

Transcript



Title: Industry & Society 4.0 (Society 4.0 Forum)

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Audio/video for this transcript available from: <http://commons.swinburne.edu.au>

Bronwyn's overall message was that digitalisation will change the world. We must mindfully think of the social outcomes to ensure digitalisation has a positive impact on society, enabling us to solve big problems around energy, communications and transport.

Bronwyn discussed digitalisation from an international perspective, paying particular attention to Germany. Germany's working groups, supported by government, bring together industry bodies, politicians, academics and trade unions. Their test labs, each with its own focus and relevance, are examples of successful digitalisation initiatives. Bronwyn spoke about future opportunities for Australia; she discussed the need to address both the Innovation Gap – the gap between research and business collaboration – and the Productivity Gap – where a shortage of full time workers is expected in the near future due to the retirement wave. Opportunities to address these issues include encouraging industry and universities to work together, and digitalisation to address productivity challenges.

So I think Australia has an enormous potential. There are so many incredible SMEs around Australia and manufacturing is really vibrant and healthy.

There was a lot of despair when we stopped producing entire vehicles here in Australia, but I think we've transitioned and we've become much more autonomous and independent. You have smaller companies who start off employing 10 people and then suddenly they're employing 200. They're growing enormously and they're able to make decisions for themselves which is fantastic.

Normally in the past when you worked with the automotive industry here, you couldn't do anything without someone making a call to Detroit or Japan. So I think it's a really exciting time for manufacturing. And I think that we're incredibly innovative here so we're coming up with new products and processes and developing new technologies. It's just about how we link them into global value chains. And so that's one of the goals of the Manufacturing Futures Research Institute is linking in those really exciting smart companies with global players.

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