



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Government of
South Australia



NORTHERN
TERRITORY
GOVERNMENT

Strategic Partnership Agreement
between
The State of South Australia
and
The Northern Territory of Australia

Preliminaries

1. This Agreement implements a new strategic framework for interstate cooperation between the State of South Australia and the Northern Territory of Australia (the jurisdictions).
2. This Agreement will operate indefinitely from the date of execution, unless one or both jurisdictions provide written notice of withdrawal from the Agreement.

Objective

3. Through this Agreement, jurisdictions will draw upon a strong history of cooperation, shared cultures and regions and combined strengths; will look outwards and forwards together; and will take collective action across and beyond our borders for the mutual benefit of our citizens and communities.

Principles

4. The shared principles that will guide cooperation under this Agreement are:
 - a. Equitable economic, social and cultural development.
 - b. A proactive outlook, strong advocacy and shared investment for our mutual interests beyond politics and borders, both nationally and internationally.
 - c. Sustainability, environmental protection and the preservation of our unique cultures and heritage.
 - d. A focus on working together for our people, in areas of regional development, innovative cross-border service delivery, co-design and community participation and empowerment.
 - e. Action informed by a robust evidence base with a clear public benefit.
 - f. Transparency and accountability for our actions on behalf of all our citizens.

Institutional Arrangements

5. First Ministers will lead cooperation under this Agreement and will meet at least once a year to progress strategic priorities.
6. Respective First Ministers' departments will be the lead agencies for this partnership, serving as key contacts and respective secretariats for First Ministers' meetings and driving cross-government and cross-jurisdictional collaboration in our public sectors.



7. At the discretion of both governments, joint Cabinet meetings will bring Ministers from both jurisdictions together for collective agreement and commitment to action on key priorities.
8. First Ministers may also establish other governance structures as required, including convening taskforces to consider specific issues and collaborating with citizens, businesses and communities.

Operation of Partnership Agreement

9. Jurisdictions will:
 - a. work together to identify strategic priorities for collaborative action each year in a strategic plan, which is set out as Schedule A of this Agreement.
 - b. make best endeavours to jointly deliver services in the cross-border region, and jointly fund and manage key projects together, where it is beneficial to do so.
 - c. maintain an ongoing relationship through strong engagement between officials and the sharing of people and information. This will include, but not be limited to secondments, data sharing agreements, collaborative governance, taskforces and other working arrangements.
 - d. collaborate on areas outside of identified strategic priorities, where appropriate and beneficial to do so.
 - e. report periodically on the implementation and outcomes of this Agreement.

Effect, Review and Variation

10. The Agreement is not legally enforceable, but has been entered into in the spirit of cooperation. Final policy decisions remain the responsibility of respective governments.
11. The Agreement will be reviewed every three years, or as otherwise agreed.
12. The Agreement can be amended at any time by mutual written consent.
13. First Ministers will review and agree the content of schedules annually, or as otherwise agreed.



14. Jurisdictions have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:

**Signed for and on behalf of the State of South
Australia by**

**Signed for and on behalf of the
Northern Territory of Australia by**




The Honourable Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia
24 May 2017



The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
*Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of
Australia*
24 May 2017

Witnessed by

Witnessed by



Dr Don Russell
Chief Executive
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
South Australia
24 May 2017



Ms Jodie Ryan
Chief Executive Officer
Department of the Chief Minister
Northern Territory
24 May 2017



2017-18 Strategic Plan

South Australia and Northern Territory Strategic Partnership Agreement

SCHEDULE A

Objective

We will build on our history of cooperation, shared cultures, shared regions and similar contextual challenges, and further enhance our relationship for the mutual benefit of citizens, by looking outwards together and taking collective action across and beyond our borders.

Principles

- Equitable economic, social and cultural development.
- A proactive outlook, strong advocacy and shared investment for our mutual interests beyond politics and borders, both nationally and internationally.
- Sustainability, environmental protection and the preservation of our unique cultures and heritage.

- A focus on working together for our people, in areas of regional development, innovative cross-border service delivery, co-design, and community participation and empowerment.
- Action informed by a robust evidence base with a clear public benefit.
- Transparency and accountability for our actions.

Strategic Priorities

Connecting our people and our economies

Providing a fit-for-purpose infrastructure network to service our economies' growth sectors, harmonising our regulatory environments to support local businesses, and improving labour mobility by undertaking joint workforce development in shared regions.

Priority Action

Critical road infrastructure upgrades to better support transport between jurisdictions.

One road to Asia

Leveraging each other's existing international relationships and working together to grow our economic and cultural ties across Asia.

Priority Action

Developing an international engagement, trade and investment action plan and conducting joint international trade missions to Indonesia and Shandong, China.

The heart of Australia as an iconic destination

Creating an integrated and sought after tourism experience for visitors to traverse our world-class natural and cultural tourist attractions.

Priority Action

Growing the connectivity of the Stuart Highway as a tourism corridor through rebranding, joint marketing and promotions, new value-adding attractions and supporting infrastructure.

Strong, smart and healthy children

Early investment across our health, education and family support service systems to give our children the best possible start in life.

Priority Action

Joint action on early childhood education to support our most vulnerable and disadvantaged children, particularly those in regional and remote areas.

A focus on people

Innovative, best practice service delivery across borders that is informed by co-design, delivers genuine life improving outcomes, and provides long-term cost savings to governments and boosts productivity.

Priority Action

Joint implementation and national advocacy to create high quality disability services, regional jobs and business opportunities through the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Enablers

Strong Advocacy and Shared Investment

- First Ministers departments as the lead agencies for the Strategic Partnership.
- Jointly funding key projects, where it is possible and beneficial to do so.

Joint Governance and Service Delivery

- Two taskforces established to scope joint service delivery in Central Australia and joint opportunities in tourism, arts and culture.
- First Ministers and joint Cabinet meetings.
- Shared commitment and approach to stakeholder engagement.

Exchange of People and Information

- Close working arrangements and business-as-usual collaboration between officials.
- Public sector secondments between jurisdictions.
- Data sharing agreements and joint policy projects.