



Australian Government

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT CITY DEALS

between

The Commonwealth of Australia and

The Northern Territory

## ***Preamble***

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides an undertaking by the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Government to work together cooperatively on City Deals. Noting the Northern Territory's proximity to Asia, with Darwin as the gateway and the opportunities this provides to improve local and national prosperity, City Deals will improve the lives of Territorians through transport diversity, liveability and sustainability, governance, city planning and regulation and access to jobs to capitalise on these opportunities and develop the North.

Australia's growth as a knowledge based economy, and the prosperity this offers, goes hand in hand with the growth of our cities and the regions surrounding them. To succeed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy our cities, both regional and metropolitan, need to be productive and accessible, but they also need to be liveable with a clear focus on serving citizens. The Australian Government's *Developing the North* White Paper recognised that governments need to "focus on making a difference where they are best able and enable business and markets to do the rest". Working collaboratively with all three levels of Government, the private sector and key stakeholders, a long term vision and collaborative approach will be established through the negotiation and development of City Deals.

City Deals will formalise the partnership across the three levels of government and define priorities, actions, timeframes and accountabilities for achieving joint goals. City Deals will improve collaboration, consultation and coordination between all levels of government. The establishment of City Deals will require all levels of government to consider all appropriate levers to support improved outcomes in our cities.

The Commonwealth will provide support for key transformative infrastructure to implement City Deals, in partnership with the Northern Territory Government. The Commonwealth and Northern Territory government will work with local governments and other stakeholders to bring the full strength of appropriate levers to give effect to City Deals.

As a first priority, the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government will work with the City of Darwin, the Charles Darwin University and other key stakeholders to deliver a City Deal for Darwin by December 2017. The Darwin City Deal will be focused on improving the lives of Darwin residents through transforming it into an internationally renowned tropical capital city with a renewed and thriving urban centre.

### *Principles for collaboration*

The goal of City Deals is to provide an ambitious plan of short, medium and longer term action to generate economic growth, create jobs and improve the liveability and environmental outcomes to deliver measurable improvements to Territorians quality of life and standard of living.

This will be achieved by streamlining governance to enable effective collaboration, coordination within and across governments and strong leadership with clear accountabilities. The Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government will continue to develop a robust process of consultation and negotiation to investigate and establish City deals throughout the Northern Territory, and commit to the following foundational principles in support of this process:

- **Community engagement:** Involve the community in determining regional priorities and how they can contribute to implementation, and maximise opportunities for local Indigenous communities in delivery of City Deals. Community engagement protocols will be developed and agreed between the partners to assist in achieving this outcome.
- **Private sector engagement:** including creating better policy and regulatory settings that provide greater certainty for investment and accelerate the delivery of key infrastructure.
- **Accountability and transparency:** define measurable goals, priorities, actions and implementation timeframes and support access to open data to enable performance to be measured and all parties held to account, while also providing flexibility to allow for changing needs and emerging priorities.
- **Relevance:** prioritise local needs within the context of a nationally significant reform, and ensure governments are empowered to deliver at the local level.
- **Efficiency:** prioritise actions and reform that drive productivity, competition and diversification, aim to increase population (and therefore scale), and increase the sustainability of the NT economy. This could include 'game-changers', catalyst actions and smart technology solutions aimed at delivering a step-change in growth outcomes.
- **Collaboration:** Both Commonwealth and Northern Territory government will consult and communicate in good faith to ensure a streamlined and coordinated process to promote community and private sector confidence and participation in the City Deal process as equal partners. Both Parties will take the legitimate concerns and interests of other governments into account in their decision-making to maximise benefits for local communities. Both parties will ensure that prior agreement is reached on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to City Deals developed under this MOU, and that the roles of the relevant Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.



### ***Domains for action***

Every City Deal will be different. Each will be tailored to reflect the specific needs, strategic imperatives and growth opportunities of that region. The focus will be on collaborative actions that will build on the economic, social and environmental strengths of the area.

City Deals will prioritise domains for action that reflect the needs, strategic imperatives and growth opportunities for each region, including consideration of the following:

**Governance, city planning and regulation** – To facilitate economic growth through the delivery of planning and regulatory reforms, and enhanced integration of infrastructure, land use and environmental planning decisions.

**Investment in Infrastructure** – To improve liveability, accessibility and transport choice by supporting innovative private and public sector financing solutions and programmed, co-ordinated and evidence-based infrastructure commitments across all three levels of government.

**Housing** – To improve housing supply and affordability, including measures to improve public and social housing outcomes and greater diversity of housing options.

**Jobs and skills** – To improve job creation and employment outcomes by supporting skills and industry development and removing barriers to employment.

**Innovation and digital opportunities** – To harness the productive potential of information and communications technologies and the digital economy, including through a conducive and adaptive regulatory environment and a commitment to make government data publicly available wherever this is practical.

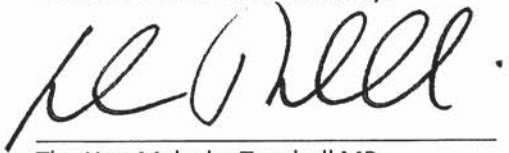
**Liveability and sustainability** – To improve the environment, attractiveness and resilience of our cities, including through heat mitigation incentives, support for clean air, green spaces, vibrant arts and cultural experiences, community amenity and active transport.

**Agreement**

Through this Memorandum of Understanding the Commonwealth and Northern Territory Government agree to work cooperatively and collaboratively to agree priority locations and improve the Northern Territory's cities through the implementation of tailored City Deals.

This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to create legal relations between the parties.

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of the  
Commonwealth of Australia by:



The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP

Prime Minister

18-4-17

Date

**SIGNED** for and on behalf of the Northern  
Territory Government by:



The Hon Michael Gunner MLA

Chief Minister

- 9 MAR 2017

Date