

**INQUIRY INTO INTEGRITY, EFFICACY AND VALUE FOR  
MONEY OF NSW GOVERNMENT GRANT PROGRAMS**

**Name:** Cr Greg Conkey, Mayor of Wagga Wagga

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

# CITY OF WAGGA WAGGA

25 September 2020

David Shoebridge  
Chair  
Integrity of NSW Government Grant programs  
[public.accountability@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:public.accountability@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Shoebridge,

## **Re: Funding and support for regional communities**

I write in support of the NSW Government's pro-active approach to providing robust and responsible processes for the growth of regional NSW.

It is a well-known circumstance that unlike every other developed country in the world, Australia has promoted, fostered and financed the growth of a few metropolitan and coastal areas at the expense of regional settlement patterns.

In NSW we see produce based regional communities in decline whereas in other economies a diverse settlement pattern is supported and fostered by the Government.

With this decline comes the withdrawal of medical services, commercial activity, education opportunities and ultimately the youth of the community.

The support of these communities with funding and streamlined, practical government is welcomed both for its foresight and its long-term benefit to future generations.

As a State we should be looking to correct the decline of the regions and our inability to compete with other Australian States let alone other nations.

Any move to harness and constrain the proactive approach of the NSW Government in this area should be rightly condemned. It is a disservice to NSW.

Look at our bizarre urban planning pattern relative to other developed countries. It is an indictment on all political parties over the past 75 years that we have allowed our regions and our regional communities to wither by poor policy.

I urge the strongest possible support for the regional policies of this government which are turning the tide of regional decline.

Yours sincerely,

Cr Greg Conkey  
Mayor, City of Wagga Wagga

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