

Memorandum of Understanding

to Guide the Strategic Partnership
between the NSW Government
and Regional Cities NSW

1. Preliminaries

- 1.1 This Agreement is between the NSW Government and the alliance of regional councils known as Regional Cities NSW.
- 1.2 This Agreement reflects a joint commitment to achieving strong communities through partnerships.
- 1.3 The Parties to this Agreement share a commitment to continuous improvement and will work together to achieve positive social, economic, environmental and civic leadership outcomes.
- 1.4 It is intended that this Agreement will serve as a framework under which more specific areas of cooperation and further mechanisms for such cooperation can be agreed.

2. Strategic Partnerships

- 2.1 The Parties acknowledge that throughout the term of this Agreement, local government in NSW is underpinned by the following NSW Government priorities and strategic partnerships.
 - (a) The NSW Government's 20-Year Economic Vision for regional NSW, refreshed in February 2021, that sets out a pathway for ensuring regional NSW continues to be a vibrant and growing part of the economy, and that people are supported in their decision to live in the regions.
 - (b) Regional Economic Development Strategies, based upon functional economic regions, that identify strategies to drive growth and prosperity at a regional level, and localise the goals of the Economic Vision.
 - (c) Community Strategic Plans, developed by each NSW local council in consultation with their communities, identifying the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, and the planned strategies for achieving these goals, over a minimum 10-year period.
 - (d) The NSW Premier's Priorities, and a range of other relevant Whole of Government and Whole of State strategies.

3. Principles

- 3.1 The Parties to this Agreement commit to the following Principles:
 - (a) The NSW Government and Regional Cities NSW will work together as drivers of change and improvement to achieve strong communities through partnership.
 - (b) Consultation and communication will be open on the basis of mutual trust and respect.

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- (c) The NSW Government and Regional Cities NSW will engage with each other collaboratively and with a shared commitment to joint problem solving.
 - (d) Key issues relating to regional local government will be addressed with a focus on continuous improvement, innovation and the interests of the community.
 - (e) The impact of the actions of the parties on each other will be recognised, considered and managed appropriately.
 - (f) In working together on the strategic partnerships other stakeholders will be meaningfully engaged.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- 4.1 The NSW Government is responsible for setting a clear policy and legislative framework for local government, working with the local government sector in accordance with the agreed principles, and ensuring the interests of local government are considered in government policy, services and projects.
- 4.2 Regional Cities NSW is an alliance of 15 regional cities from around the State. The alliance is responsible for representing regional communities through evidence-based policy and informed advocacy. The objective of these activities is to effect real change in their communities by seeking improvements to the infrastructure, liveability and sustainability of regional cities and the wide regional areas the cities support.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- 5.1 In working together on the strategic direction for local government to achieve strong communities through partnerships, the Parties agree the following:

Meetings and Cooperation

- 5.2 An annual meeting with the Premier of NSW, the Deputy Premier (Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade) and Regional Cities NSW will be held to discuss strategic initiatives that impact on both parties, with a particular emphasis on the following 12 months.
- 5.3 A biannual meeting with the Deputy Premier (Minister for Regional New South Wales, Industry and Trade) and Regional Cities NSW will be held to discuss the strategic issues facing regional cities and their surrounding communities, with a particular emphasis on the following 12 months.
- 5.4 The Department of Regional NSW will host a biannual dialogue between Regional Cities NSW and Agency Heads of relevant key NSW Government agencies with a strong and direct relationship with regional councils, to discuss the management of emerging issues.
- 5.5 As required, more specific areas of cooperation and further mechanisms for cooperation may be agreed between Regional Cities NSW and the Agency Heads. Such arrangements

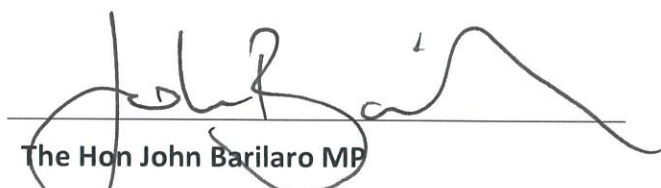
should be formalised where possible, through mechanisms such as a Memorandum of Understanding. The Department of Regional NSW can assist in enabling engagement with the other relevant Agencies.

- 5.6** The Parties may agree to meet additionally, as required.
- 5.7** Subject to any requirement of applicable law or Convention, the NSW Government will keep Regional Cities NSW informed of any significant issues and initiatives that will impact on local government in regional NSW and without breaching confidence, Regional Cities NSW will keep the NSW Government informed of any significant issues and initiatives of the local government sector in regional NSW that will impact on the NSW Government.

6. Terms of this Agreement

- 6.1** This Agreement will commence on the date it is signed by the Parties and will expire on 30 June 2023.
- 6.2** The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Agreement.
- 6.3** The Agreement may be terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.
- 6.4** The Parties agree to review the operation of this Agreement in a timely manner, prior to its expiration.
- 6.5** Any variation to this agreement must be agreed to in writing by all of the parties. Any such variation will take effect from a date that the parties have mutually agreed in writing.

7. Signatories



The Hon John Barilaro MP

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional
New South Wales, Industry and Trade

On behalf of the NSW Government



Cr Tim Overall

Chair

On behalf of Regional Cities NSW



Cr Kevin Mack

Deputy Chair

On behalf of Regional Cities NSW

Signed this 25 day of 03 2021.