24-25 AUGUST 2023
BENDIGO, VIC

DIGITAL SUMMIT

Workshop, Walking Tour & Pre-Summit Dinner

Thursday 24 August 2023
Mackenzie Quarters, Bendigo

Digital Summit

Friday 25 August 2023
The Capital, Bendigo

Driving growth and innovation in regions and beyond

Agenda

An Australian Government Initiative

Regional Development *Australia*
LODDON MALLEE

VICTORIA

Agenda at a glance

Digital technology is a catalyst for growth, driving new economic and employment opportunities across Australia.

Collaboration that works to build digital connectivity and capability is crucial to regions reaping the benefits of digital, now and into the future.

Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee is committed to advancing digital growth and innovation by rallying partners across Australia towards a common goal at this Digital Summit.

> **The Digital Summit will bring together digital leaders from Victoria and beyond, to celebrate, learn and shape our digital landscape over the next decade.**

The Summit will culminate in a Policy Paper to drive policy and action for the future of digital and innovative regions.

Opportunities

Leverage high-value audience consisting of Chief and Executive heads from government and industry

Network with 300 + peers from federal, state and local government, and key solution providers

Learn from industry leaders as they discuss how innovative new digital technologies and infrastructures are transforming industries

Hear from high profile government speakers on future action and investment for building a digital economy in regions across Australia

Who you'll meet

Federal and State Ministers, Chief, Executives and Directors from both Government and Industry sectors:

- Technology and Innovation
- Digital and Customer Experience
- ICT Systems and Infrastructure
- Telecommunications
- Manufacturing and industry
- Data and Analytics
- Cybersecurity
- Education

Speakers

Hear from digital and innovation leaders across government, industry, and academia.

Lisa Chesters MP
Federal Member for Bendigo

Hon. Maree Edwards MP
Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly, Member for Bendigo West

Cr. Andrea Metcalf
Mayor, City of Greater Bendigo

Victor Dominello
Director, UNSW-UTS Trustworthy Digital Society Hub, Board Member, Tech Council Australia

Leonie Burrows
Chair, Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee

Adam Crameri
CEO, Tennis Victoria

Dr Adam Mowlam
Smart Cities Manager, City of Greater Geelong

Bruce Marshall
President, Australian Smart Communities Association

Carys Evans
Director, Digital Twin Victoria

Chris Laughlin
Program Lead, Innovation Acceleration Program, University of Melbourne

Corey Gray
Global CEO, Smart Cities Council

Darren Pauli
Senior Project Specialist, Telstra

Fiona Best
CEO, Birchip Cropping Group

Dr Gjoko Muratovski
Director Digital Futures, Deakin University

Jannat Maqbool
Co-chair Trusted Technology and Data Steering Panel, IoT Alliance Australia

Kathryn Arndt

CEO, Victorian Local Governance Association

Kylie Ovenden

Regional Innovation Hub Manager, Bendigo Health

Associate Professor Leanne Ngo

Coordinator, Online Programs Computer Sciences & IT, La Trobe University

Leanne Rosewall

Regional Director Loddon Mallee, Regional Development Victoria

Matthew Schultz

Partner and Company Director, Gravelroad Group

Rebecca Wells

CEO, Mallee Regional Innovation Centre

Ryan Brosnahan

Chief Transformation Officer, Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

Sarah Lambert

Student Equity Advisor, RMIT

Stephen Tinker

General Manager, Telstra Country Wide

Tammy Smith

CEO, Yarriambiack Shire Council

Dr Tim Harrison

CEO, Ararat Rural City Council

Program

Showcase, Explore, Collaborate

The Digital Summit will be a forum to showcase successful digital and innovation initiatives, to explore critical digital transformations in our jobs and industries, and to collaborate, leveraging audience expertise to solve key digital and innovation challenges.
A Policy Paper outlining Summit outcomes and next steps for driving growth and innovation will be presented to relevant ministers and government officials.

Workshop, Walking Tour & Pre-Summit Dinner, *Thursday 24 August*	
9:30am - 2:30pm	Safer Care Victoria Design Challenge Workshop: **Digital Health & Medical Technology** *A co-design challenge focused on solutions to increase safety and efficiency in the healthcare system or support the delivery of better health outcomes.* *Hosted by Bendigo Health*
3:00pm	Walking Tour of the City: **Explore Bendigo** *The City of Greater Bendigo is a vibrant hub of economic and business activity, with a fast-growing start-up sector. Enjoy a walk through the historic City centre while discovering the ambitious local businesses that are driving digital and innovation investment in Bendigo.*
6:00pm	**Official Welcome** *Andrea Metcalf, Mayor of City of Greater Bendigo*
6:05pm	**Celebrating Our Digital Regions** *Digital is transforming economic and social outcomes in regions throughout Australia. However, Regions face many infrastructure and resourcing barriers to realising the benefits of our increasingly digital society. The Loddon Mallee has made significant recent investment in regional digital connectivity and capability planning, with Bendigo becoming a hub for innovative industry and business.*
6:10pm	Keynote Address: **Partnering for the Win: The Nexus of Policymakers, Researchers, and Practitioners** *Achieving digital transformation and innovation at scale often requires overcoming low-risk appetites, and fostering agility in culture and mindset. Collaboration at the nexus of government, academia, and technology providers, is essential to shape the change culture necessary for driving successful digital policy.* *Victor Dominello, former senior NSW Government Minister for Digital and Customer Service, Professor at UNSW, board member for Tech Council Australia*

Digital Summit, *Friday 25 August*

Time	Event
8:00am	**Registration opens, Tea and Coffee**
9:00am	**Welcome to Country**
9:20pm	**Welcome Address** *Andrea Metcalf, Mayor of City of Greater Bendigo*
9:25am	Committee Chair Formal Opening: **Towards our Digital Future: Digital Growth in Loddon Mallee and Beyond** *Leonie Burrows, Chair RDA VIC Loddon Mallee* *Digital is a catalyst for growth in the Loddon Mallee, driving new employment and industry. This Summit will not only be a chance to celebrate success of the region in implementing digital and innovation initiatives, but to build a Policy Communique to inform digital policy context around Victoria and Australia.*
9:35am	Victorian Government Policy Launch: **Seizing Progress - Policy Platform to Accelerate Digital Industry and Employment** *Digital technology is creating new employment and new industries across Australia, with Internet of Things, Advanced Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, and robotics and automation technologies transforming traditional sectors. This Victorian Government policy platform with accelerate digital growth, supporting jobs and driving economic prosperity now and into the future.*
9:40am	Keynote Address: **Digital Leadership – Driving National Transformation Through Policy and Reform** *Victor Dominello, former senior NSW Government Minister for Digital and Customer Service, Professor at UNSW, board member for Tech Council Australia* *What does it take to be a digital leader? What policy, partnerships, coordination, and reform are required to ensure meaningful, trustworthy, and enduring digital leadership? What does this look like for a state, region, city, local government?* *In his current role leading the UNSW-UTS Trustworthy Digital Society Hub, Victor Dominello coordinates partnerships between researchers, technologists, and policymakers to develop new digital technologies and practices that build a trustworthy digital society.* *As board member for Tech Council Australia, Dominello will continue to advocate for digital reform, working with governments and the broader business community to encourage growth, investment and jobs in the Australian tech ecosystem.*
10:05am	Regional Showcase: **Digital Connectivity and Capability – Unlocking 100GIG** *Leanne Rosewall, Regional Director Loddon Mallee, RDV & Matt Schultz, Gravelroad Partner* *The Loddon Campaspe Region is committed to targeted accelerated intervention and investment to improve capability, capacity, and connectivity. The 100GIG initiative responds to identified unmet digital needs and proposes to overcome core capability challenges, enabling a more socially connected and economically competitive community.*

Digital Summit, *Friday 25 August*

10:25am — Group Activity 1: **Where Are We Now? Opportunities and Challenges for A Digital Future**

Led by MC

What are the gaps in regional digital policy? What are our regional digital priorities moving forward? How will we harness the intellectual power of this group to shape future digital policies and programs in the Communique?

10:30am — Morning Tea and Networking

11:15am — Panel Discussion: **The Customer Experience - How Digital Technology is Reshaping Services**

Digital technology has become a vital part of modern, accessible services, improving the ability to deliver services in regions across Australia and creating innovative, personalised customer experiences. In what ways is digital technology enabling innovation, efficiency, and agility in organisations that allows them to deliver improved services and experiences to customers? How is digital technology enabling people to become more informed and empowered in decisions relating to their health, education, and finances?

Adam Crameri, CEO, Tennis Victoria
Ryan Brosnahan, Chief Transformation Officer, Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

11:40am — Breakout Group Session 1

GROUP 1

1 in 4 Left Behind: Why Australia Needs to Do More to Bridge the Digital Divide

1 in 4 people in Australia are digitally excluded, with those living regionally at particular risk of being left behind. How can we extend digital inclusion, equality and accessibility across our regions? How will investment in baseline infrastructure and new innovations in connectivity networks help to close the digital divide? How can digital inclusion foster community resilience and economic development in our regions?

PANELLISTS

Dr Tim Harrison, CEO, Ararat Rural City Council
Dr Gjoko Muratovski, Deakin University

GROUP 2

Innovation in Agriculture: AgTech and the Internet of Things

The agricultural industry is becoming increasingly fundamental in supporting global food supply chains, with increasing scarcity of natural resources and more drastic climate changes. In what ways is the convergence of tech and agriculture transforming agricultural practices to drive efficiency, sustainability, and profitability? How is the Loddon Mallee, Victoria's largest and most diverse agribusiness region, leading the way in innovative farming practices?

PANELLISTS

Fiona Best, CEO, Birchip Cropping Group
Rebecca Wells, CEO, Mallee Regional Innovation Centre

GROUP 3

Future Digital: A New Era of Risk

Digital environments provide many social and economic benefits, but can endanger privacy. What risks and challenges come with enhanced data access and sharing? What cybersecurity and data privacy frameworks, policies, and practices are needed to build trust and public confidence in critical digital technologies?

PANELLISTS

Bruce Marshall, President, ASCA
Jannat Maqbool, Co-Chair, IoTAA's Trusted Technology Steering Panel
Darren Pauli, Senior Project Specialist, Telstra

Digital Summit, *Friday 25 August*

12:25pm — **Victorian Government Ministerial Address**

The Hon. Maree Edwards MP, Speaker of the Victorian Legislative Assembly

12:40pm — Lunch and Networking

1:35pm — Event Partner Address: **Deakin University: Digital Futures Launch**

1:45pm — Keynote Australian Government Address: **Critical Connections – How Australian Government Is Improving Regional Connectivity Across Australia**

The Australian Government is committed to positioning Australia as a leading digital economy, backing critical and emerging technologies to strengthen Australia's future. Ensuring regions are not left behind, the Regional Connectivity Program (RCP) funds the delivery of 'place-based' telecommunications infrastructure projects to improve digital connectivity across regional, rural, and remote Australia.

Lisa Chesters MP, Federal Member for Bendigo

2:00pm — **Breakout Group Session 2**

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
Beyond Borders: Promoting a Regional Digital Economy	**Learn, Unlearn, and Relearn: A Toolkit for the Future Workforce**	**Digital in Health: How Advances in Medical Technology are Revolutionising our Healthcare System**
A digital economy is creating opportunities for regional businesses, encouraging innovation, and unlocking competitive advantage through big data, Artificial Intelligence, and the Internet of Things. How can government support our industries to digitise, adopt new technologies, up-skill, and attract investment, to remain competitive in a global marketplace?	*Digital transformation is changing the workforce. Advancements in Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things and big data, among others, are reshaping the nature of the link between technology and employment. New skills are in demand, including digital literacy, STEM, Industry 4.0, and enterprise and entrepreneurial skills. What new approaches to education, skill-building, and training is needed to prepare for the future workforce?*	*Digital health technologies are improving efficiency of information sharing across the health system, creating greater interconnectedness of data across and between services. In what ways are digital health technologies improving the efficacy and interoperability of the broader health system? How does this translate to improved community health and individual patient outcomes?*
PANELLISTS	**PANELLISTS**	**PANELLISTS**
Tammy Smith, CEO, Yarriambiack Shire Council	*Sarah Lambert, Student Equity Advisor, RMIT*	*Kylie Ovenden, Regional Innovation Hub Manager, Bendigo Health*
MODERATOR	*Associate Professor Leanne Ngo, Coordinator, Online Programs Computer Sciences & IT, La Trobe University*	**MODERATOR**
Corey Gray, Global CEO, Smart Cities Council		*Chris Laughlin, Innovation Acceleration Program Lead, the University of Melbourne*

Digital Summit, *Friday 25 August*

2:45pm	Insights from Victorian Government: **Digital Twin - Leveraging the Power of Digital Twins for a Future-Ready Victoria**

Carys Evans, Director, Digital Twin Victoria

Digital twin technology is emerging as a key software tool revolutionising modern engineering, driving innovation and improved performance. The Victorian Government is laying the foundations for a future-ready Victoria with significant investment through the Digital Twin Victoria program. There are opportunities to partner across government, industry, and research, and leverage digital twin technology to fast-track digital transformation and deliver benefits to communities.

3:00pm	Panel Discussion: **Communications and Democracy in the Digital Age**

Sectors: *Local Gov, Vic Gov, Academia,*

The digital age brings with it new challenges requiring new approaches: preventing the spread of disinformation, enhancing internet governance, ensuring digital platforms are secure through robust cybersecurity, and developing societal resilience and information literacy.

PANELLISTS

Kathryn Arndt, CEO, Victorian Local Governance Association

Dr Adam Mowlam, Manager Smart Cities, City of Greater Geelong

3:25pm	Group Activity 2: **Where We Are Heading: Aligning Partners to Common Goals**

Led by MC

What themes and outcomes from the Summit help us to address future challenges and opportunities of digital? What are our regional digital goals and priorities moving forward? How will these priorities be reflected in future policies, leadership, and governance, outlined in the Communique?
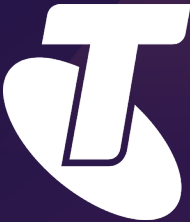
3:35pm	Afternoon Tea and Post Event Networking

Post-Summit

→ Digital Policy, Partnerships and Reform: Outcomes from the Digital Summit
Policy Paper

→ Governance for Ongoing Progress: Digital Summit Seminar Series
Webinar Series with Guest Speakers

Digital Summit Sponsors

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