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MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Issue date: Tuesday, 1 May 2018

Townsville—a model city for Australia?

As the capital of Northern Australia and the recipient of Australia's very first City Deal, Townsville could provide a valuable model for the development of sustainable and prosperous regional centres around the nation.

The [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) will examine the factors informing Townsville's success when it visits to conduct a public hearing tomorrow as part of its inquiry into the development of cities.

Committee Chair, [Mr John Alexander OAM MP](#) said the importance of regional centres, such as Townsville, will only increase as Australia's population increases.

"Our capital cities cannot continue to absorb rapid population growth. Regional centres will need to play a bigger role in future and it's important that their economic development keeps pace," Mr Alexander said.

"City Deals are an important component of this. Townsville is a little over a year into its 15 year deal and as such could share valuable lessons in terms of the design and implementation of these programs."

In its submission to the inquiry, Townsville City Council noted that "regional Australia operates under the influence of vastly different factors when compared to metropolitan and capital city areas, including differences in economics, workforce profiles, industry and education availability, the 'tyranny' of distance to other centres, as well as retention of individual identities that make regional cities and towns unique across the country".

It also said that "regional city support from the Federal Government is a key factor in ensuring that large scale programs that lead to both sustainable economics and liveability are brought to fruition."

Public hearing details: 9.00 am – 2.50 pm, Wednesday, 2 May 2018, Crystal Room, Ballroom Building, Mercure Hotel, 166 Woolcock Street, Townsville

9.00 am: James Cook University

9.40 am: [Mackay Regional Council](#)

10.40 am [Cairns Regional Council](#)

11.20 am: [Townsville City Council](#)

[Townsville Enterprise](#)

1.10 pm: Central Coast University

1.50 pm: RDA – Townsville & North West Queensland
Townsville Airport



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Port of Townsville

2.50 pm: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

Media enquiries:

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Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#).

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