



## MEDIA RELEASE

# Councils encouraged to go back to school for a digital future

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The Commonwealth Government is encouraging the New England Electorate to incubate clever technology projects to prepare for a digital future.

Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation, Angus Taylor said Councils in the New England Electorate are invited to register for the *Future Ready* series of webinars and masterclasses on building technology know-how.

“Future Ready is designed to help councils and their communities create valuable connections with industry leaders, experts and service providers to accelerate local technology plans and projects,” Assistant Minister Taylor said.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources and Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce said *Future Ready* complemented the Australian Government’s \$50 million Smart Cities and Suburbs Program.

“A wide range of projects are expected to be developed, such as app-based detection of infrastructure wear and tear, traffic sensors, smart street lighting, or computer generated programs that support local services,” Mr Joyce said.

Assistant Minister Taylor said Future Ready was a break from the traditional grants program.

“It’s a stepping stone toward the soon-to-be launched Smart Cities and Suburbs Program, and it will nurture ideas at a local level ahead of federal funding for the best technology projects,” Assistant Minister Taylor said.

Future Ready events will run between May and September, 2017 with collaborative activities and project incubation continuing beyond the formal program. Registrations are now open.

“I encourage local governments across the country to register for Future Ready and get involved in the smart cities transformation,” Mr Joyce said.

To find out more, visit: <https://cities.dpmc.gov.au/future-ready>

### Principal Office - Tamworth

All Mail: PO Box 963, Tamworth NSW 2340  
Shop 5, 259 Peel Street, Tamworth NSW 2340  
**ph** 02 6761 3080 **toll free** 1300 301 839  
**fax** 02 6761 3380

### Tenterfield Office

255 Rouse Street, Tenterfield NSW 2372  
**ph** 02 6736 1099 **fax** 02 6736 1433





Hon **Barnaby Joyce** MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

(ENDS)

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