

Terhorst, Andrew (Data61, Sandy Bay)

From: Luis Arroyo <luisarroyoserrano73@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2017 6:23 PM
To: Digital Economy
Cc: secretary@startupgladstone.org.au; treasurer@startupgladstone.org.au; president@startupgladstone.org.au
Subject: Startup Gladstone Inc.

Good afternoon Digital Economy Australia,

My name is Luis Arroyo and I'm currently performing the role of President for Startup Gladstone Inc. (www.startupgladstone.org.au) which is a non for profit organisation aiming to empower people skills in order to create successful business of the present and future. Our programs such as e-club, Early-preneur and startup weekends are currently supporting our strategic intend. Furthermore, we have established a portfolio of strategic alliances including Central Queensland University, Gladstone Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Gehgre Aboriginal Corporation.

The purpose of this email is to propose some recommendations to be considered in the implementation plan of your digital economy in regional Australia.

While it is widely acknowledged the great potential and contributions of Queensland regional startups to support the development of the digital economy, it is equally critical to recognise that a significant gap remains in terms of digital adoption (particularly in the SME) sector between regional and urban centres in Australia.

Digital infrastructure

Gladstone Region does not currently have neither NBN nor a digital economy policy, which limits significantly the introduction and adoption of digital technologies (from a top-down approach).

Solution: Development and implementation of a Digital Framework with key resources, programs and clear responsibilities for incumbents such as three government tiers, industry and local businesses in order to guarantee strategic investment allocation towards required digital infrastructure.

Emerging technologies

Gladstone Region is the "engine room" of Queensland State Economy due to its Port's Capacity and large industry representation in sectors such as Alumina, Aluminium, LNG and Limestone which is worth approximately AUD\$ 150B of investment. This contrasts however with the digital that has been observed trend in the SME sector where there is very little evidence of a holistic model that supports emerging technologies understanding, adoption and development. In addition to this, there is some local knowledge in terms of Cibersecurity, drones, robotics, 3D printing and web development but this is not widely spread.

Startup Gladstone Inc. is currently mapping out our local startup ecosystem to identify 'who is doing what'. State Government will be delivering (over 2018) some digital skills building seminars and has also developed a digital scorecard initiative to establish a 'digital baseline'.

Solution: Development of a Digital Framework (including a toolbox) that allows partnerships among industries, SMEs, government and startups to flourish.

Finally, we would like to continue engaging with yourselves and the Digital Transformation Agency in order to assist the proposed Digital Framework which will facilitate the establishment and development of digital infrastructure and emerging technologies within Gladstone Region.

Please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Kindest regards,

Luis Arroyo
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Sent from my iPad