

SPECIAL REPORT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 2014

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Ms Yvette Berry MLA | Chair |
| Mr Andrew Wall MLA | Deputy-Chair |
| Ms Mary Porter MLA | |
| Mr Brendan Smyth MLA | |

SECRETARIAT

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Dr Brian Lloyd | Committee Secretary |
| Ms Lydia Chung | Administration |
| Mr Matt Ghiradello | Administration |

CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Telephone | 02 6205 0137 |
| Facsimile | 02 6205 0432 |
| Post | GPO Box 1020, CANBERRA ACT 2601 |
| Email | committees@parliament.act.gov.au |
| Website | www.parliament.act.gov.au |

RESOLUTION OF APPOINTMENT

At its meeting on Thursday, 28 February 2013, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

“That:

(1) this Assembly notes:

- (a) that the ACT acts as a regional centre to the surrounding regions of NSW; and
- (b) that the ACT Government has an ongoing relationship with the NSW Government and surrounding local governments;

(2) a Select Committee on Regional Development be established;

(3) the select committee shall consist of two members nominated by the Government and two members nominated by the Opposition, to be nominated to the Speaker by 4 pm on this sitting day.

(4) that a Government Member shall be elected chair of the committee;

(5) the select committee shall inquire and report into the ACT’s relationship with the surrounding region, including, but not limited to:

- (a) the identification of opportunities and supporting governance structures to coordinate economic development, including tourism and transport across the region;
- (b) the coordination of service planning and service delivery, particularly in the areas of health and education;
- (c) the opportunities for collaborative procurement by ACT Government with surrounding local governments;
- (d) further cooperation at the local government level on environmental and conservation matters and building community resilience to deal with natural disasters, extreme weather events and climate change; and
- (e) any other relevant matter; and

(6) the select committee shall report no later than the last sitting week in September 2013.”

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1 SPECIAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Select Committee on Regional Development was unable to reach agreement on a report. Under the Legislative Assembly's Standing Order 275:

Any question relating to procedure or the conduct of business of the Assembly not provided for in these standing orders or practices of the Assembly, shall be decided according to the practice at the time prevailing in the House of Representatives in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

- 1.2 *House of Representatives Practice* provides that:

If a committee is unable to agree upon a report, it may present a special report to that effect, with its minutes and the transcript of evidence.¹

- 1.3 A special report is defined as 'one in which a committee draws attention to matters incidental to its inquiry and which relates to its powers, functions or proceedings'.²

- 1.4 As the Select Committee on Regional Development was unable to reach agreement on a report it has sought to fulfil its obligation to report to the Assembly by way of this special report.

THE INQUIRY

- 1.5 The Select Committee's inquiry into regional development considered the ACT's relationship and engagement with its surrounding region, in particular in the matters of:

- economic development;
- service delivery;
- collaborative procurement; and
- the environment, conservation, and community resilience.

¹ *House of Representatives Practice*, 6th ed., p.710, <http://www.aph.gov.au/~media/05%20About%20Parliament/53%20HoR/532%20PPP/Practice6/PDF/Chapters/6Chap18.ashx>

² *House of Representatives Practice*, 6th ed., p.707.

CONDUCT OF THE INQUIRY

- 1.6 The Committee was established by the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, 28 February 2013. It advertised the inquiry in both the ACT and regional New South Wales (NSW), and received 19 submissions. It heard from 34 witnesses at three public hearings, held on 23 May, 29 May and 22 August 2013.
- 1.7 Appendix A, below, provides a list of witnesses who appeared in public hearings. Appendix B provides a list of submissions to the Committee's inquiry.

[Chair's Signature]

Chair

[Date report adopted by Committee]

Appendix A Witnesses

23 May 2013, Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Bega Valley Shire Council

- Mr Bill Taylor, Mayor, Bega Valley Shire Council
- Mr Peter Tegart, General Manager, Bega Valley Shire Council

Bombala Council

- Mr Robert John Stewart, Mayor
- Ms Ngaire Anne McCrindle, General Manager

Boorowa Council

- Mr Christopher Corcoran, Deputy Mayor
- Mr Anthony James McMahon, Assistant General Manager

Cooma-Monaro Shire Council

- Mr Dean Lynch, Mayor
- Mr John Vucic, General Manager

Eurobodalla Shire Council

- Mr Lindsay Brown, Mayor
- Dr Catherine Dale, General Manager

Goulburn Mulwaree Council

- Mr Geoff Kettle, Mayor
- Mr Christopher Berry, General Manager

Palerang Council

- Mr Pete Harrison, Mayor
- Mr Peter Bascomb, General Manager

Queanbeyan City Council

- Mr Tim Overall, Mayor

Snowy River Shire Council

- Mr Fergus Thomson, Councillor
- Mr Joseph George Vescio, General Manager

Upper Lachlan Shire Council

- Mr Brian McCormack, Representative
- Mr John Keith Bell, General Manger

Yass Valley Council

- Ms Rowena Abbey, Mayor

29 May 2013, Legislative Assembly for the ACT

ACT Government

- Ms Katy Gallagher, Chief Minister, Minister for Regional Development, Minister for Health and Minister for Higher Education
- Ms Pam Davoren, Deputy Director-General, Chief Minister and Treasury Directorate

22 August 2013, Legislative Assembly for the ACT

- Mr Duncan Edghill, Group Manager, Business Development, ACTEW Water
- Dr Doug Finlayson, Treasurer, Ginninderra Falls Association
- Ms Lynne Harwood, Chief Executive Officer, Communities@Work
- Mr Noel McCann, Director, Planning and Government Relations, Canberra Airport
- Ms Denise McFadyen, Partner, Surveyor's Hill Vineyards
- Mr Robert Neil, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
- Ms Kathryn Scarano, Assistant Director, Planning and Environment, Canberra Airport
- Mr Craig Sloan, Chair, Regional Development Australia ACT
- Mr Mark Sullivan, Managing Director, ACTEW Corporation
- Mr Steve Toms, New South Wales Cross-Border Commissioner
- Mr Robert Van Aalst, Executive Officer, Regional Development Australia ACT
- Dr Chris Watson, President, Ginninderra Falls Association

Appendix B Submissions

- Submission No.1 - Mr Stephen Brown
- Submission No.2 - Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- Submission No.3 - Queanbeyan City Council
- Submission No.4 - Ginninderra Falls Association
- Submission No.5 - Commissioner for Sustainability and Environment
- Submission No.6 - Communities@Work
- Submission No.7 - HCCA
- Submission No.8 - ACTEW
- Submission No.9 - Canberra Airport
- Submission No.10 - RDA ACT
- Submission No.11 - SEROC
- Submission No.12 - Queanbeyan-Monaro Greens
- Submission No.13 - Palerang Council
- Submission No.14 - CIT
- Submission No.15 - Bega Valley Shire Council
- Submission No.15A - Bega Valley Shire Council
- Submission No.16 - ACT Government
- Submission No.17 - NSW Cross-Border Commissioner
- Submission No.18 - Dr Helen Swan