsland but also Australia is the low level of industry-research collaboration, in which Australia is currently placed the lowest in the OECD.

“The NISA will assist this in providing an important focus on connecting research to industry and working towards strengthening this research-industry relationship in order to enhance innovation within Australian and Gippsland industries,” Ms Aldred said.

The NISA will provide a framework for \$1.1 billion over four years including the formation of the \$200 million CSIRO Innovation Fund and the \$250 million Biomedical Fund.

While the NISA is about tech entrepreneurs working on the latest product, it is equally, about farmers using sensor technology to improve yields, or a business bringing new products to market.

“Innovation and science will be critical in providing Gippsland with the skills and opportunities within Gippsland industry to further develop, enhance and increase production.

“Gippsland is well placed to take advantage of these exciting opportunities,” Ms Aldred said.

There was a high level of engagement from the 25 Gippsland participants at the forum, including questions about grant applications, increasing the opportunities for local Gippsland schools to better engage students in STEM subjects and how innovation was crucial for many Gippsland businesses, from the energy sector to agribusiness.

Photo: Federation University Head of Campus Dr Harry Ballis, Committee for Gippsland CEO Mary Aldred, David Elliot and Sue Byrne from AusIndustry and Roland Davies from AGL Loy Yang.