

COMMUNIQUE

24 MAY 2017

A historic joint meeting of South Australian and Northern Territory Cabinet Ministers was held in Alice Springs today at which First Ministers executed a Strategic Partnership Agreement, signaling a new era of cooperation and cementing the deep and rich strategic relationship across our shared border.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement will provide the foundation for collaboration and joint investment in priority areas and collective approaches across a number of federal policy areas, to advocate for mutually beneficial outcomes and tackle shared challenges.

The Joint Cabinet meeting agreed on a Strategic Plan underpinning the Agreement which articulates specific deliverables over the next twelve months across five priority areas: critical road infrastructure upgrades; international engagement; trade and investment; enhancing the visitor experience of the Explorers Way; supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged children; and creating high-quality disability services, regional jobs and business opportunities through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Ministers agreed to continue to advocate for the current system of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation, and the social and productivity benefits it delivers, which is internationally recognised as best practice.

ONE ROAD TO ASIA

The Joint Cabinet meeting endorsed the International Engagement, Trade and Investment Collaborative Action Plan that seeks to further develop the South Australian and Northern Territory Central Trade Corridor with the aim of expanding freight flows into and out of the Asian region.

Ministers also agreed to leverage each other's strong international relationships with Asian partners and overseas representation. This includes joint South Australian and Northern Territory ministerial-led business missions to and from international markets, and collaboration on international education and research, targeting emerging growth sectors.

TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE

The Joint Cabinet meeting noted the important contribution the iconic National Indigenous Art Gallery will make to Australia's cultural conversation. The Gallery, to be located in Alice Springs, will provide the centrepiece of an expanded network of Indigenous art, cultural and nature trails, immersing visitors within the artistic landscape and its beauty.

Ministers agreed to: renew and expand the 'Explorer's Way', the iconic driving experience from North to South; the development of an Aboriginal Arts Trail; and a suite of joint marketing activities for 2017-18 and beyond including promoting 'the best of' experience in both jurisdictions using Adelaide as a gateway to the Northern Territory.

The Northern Territory committed to doubling its financial commitment to the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge in 2017.



Ministers also noted joint initiatives underway that will boost local employment through new product development, and strategies to market South Australia and the Northern Territory domestically and internationally, including to key markets in Europe and the United States.

SAFER COMMUNITIES

The Joint Cabinet meeting noted the collaborative work already underway to address family and domestic violence, particularly in the cross border region.

Ministers endorsed the proposed pilot violent offender register to be developed by NT Police for application in the cross border region, and NT Police's proposal to use electronic monitoring as a condition of police-issued bail, to apply to Northern Territory offenders initially.

NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME

The Joint Cabinet meeting agreed to the development of a joint, long-term South Australia / Northern Territory National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) implementation strategy in the cross border region, to drive collaborative approaches in a number of areas including participant and provider readiness, and regional workforce development.

Ministers also agreed to focus collective efforts on maximising regional Aboriginal employment and economic participation in the cross border region as a result of the NDIS, demonstrating national leadership to ensure the NDIS meets the needs of all citizens with a disability.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Joint Cabinet meeting noted the preliminary findings of the Early Childhood Policy Project and opportunities to improve enrolment and attendance of vulnerable and disadvantaged three year olds in ongoing quality early childhood education and care.

Ministers agreed to work together to examine programs and services which support improved engagement and participation for vulnerable children and their families, and to continue to jointly advocate at the national level for early childhood outcomes, underpinned by sustainable funding.

Ministers also noted the collaborative efforts underway to share expertise and learnings from implementing the Families as First Teachers program in the Northern Territory and in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands.

ECONOMIC REFORM

The Joint Cabinet meeting approved microeconomic reform measures focused on reducing the cost and complexity of doing business to support increased investment and jobs in South Australia and the Northern Territory. Automatic mutual recognition of occupational licensing, and training and certification in selected industries will now be implemented.

A LOW CARBON FUTURE

The Joint Cabinet meeting agreed to cooperate on the economic analysis of climate change policies and in adapting to the impacts of climate change whilst investing in a low carbon future, including through technologies to achieve renewable energy targets and climate change engagement.

NEXT STEPS

The Joint Cabinet meeting noted the key achievements of both governments to date, including coordination of efforts relating to policing, significant investment in the development of tourism opportunities and improvements to infrastructure to support the transportation of livestock between jurisdictions.

Ministers also acknowledged outstanding initiatives and endorsed ongoing commitments relating to domestic and family violence, disability, early childhood education, and international engagement.

Ministers tasked officials to develop implementation plans for each of the five strategic priority areas in the second half of 2017, and to report on progress of actions at the next First Ministers' Forum.