

14 February 2020

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom it May Concern

### Senate Inquiry

## **Federal Government's response to the drought, and the adequacy and appropriateness of policies and measures to support farmers, regional communities and the Australian economy**

### **Background**

A group of universities and businesses from across Australia believe that there is a strategic need for regional businesses and communities to take advantage of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

They are building a strong case for a national **Collaborative Research Centre called the Smarter Regions CRC**. A Bid Development Team has been formed and they are taking their proposal to industry and potential stakeholders to garner input, interest and support.

Regions Matters are engaged to support the bid development team as a 'regional connector'.

Attached you will find a brochure outlining the background to the bid, including investment options.

It would be my pleasure to speak with anyone identified as part of this inquiry who may have an interest in this smart initiative, or to connect them directly with the Bid Development Team Leaders as part of the inquiry process.

Your sincerely

Dianah Walter  
Director

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