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MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW ANNOUNCES FIRST REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH MEETINGS AND EVENTS AUSTRALIA

The NSW Government has today announced a partnership with Australia's peak industry body for business events, Meetings and Events Australia (MEA), to support aspiring event managers living in rural and regional NSW get a head start in their careers.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events Adam Marshall said the partnership was part of the Government's Regional Conferencing Strategy & Action Plan, launched in Tamworth last year.

"NSW is the first Australian State to partner with MEA in this way and we're confident that this collaboration will support jobs and drive investment into rural and regional communities," Mr Marshall said.

"Whether you've just finished Year 12, are working in the events industry or looking for a career change, we are offering six regional Diploma of Event Management scholarships to ensure the future success of this booming sector.

Mr Marshall said the business events sector presents a significant growth opportunity for regional destinations.

"This initiative will upskill our rural and regional workforce in an industry that plays such an important role in helping re-energise local communities and drive the State's economy," Mr Marshall said.

MEA Chief Executive Officer Robyn Johnson said the business events industry is a growing economic contributor to regional communities and the partnership is a reflection of the close relationship with the NSW Government.

"We are thrilled to be collaborating with the NSW Government to bring more job opportunities into rural and regional NSW. I also look forward to meeting with the Destination Networks this year to work together to grow business events across the State," Ms Johnson said.

The course will be delivered via MEA's online learning tool allowing students to complete the tasks at their own pace and in their own time.

For further information and to apply, please visit www.meetinnsw.com.au/scholarships