



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development,  
Communications and the Arts

# Regional Investment Framework

The Australian Government's approach to supporting strong, stable and sustainable regions.

## Overview

A new approach on how the Australian Government delivers regional investment that places regions and their people at the centre of policy design and decision-making.



Supports a targeted and joined-up approach across governments



Listens and responds to local voices and priorities



Operates with flexibility and transparency

## Guiding principles

### Principles

### What regions will see

Strengthening our regions is a shared responsibility

All governments play a role in realising our ambition of 'no one held back or left behind'

Investments and initiatives should adapt across diverse regions

Initiatives will respond to the different needs, opportunities and challenges of regions across Australia

Growing and adapting regions should build on unique strengths

Investments will be targeted to support regions to harness their strengths to take up new opportunities

Regional development should be place-based and locally-informed

Government will listen to and value local knowledge and experience

## Priority areas

- ✓ Meeting the needs of, and providing opportunities for, First Nations people
- ✓ Supporting transformation to a net zero economy and decarbonisation



### Investing in people

Putting people at the forefront of growth, with local voices influencing decision making

- ✓ Working in partnership with communities
- ✓ Listening and responding to local voices
- ✓ Targeting investment in skills, education, training and building leadership capacity
- ✓ Respecting cultural and community diversity



### Investing in places

Targeted and place-based investment that enables communities to thrive and adapt

- ✓ Supporting adaptive, accessible and liveable regions
- ✓ Delivering infrastructure where and when it is needed
- ✓ Protecting cultural and environmental assets



### Investing in services

Investment in regional services with a focus on improving quality and accessibility

- ✓ Enhancing connectivity, accessibility and equity across regional Australia
- ✓ Investment including across communications, health, water, transport and government and community services



### Investing in industries and local economies

Ensuring regional industries and economies are positioned for sustainable growth

- ✓ Investment to help activate sustained economic and industry growth within regions
- ✓ Supporting the conditions needed for regional industries to diversify and grow

## Implementation approach



### Coordination and collaboration

- A new forum for **engagement and collaboration** between Australian Government agencies to ensure investments in regions are complementary and coordinated.
- The Commonwealth will work in **genuine partnerships** with local and state and territory governments through refreshed, regular engagements.



### Regional intelligence

- **Local voices, insights and intelligence** will be central to decision making, drawing on a broad range of groups and networks, such as local government and Regional Development Australia committees.
- **Data and trends** from a range of sources, such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, will inform evidence-based decision making.



### Informed investment

- The Commonwealth's **Budget and Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook** processes will ensure the Framework is influencing Government decision making.
- Agencies across the Commonwealth will embed the principles and priorities in their proposals, with the support of a refreshed **Regional Australia Impact Statement** process.