



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
Economics References Committee report:

Inquiry into the indicators of, and impact of, regional
inequality in Australia

May 2024

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Overview

The Australian Government notes the report by the Economic References Committee (the committee) on the Inquiry into the indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia.

On 14 February 2018, the Senate referred an inquiry into the indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia to the Senate Economics References Committee for inquiry, with the Terms of Reference requiring particular reference to government policies and programs in the following areas:

- (a) fiscal policies at federal, state and local government levels;
- (b) improved co-ordination of federal, state and local government policies;
- (c) regional development policies;
- (d) infrastructure;
- (e) education;
- (f) building human capital;
- (g) enhancing local workforce skills;
- (h) employment arrangements;
- (i) decentralisation policies;
- (j) innovation;
- (k) manufacturing; and
- (l) any other related matters.

Australian Government response

The Australian Government's response to the Inquiry into the indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia is set out in detail below.

Recommendation 1:

The committee recommends that the Commonwealth Government fundamentally re-examine its regional infrastructure spending plan and make an expanded infrastructure programme the basis for its stimulus plan for Australia's economic recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.

Recommendation 2:

In order to establish to most appropriate response in terms of regional investment, the committee recommends the Commonwealth Government undertake a series of round table consultations with:

- Commonwealth departments and agencies.
- State, and Local Governments.
- Regional associations.
- Community Organisations

The Government **notes** this recommendation. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.