



Our ref: IRF18/2012

Ms Lauren Evans  
Assistant Council Officer  
Upper House Committees  
Parliament of NSW  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street  
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Ms Evans

**Re: Standing Committee on State Development - Inquiry on Regional Development and a Global Sydney - Answers to Questions Taken on Notice during hearing on 27 March 2018**

On 27 March 2018 I undertook to provide responses to questions taken on notice during my appearance before the Standing Committee on State Development for the inquiry into Regional Development and a Global Sydney.

Please see below my responses to question taken on notice which have been prepared in consultation with Transport for NSW and Family and Community Services.

**Question on Notice (pg 49)**

**The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones:** This morning, an issue was raised in relation to public transport in regional communities. The issue raised was not so much about the regional cities and being able to move around them, but more that we are seeing more and more people moving out of those areas into more regional and more remote areas and that there is a lack of public transport for those people, which then impacts their ability to get jobs and so on. I am just looking for the government's position on what is being done in that space and what the strategy is in relation to that.

**Response:**

In March 2018, Transport for NSW released Future Transport 2056, including the Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan. This established a 40-year vision for transport in Regional NSW to support liveable communities and productive economies.

Future Transport recognises that people who live in remote areas will likely have to travel longer distances to access services and infrastructure, and are also more likely to be socially isolated and that remoteness has an impact on the mode, frequency

and feasibility of transport services. The Plan identifies that transport has a critical role in providing access to essential services in remote communities via the 'hub and spoke model', and that the regional transport network can be improved by utilising demand responsive services from towns and villages to interchanges in regional cities and centres.

The Western Regional Transport Pilot (WRTP) is the first on-demand pilot in Regional NSW. The pilot commenced in May 2017 with a weekly return service between Tottenham and Dubbo via Albert and Narromine.

**Question on Notice (pg 49)**

**The Hon. Natasha Maclaren-Jones:** The other issue related to the criteria for being able to grant funding for local organisations. One of the witnesses talked about local domestic violence services that were losing funding to non-local service providers – some of the bigger organisations and charities were able to come in. That meant that there was a period of overlap of when the services were being delivered. They asked whether, when considering funding for regional areas, it could be considered that if a local provider was servicing that area, they could be given a waiting or special consideration into that.

**Response:**

The commissioning practices in the Department of Family and Community Services typically consider the provider that is best placed to deliver the service required in the location. Some of the considerations for service providers are:

- Ability to deliver the services specified at the quality specified
- Ability to achieve outcomes for the clients and community in that location
- Knowledge of the unique needs of the location in which the service will be delivered and their ability to meet those requirements.

There is no standard rule when evaluating service providers and the preference is based on the ability to deliver the services required, rather than the size of the organisation.

The Department of Family and Community Services' experience in funding a wide range of services over a long period of time across NSW is that both large organisations and small local organisations have delivered great services in different locations across the state.

**Question on Notice (pg49)**

**The Hon. John Graham:** What is our current growth in population at the moment? How much is our population going to increase in New South Wales? What is our current rate of growth of population?



**Response:**

The below table provides a breakdown of the population growth of NSW and Australia between 2011 and 2016.

	NSW	Australia
Population 2011	7.218 million	22.3 million
Population 2016	7.748 million	24.2 million
Population Growth 2011-16	0.53 million	1.9 million
Average annual growth rate	1.4%	1.6%

The population projections show NSW will grow to 9.9 million people by 2036, an increase of 2.2 million people from 2016.

The population projections also project a continued average annual growth rate of 1.4% a year between 2016 and 2026. Over the 20-year period to 2036, the average annual growth rate is projected to decrease to 1.2% a year.

The projections take into account trends for births, death and migration. However, they are subject to change due to factors of migration levels, new technology and social attitudes to different living arrangements.

If you have any further enquiries about this matter, please feel free to contact me

Yours sincerely

**Brett Whitworth**  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Planning and Design**

23 April 2019

