



## Temora Shire Council

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Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
SG.62 Parliament House  
Canberra, ACT 2600

To whom it may concern

**RE: Temora Shire Council – Submission to the ‘Inquiry into the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia’**

I am writing on behalf of Temora Shire Council to address the Senate Inquiry into the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia.

Temora Shire, with a population of 6050, is a prosperous agricultural community that is located 87km north of the nearest regional capital, Wagga Wagga. For a relative small community Temora is self-supporting in many areas, for example, the town boasts four major banks, plentiful legal and accountancy practices, two supermarkets, 14 doctors, five schools, and a healthy retail sector. Despite the strength and diversity of Temora’s community and economy, the residents of Temora rely on and benefit from the more comprehensive and specialised range of both government and private sector services provided in neighbouring Wagga Wagga, with a small number also commuting to Wagga Wagga for employment on a regular basis.

Temora Shire Council acknowledges the important role played by regional capitals, like Wagga Wagga, as centres for the provision of services to the surrounding towns and villages. We fully understand and support the need to fund the development of regional capitals and that generally speaking the growth and prosperity of regional capitals has flow-on benefits to smaller neighbouring communities, like Temora. However, it is imperative to an effective spoke and hub model for the planning and associated funding of initiatives to support regional capital development considers the needs of overall region that the capital supports and does not come at the expense of funds made available to smaller communities.

It is also important to recognise that whilst stronger regional capitals deliver economic and community benefits to surrounding towns, regional capitals in turn rely on the health and prosperity of the economies of those same smaller towns whose residents regularly consume the services provided by the regional capital. In the case of Wagga Wagga, the population of the surrounding region is significantly larger than Wagga Wagga itself, and so collectively contributes a larger amount to the economy of the regional capital.

In recent decades the policy of centralising the delivery of government services in regional capitals has meant that accessing these services is more difficult and expensive for the most vulnerable in our smaller communities. For Temora residents, who are located up to an hour drive from Wagga Wagga with no public transport options, the cost of travel can be prohibitive when accessing services not available in Temora. The cost of access and availability of services to surrounding towns are important considerations when planning and funding regional capital initiatives.

Thank you for considering our submission. Please contact me should you require any further information.

Kind regards

Craig Sinclair  
Economic Development Officer