



**Australian Government**

Australian Government response to the House of  
Representatives Select Committee on Regional  
Australia report:

Pride of Place – Inquiry into the future of Regional  
Australia

May 2024

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# Overview

The Australian Government notes the report by the House of Representatives Select Committee on Regional Australia (the committee) on Pride of Place – Inquiry into the future of Regional Australia.

On 25 July 2019, the Inquiry was referred by then Assistant Minister for Children and Families, the Hon Michelle Landry MP, with Terms of Reference requiring a Select Committee on Regional Australia be appointed to inquire into and report on:

- (a) Examining the effectiveness of existing regional service delivery and development programs;
- (b) Examining the contribution and role of regional Australia to our national identity, economy and environment;
- (c) Promoting the development of regional centres, cities, towns and districts including promoting master planning of regional communities;
- (d) Promoting private investment in regional centres and regional infrastructure;
- (e) Examine the key drivers for unlocking decentralisation opportunities for both the private and public sectors;
- (f) Promoting the competitive advantages of regional location for businesses;
- (g) Investigate the development of capital city size regional centres in strategic locations and the benefits this offers regional cities, capital cities, the Australian economy and lifestyle;
- (h) Examine the potential for new developments, towns and cities to be built in regional Australia;
- (i) Examining international examples of nations who have vast and productive regional areas, which are sparsely populated;
- (j) Examining ways urbanisation can be re-directed to achieve more balanced regional development;
- (k) Identifying the infrastructure requirements for reliable and affordable health, education, transport, telecommunications, clean energy, water and waste in a new settlement of reasonable size, located away from existing infrastructure; and
- (l) Consider other measures to support the ongoing growth and sustainability of regional Australia.

## Australian Government response

The Australian Government's response to Pride of Place – Inquiry into the Future of Regional Australia is set out in detail below.

### Recommendation 1:

The Committee recommends that the House of Representatives establish a Standing Committee on Regional Australia.

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:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government implement mechanisms to allow regional community groups to more easily receive tax deductible gift recipient status so that private philanthropic funds can be donated to, and stay in, regional communities.

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 3:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government provide increased funding for regional universities and greater support for their students.

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 4:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate means of improving access to medical and allied health services for regional Australians including greater investment in regional universities and other health training organisations to ensure interested young people stay in the regions; providing incentives for trainee practitioners to study, practice, and stay in our regional communities; funding for regional clinical placements for students and mid-career professional development; greater investment in the specialist capacities of regional hospitals and medical research facilities in the regions; and increasing the number of Medicare funded visits for regional patients.

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 5:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government encourage its State and Territory counterparts to prioritise the release of government land for housing developments; look at ways to increase new and maintain existing public housing stock; and streamline the process to allow development of Aboriginal Land Council parcels of land.

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 6:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop a nationwide Regional Development Plan which considers the current and future infrastructure needs of regional Australia. The Regional Development Plan should focus on telecommunications and internet connectivity, road, rail, ports and airports along with soft infrastructure.

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 7:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop mechanisms to encourage private public partnerships to fund regional infrastructure.

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 8:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government investigate means of reducing the red tape burden upon regional business.

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 9:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government develop a program funding stream which is more tolerant of risk and encourages innovation funding be provided for smaller regional businesses.

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 10:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government implement a program for promoting the advantages of locating businesses in regional areas, doing business in regional areas and look at ways to incentivise business into regional areas.

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 11:

The Committee recommends that the Australian Government establish a dedicated authority with responsibility for:

- development and implementation of policies and programs, including a national population policy incorporating the Commonwealth's vision for regional Australia; and
- setting objectives and targets for regional population growth and the development of regional Australia.

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 12:

The Committee recommends that the appropriate Minister make an annual statement to the House of Representatives detailing progress towards meeting the Commonwealth's objectives and targets for regional population growth and the development of regional Australia.

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 13:

The Committee recommends that work continue by the Australian Government to facilitate both public and private sector decentralisation.

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