



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation

Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation

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Issue date: 28 June 2018

## Regions at the Ready: final report on regional development and decentralisation tabled

Rural and regional Australia is ready to go, and ready to grow. In its final report tabled today, the Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation made 13 recommendations to support and promote regional communities as sustainable, vibrant and enjoyable places to live and work.

The report *Regions at the Ready: Investing in Australia's Future* follows a 12 month inquiry which examined best practice approaches to regional development, the decentralisation of Commonwealth entities and supporting corporate decentralisation.

The Committee Chair, the Hon Damian Drum MP, said: "Our capital cities are struggling under the pressures of population growth, congestion and high cost of living expenses. Alleviating these problems does not necessarily lie in building more roads, providing more services, and extending the urban sprawl. It rests in the potential and capacity of Australia's regions."

"This support must build on the talent and energy that already exists in regional areas. There is a need for appropriate levels of investment; investment in physical and digital connectivity, investment in human capital, and investment in regional amenity." Mr Drum said.

The Committee's recommendations call for greater public and private investment in regional infrastructure, a considered and strategic Commonwealth decentralisation policy, and the introduction of Regional City Deals for rural and regional Australia.

The Committee also recommends the establishment of an ongoing parliamentary Committee dedicated to examining and progressing the issues affecting rural and regional Australia, and a consolidated government policy on regional Australia, prepared through a white and green paper process.

The Committee's Issues Paper, Interim Report and the Final Report can be found [on the Committee's website](#).

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