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## FAIR GAME WINS BYRON BAY REGIONAL PITCHFEST

Lismore startup Fair Game will compete against the best regional startups in NSW after winning the Northern Rivers leg of The Jobs for NSW Regional Pitchfest - Australia's largest pitch competition for regional startups.

Minister for Jobs Stuart Ayres said Fair Game, which delivers premium wild caught venison to customers straight from the wilderness, has secured an all-expenses paid trip to a three-day Regional Bootcamp at the Sydney Startup Hub on 12-14 August.

From there, five finalists will be selected to compete for a share of \$20,000 in cash and prizes at the NSW State final in Wagga Wagga in September.

“Congratulations to Fair Game founder Jonas Widjaja for winning the Byron Bay Regional Pitchfest which is helping to showcase the great talent that is on offer in our regions,” Mr Ayres said.

“The Northern Rivers region is filled with smart innovators whose ideas and drive can help create new jobs and businesses for the future. Events like this help build a growing culture of entrepreneurship in our regional communities.

“Jobs for NSW has also invested \$2.1 million in a Local Innovation Network of incubators to help develop businesses in the Coffs Harbour, Armidale, Byron Bay, Bathurst, Newcastle, Wollongong and Wagga Wagga regions.”

Mr Widjaja said winning the Byron Bay Regional Pitchfest provided a launch pad to pitch to an expert panel and take the business to the next level.

“So honoured to have been part of the Northern Rivers group of startups. We are all very passionate about creating positive change through entrepreneurship,” Mr Widjaja said.

“I'm grateful to be chosen to take my passion to the next step would like to thank the group at Sourdough Pathways, and the panel members for support and advice.”

Regional Pitchfest founder Di Somerville said the winner of the inaugural Regional Pitchfest in 2016 was a 13-year-old high school student, Michael Nixon, who founded educational company Edukits.

“Michael has since grown Edukits into a successful company and The Amazing Annoyatron, an educational kit which teaches kids coding skills, is now being sold in 15 countries around the world,” Ms Somerville said.

Minister for Jobs Stuart Ayres said the Jobs for NSW Regional Pitchfest was about unearthing the next big business ideas from regional NSW.

“We hope to assist more budding entrepreneurs to grow and eventually take on global markets as a result of this year's Regional Pitchfest,” Mr Ayres said.

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