



SUMMARY REPORT

Sandwich Workshop Transforming Digital Technologies

Thursday 26 July 2018
12.30pm - 2.00pm

Moderator

Andrew Hynd, Partner, IT and Procurement, Gadens

Panellists

Janet Brimson, Partner, Information and Analytics, Business Aspect

Dr Stefan Hajkowicz, Senior Principal Scientist, Data61, CSIRO

Luke Marchant, Senior Sales Specialist – Mobility, Telstra

Dr David Soldani, Chief Technology Officer, Huawei Australia

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Workshop Summary

The predominant theme from the 2018 Queensland Futures Institute, *Transforming Digital Technologies*, focused on the strengths, investment potential and challenges that Queensland faces. Four representatives of the digital industry formed the panel, from CSIRO, Telstra, Business Aspect, and Huawei Australia.

Based on the above organisations' recent reports and observations, the discussion specifically highlighted the role of digital transformation in Queensland and its advantages and challenges that should be taken into consideration. They also emphasized the strengths and compatibility of Queensland in this industry.

Lastly, the discussion allowed the audience to explore further into the topic of how these industries could provide opportunities for Queensland.

Andrew Hynd, Partner, IT and Procurement, Gadens

- Provided a short overview of customization through digital technologies, the role of government
- Introduction of the panel and asked their views on this matter.

Janet Brimson, Partner, Information and Analytics, Business Aspect

- The jobs of the future won't be the same as today.
- Digital transformation agenda is one of the biggest in the industry.
- It is important to keep the investment timeline in mind.
- People think that innovations that we talk about today is still coming, but they aren't - they are already here.
- Right now, 95% of autonomous decisions are data analytics driven
- There is a lot of change coming down the pipeline, and people at the executive level and government are still not prepared for these changes.
- We have to take steps to undertake the transformation as soon as possible.
- The future will be a completely different economy from what we know today.

Dr Stefan Hajkowitz, Senior Principal Scientist, Data61, CSIRO

- I lead a team that connects science and technology capabilities.
- We observed digital technology economy in Vietnam: huge population of highly capable of science and tech. Vietnam is far above Australia and growing.
- International digital revolution is happening.
- CSIRO is undertaking a very interesting project: a road map for Australian artificial intelligence, in which we will involve all our scientists.
- When we look at 5 years back, there has been a major digital transformation, especially in the area of image analytics. This transformation is international and Australia obviously has to claim our place in the international market.
- Another big interest of ours is Blockchain and we are investigating not only the technology but also the uncertainty that comes along with digital transformation and how it can be dealt with.

Luke Marchant, Senior Sales Specialist – Mobility, Telstra

- I spend most of my time cross agencies: health, education, public sector and transport
- We have advantages such as understanding our core industries, such as healthcare, education, mining, construction and tourism, etc.

- Queensland has the greatest number of entrepreneurs per capita and our entrepreneurs are decentralized. These are positive things to build things around.
- We have close proximity to Asia
- Barriers to entry exist around adoption of digital technologies and its growth: there is a great access to knowledge-based articles, entrepreneurs and capital.
- The decentralised location of our entrepreneurs gives us an opportunity to build our competitive advantage. It helps us build our technologies on a decentralised level, closer to agriculture, mining etc. provides those regions to be part of it compared to other states, where entrepreneurs are centralised.
- However, the challenge that has to be taken into consideration is the equity of collaboration and digital literacy. Thus, purely willing to collaborate is not enough.
 - Collaboration is really important, it should not be just a Telco's job to provide connectivity, and not just government's. It should be a community collaboration.
 - Digital literacy: it is a tremendous opportunity and platforms to educate the number of people who are not digital natives.

Dr David Soldani, Chief Technology Officer, Huawei Australia

- Huawei Australia:
 - Early next year we will support movability and augmented reality.
 - Connecting machines, process automation (remote drilling, traffic management) and remote control (autonomous vehicles)
- Government policy is important
 - key for competition and key for investment into research and innovation.
- We need to learn from Europe, the US, China and Japan (public vs. private sector)
- Current services are limited.
- We need investment in the ICT sector

Summary of Ideas

- Business case evaluation process to be updated for IT in all organisations
- Invest in infrastructure (5G capability)
- Government strategy and leadership is needed to set and drive the agenda (i.e. the skills gap)
- R&D is absent, and it is only left to a few players, e.g. CSIRO.

The Queensland Futures Institute acknowledges the support of the UQ Business School's Samira Nazar for her summary of the Workshop.

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