Bio NSW

Newsletter
Edition 1/2025

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Bio NSW

Introduction

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2025 for BioNSW Members summarising BioNSW activities as well as broader MedTech and Life-Sciences Sector developments.

Since our inception at the end of 2023, BioNSW has grown rapidly – with our Board and 6 Expert Committees having been hard at work building a programme of activities for Members and the broader NSW MedTech and Life Sciences Sector.

BioNSW is dedicated to **harnessing the full potential of the NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector** - catalysing innovation, investment, skills and jobs for economic growth, prosperity and a healthier NSW Community.

Inaugural BioNSW Annual General Meeting

In February 2025 BioNSW was proud to hold the inaugural **Annual General Meeting** for Members together with its second **Board-Expert Committee Planning Meeting** – these Events were held with the kind support of the **Investment NSW** Team at the **Sydney Startup Hub.**

BioNSW had already been fortunate to have had the support of Investment NSW in using the convenient location of the Sydney Startup Hub near Wynyard Station in the Sydney CBD for a series of events during 2024.

This Planning Meeting provided an important opportunity for our 6 **Expert Committees (Biotech, MedTech, Digital Health, Investment, Manufacturing & Commercialisation)** to share learnings and coordinate plans and activities for 2025.

Inaugural BioNSW AGM and Committee Planning Meeting

NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector News

The start of 2025 saw the preparation and release of a number of important Policies and Strategies by the NSW Government which are relevant to the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector.

The BioNSW Newsletter will provide an outline of developments which are relevant to the NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector.

BioNSW at the Investment NSW Health Industry Trade Roundtable – February 2025

BioNSW was proud to be invited by Investment NSW to a **Health Industry Trade Roundtable** at NSW Parliament House in early February 2025.

This Roundtable was attended by a broad selection of the NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector as well as by the **Minister for Industry and Trade, Anoulack Chanthivong MP**. The Roundtable sought input from the NSW Sector to inform the development of the NSW Government's updated overall Trade & Investment Strategy.

BioNSW had the opportunity to contribute to the Roundtable discussions on the day – as well as provide a subsequent written Submission to the NSW Government.

Some of the key points that BioNSW highlighted in our written Submission are set out below

- We highlighted the critical importance of building close and ongoing connectivity and collaboration between the different Government, industry and other stakeholder groups across the NSW Health Industry ecosystem in driving success across the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector.
- We described the challenges that the NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector faces in consistently accessing appropriately skilled employees – feedback we have received suggests that the local pool of experienced talent, skills and capabilities may be insufficient to support growth of the State's Life Sciences sector.
- In addition to the above 'talent density' issue, member feedback has highlighted the lack of adequate private and public funding - and lack of certainty of ongoing funding to support the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector growth.
- Another important issue that we raised was the importance of adequate facilities and local infrastructure to support research and development activities in both existing and planned Health Sector Precincts.

Moving forward BioNSW Submissions to Government and other Stakeholders will be made available to Members via the BioNSW website.

NSW Trade and Investment Strategy 2035 – Released by Investment NSW in May 2025

Following BioNSW's participation in the Investment NSW Roundtable in February 2025, we to be invited to launch of the State Government's **NSW Trade and Investment Strategy 2035** in May this year.

The ambitious **NSW Trade and Investment Strategy 2035** includes a focus on diversification and innovation – with an important callout on Life Sciences and Healthcare being a Focus Sector.

The Strategy also sets targets and includes a commitment to enhancing innovative export performance and attracting high-value investment to NSW. Of note the Strategy aligns with the State Migration Plan and a focus on skilled migration pathways (which are important to the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector). The Strategy is forward-looking, with an agenda that aims to ensure NSW's role as an economic leader in a fast-changing global environment.

See NSW Trade and Investment Strategy | NSW Government
See Life sciences and healthcare is a NSW focus sector | NSW Government

Other Relevant Recent Policies – NSW Industry Policy and NSW Innovation Blueprint 2035

A number of other key Policies and Documents of great relevance to the NSW Life Sciences sector were also launched by Investment NSW around the time of the Trade and Investment Strategy.

At a macro level, the NSW Government is focused on boosting economic growth, resilience, and productivity through a whole-of-government plan. The **NSW Industry Policy 2025** establishes the overarching strategic Framework, with missions to address housing affordability, accelerate the net zero and energy transition, and build a strong local manufacturing sector.

See NSW Industry Policy | NSW Government

The NSW Industry Policy 2025 is supported by the **Trade and Investment Strategy** and the **NSW Innovation Blueprint 2035.**

As described above, the NSW Trade and Investment Strategy aims to increase the value and diversity of NSW exports, attract new investments, and support businesses in accessing new markets and creating jobs.

The **NSW Innovation Blueprint 2035** is an important read for those working in the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector. The Blueprint works in conjunction with the other strategies to foster a growing number of highly productive, innovation-intensive businesses, contributing to economic complexity and competitiveness.

Whilst the Blueprint is Sector agnostic, it does highlight issues which are evident across the State's Life Sciences and MedTech Sector as well as identified NSW Government Areas for action.

See NSW Innovation Blueprint | NSW Government

Finally, the **Department of Primary Industries Strategic Plan 2022-2030** is also relevant to the State's Life Sciences Sector, given their contribution to agriculture, forestry, and fishing etc by improving biosecurity, carbon neutrality, economic growth, food safety, and the sustainability of resources.

See NSW DPI Strategic Plan 2022-2030

NSW Health Research and Innovation Strategy 2025–2030 - Released in May 2025

In May of this year, the **NSW Government** unveiled its **Health Research and Innovation Strategy 2025–2030**, a five-year blueprint aimed at transforming the State into a global leader in health and medical research.

The implementation of this 5 Year Strategy will be spearheaded by the **Agency for Clinical Innovation** and the **Office for Health and Medical Research** – with the strategy promoting a collaborative ecosystem across government, academia, and industry. Key goals include improving health outcomes, boosting system efficiency, and expanding access to innovation statewide.

BioNSW is highly supportive of this new Health Research and Innovation Strategy and is looking forward to an ongoing collaboration with the NSW Government and the Department of Health to help bring NSW Life Sciences innovation opportunities to life.

The Strategy builds on existing areas of strength and specifically highlights the importance of partnerships to help embed a vibrant research and innovation ecosystem within the NSW Health System.

See NSW Health Research and Innovation Strategy 2025-2030

Our next Newsletter will include a more detailed Summary of this Strategy.

Other Important NSW Initiatives - $6 Million Boost for Synthetic Biology and Biomanufacturing

The **Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer** announced **$6 million in funding** to support researchers and startups working in **synthetic biology and biomanufacturing.**

This initiative aims to scale up production capabilities and attract investment into NSW's growing biotech infrastructure. The funding supports projects that develop novel bio-based products/processes, focusing on sustainability and advanced manufacturing.

This investment complements NSW's broader strategy to become a hub for **bio-innovation**, creating jobs and fostering economic growth in high-tech sectors.

The **BioNSW Manufacturing Expert Committee** will follow the progress of this funding initiative and look for opportunities to provide support.

See $6 Million for Researchers and Startups to Make their Mark in Biotech

Other Important NSW Initiatives - Investments in RNA/Viral Vector Manufacturing

The NSW Government continued its commitment to Biotech infrastructure with a number of important funding initiatives, after including:

- **$96 million** for an **RNA research and manufacturing** facility at **Macquarie University** to help future-proof the NSW response to emerging health challenges.
- **$58.2 million** to build **Australia's first Viral Vector Manufacturing Facility**, supporting gene therapy and vaccine development [2].

These facilities will enhance W capabilities in translational research and position the state as a leader in **advanced biologics manufacturing.**

Again, the BioNSW Board and relevant Expert Committees will engage with the NSW Government and other stakeholders to support the successful implementation within the NSW Life Sciences and MedTech Sector.

See RNA Research and Pilot Manufacturing Facility | NSW Government
See Home - Viral Vector Manufacturing Facility

BioNSW Representing the State Life Sciences Sector

Federal Government Strategic Examination of R&D Review – RoundTable – April 2025

BioNSW was proud to be invited to a RoundTable Consultation as part of the Federal Government Strategic Examination of R&D in early April 2025. BioNSW also had the opportunity to submit a subsequent written Submission to this National Review.

BioNSW noted that a number of recent reviews had been undertaken of the Australian Life Sciences sector by National Peak Sector bodies such as AusBiotech and MTPConnect.

Many of the challenges identified in these Submissions are national in nature but are all relevant in NSW – with some being more prominent in our State. BioNSW believes that one of the key areas where the Sector lags in our NSW is a lack of connectivity between different stakeholder groups.

BioNSW also endorsed the Key Recommendations in the AusBiotech/MTPConnect 2025 Pre Budget Submission, i.e.

- Creating a National Life Sciences Strategy, which considers both Commonwealth and State activities in the sector
- Making Life Sciences a Priority Area under the Future Made in Australia Act, and
- Investing in end-to-end data analysis of the Australian Life Sciences industry to inform national and state industry policy development

See Strategic Examination of Research and Development | Department of Industry Science and Resources

See AusBiotech Paper

Briefing with North Carolina Economic Development Partnership – February 2025

In February this year, BioNSW and the NSW Office of the U.S. Department of Commerce hosted a briefing with the **Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC)** to brief for NSW Life Sciences companies on the opportunities for collaboration within North Carolina's world-renowned Research Triangle precinct.

See Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina | EDPNC

This event was well attended – and followed on from similar briefing events that BioNSW has hosted for visiting International Delegations.

Moving forward, BioNSW expects to continue to provide briefings on the NSW Life Sciences Sector to International delegations ad Trade Missions in collaboration with other Partners.

BioNSW Partner and Member News

Clarity Pharmaceuticals Advances Theranostic Cancer Treatment – March 2025

Sydney-based **Clarity Pharmaceuticals** reported successful Phase II trial results for its theranostic radiopharmaceutical targeting **neuroblastoma**, a rare pediatric cancer. The treatment combines diagnostic imaging and targeted therapy in a single agent, offering a more precise and less invasive approach. The company is preparing for Phase III trials and has initiated discussions with the FDA for fast-track designation [1]. This marks a significant milestone for NSW's biotech sector, reinforcing its leadership in nuclear medicine and paediatric oncology.

See Clarity Pharmaceuticals - Radiopharmaceutical Therapies and Diagnostics

FDA Approves Nanosonics' Coris System – January 2025

Nanosonics, based in Sydney, received FDA approval for its **Coris system**, a novel infection prevention platform for ultrasound probes. This approval opens the door to U.S. market entry and strengthens NSW's reputation in medical device innovation [1]. The Coris system is expected to complement Nanosonics' existing Trophon platform and expand its global footprint.

See Home | Nanosonics

BioNSW Events

BioInvest Catalyst Dinners Launch in Q1

On March 27, BioNSW hosted the inaugural BioInvest Catalyst Dinner in Sydney, bringing together investors and CEOs to spark new connections and investment opportunities in NSW's life sciences sector.

BioNSW brought together an exceptional group of NSW Life Sciences entrepreneurs, emerging investors in the sector, and industry stakeholders on an electric rooftop in the heart of Sydney City.

This dinner was an important initial step in achieving one of BioNSW's bold ambitions: to help unlock new streams of capital for Life Sciences companies and accelerate the growth of the Sector in the State of NSW.

The diversity of perspectives in the room contributed to a vibrant atmosphere, sparking many meaningful connections. It was encouraging to see the thriving Life Sciences community in our State embark on the next chapter together.

A sincere thank you to our sponsors, Smartways Logistics and Dare Capital Australia for your support.

Women in Life Sciences Luncheon

BioNSW hosted tables at AusBiotech's Women in Life Sciences Luncheon on March 7 at Doltone House, celebrating leadership and diversity in the sector.

BioNSW was proudly represented by a large group of our Board and Committee Members at todays' Women in Life Sciences Luncheon hosted by **AusBiotech** and **Medicines Australia**. It was so exciting to see the Australian Life Sciences community come together and engage in some exciting and important conversations!

BioNSW News

Welcome to Our First Foundation Sponsor - Avatar Brokers

We want to welcome our first foundation sponsor Avatar Brokers and sincerely thank Josh Myer, Konrad Aerin and the team for their support.

The principal goal of Avatar is to provide specialist insurance broking services to companies that develop innovative technology.

Avatar's key advantage is objective, in-depth research on Life Sciences and MedTech Sector-specific exposures. Avatar understands the unique requirements of the Sector & takes the time to understand the specific issues & challenges facing businesses. Avatar's expertise aims to deliver real financial and business benefits.

Please contact Avatar (https://avatarbrokers.com/) with any specific questions on your company's insurance needs.

Farewell Julia Hill – Inaugural Vice-Chair

In March this year, BioNSW announced that Dr Julia Hill was stepping down from her position as Vice-Chair and Non-Executive Director at BioNSW due to the extent of her professional commitments within the NSW Life Sciences sector.

The Board of BioNSW would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Julia for her tireless efforts and the extensive industry expertise that she has brought to BioNSW since its inception in 2023. Her contributions have been pivotal in establishing and advancing our organisation to the stage we are now at - her presence on our Board will be greatly missed.

Are You a BioNSW Member Yet?

We want to thank all BioNSW members for their continued support of the organisation in our early stages of operation. As always, we welcome feedback on how we're doing and appreciate any suggestions and ideas that you have for those of you who have not joined yet.

Join us in shaping the future of NSW Life Sciences. Become a member of our community today. You can do this very easily by clicking on this link – https://www.bionsw.org/plans-pricing.

if you have any inquiries about membership, you can contact Brad Walsh at brad@bionsw.org

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