

**Submission
No 35**

**INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND A
GLOBAL SYDNEY**

Name: Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)

Date received: 26 July 2017

Orana Regional Organisation of Councils
PO Box 115
NARROMINE NSW 2821
oroc@oroc.com.au|www.oroc.com.au

1st June 2017

The Director
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

statedevelopment@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Committee Chair

Regional Development and a global Sydney

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NSW Inquiry into and report on how Sydney's growing prominence as a global city enhances regional development in the OROC region.

Background - about the OROC region.

- The Orana Region is currently supported by a Regional Organisation of Councils namely OROC. Member LGA's include the 12 Councils of Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo Regional, Gilgandra, Narromine, Mid-Western Regional, Warren, Walgett and Warrumbungle.
- The twelve local government areas of OROC have been working together delivering regional level functions for over 20 years which has provided significant savings and other benefits to member councils that have directly benefited local communities.
- OROC has delivered meaningful benefits to the Orana region and has been able to respond to the needs of the region due to its close relationship with each of its communities.
- This area is based on a natural fit of well-established communities of interest that link to the regional centre of Dubbo and relies on the existing and emerging economies, agricultural and mining industries, catchment boundaries, demographics, cultural and heritage connections.
- The strong contribution of agriculture and mining is a major characteristic of the region.
- The OROC region covers approximately 25% of the geographical area of New South Wales and comprises a diverse environmental landscape with an extensive and complex range of natural resources that covers over 200,000 square kilometres.
- ABS Population statistics show that there are just over 118,000 people residing in the OROC region.

a) Ensuring the regions benefit from the expansion of international trade, infrastructure, employment, tourism, innovation and research in the greater Sydney region.

- The OROC region is a large contributor to the NSW economy in all areas of trade, infrastructure, employment, tourism and innovation. Relevant to this region is:
 - Maximising international connections through air and sea ports;
 - Enhance inter-regional linkages to improve economic growth;
 - Develop and advance manufacturing and secondary industry;
 - Grow the tourism industry;
 - Protect and enhance agricultural productivity; and
 - Grow the energy sector.

The OROC Region and in particular the larger centres of Dubbo and Mudgee have affordable housing and with reasonable proximity to Sydney and excellent transport links, can relieve pressure on Sydney's growing population as connectivity in communications and technology are expanded.

b) Identify sectors of the economy that can provide the greatest opportunities for regional development including forecasts for jobs growth.

The obvious sectors include:

- Agriculture - food and fibre
- Secondary manufacturing supporting the agricultural industries
- Transport
- Mining
- Health
- Education
- Tourism and accommodation

Such actions to support these industries include:

- Developing skills in agricultural sector through education and training in the region;
- Supporting collaboration between university and business sectors;
- Coordinating and managing regional policies and programs across all tiers of government.

c) How collaboration between levels of government, non-government and private sector can assist the regions to benefit Sydney's global position.

OROC welcomes the approach of NSW Government, with the implementation of i) Regional Plans, ii) Regional Infrastructure Coordination Team and iii) Regional Leadership Executive Network that has been established in the Central West and Orana regions.

OROC considers that this region now has a once in a life time opportunity to realise and achieve considerable economic outcomes for the Orana region. There is motivation to build regional collaboration and capitalise on Sydney's global position to deliver positive outcomes for regional growth and provide confidence and certainty for investors, industry, business and the community.

The OROC Board warmly welcomes the opportunity for any further discussions on matters raised in this document. Please contact the OROC Executive Officer directly via email oroc@oroc.com.au.

Yours faithfully

Clr Rex Wilson
Chair
Orana Regional Organisation of Councils (OROC)