



Office of the Mayor

5 July 2017

Parliament of Australia House of Representatives
John Alexander OAM
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Alexander

**Subject: Inquiry into the Australian Government's Role in the Development of Cities
Submission**

Thank you for the opportunity of making a submission to your Standing Committee inquiry into the development into cities.

Goulburn is a city located 1 hour north of Canberra and 2 hours south of Sydney and located on the Hume Highway. Population of Goulburn is about 25,000 and we have a wide diversity of industries including quarrying, agriculture, poultry and Government facilities.

Goulburn was disappointed at the recent Federal Government announcement that the decentralisation of Federal Government departments would be limited to cities at least 150 kilometres away from a capital city. Goulburn has the opportunity to assist Federal Government in developing its decentralisation policy by providing contemporary infrastructure facilities but still have the proximity to the larger capital cities.

My Council makes a very strong point that the answer to all the capital city problems lies in regional Australia. Land prices are affordable, employment is stable, great education and medical facilities are readily available and there is a willingness in regional communities to grow to meet the expectations and opportunities before us.

Federal Government needs to work with the State and Territory Governments that identifies opportunities for the growth in regional cities and provided incentives for that growth to become a reality. At this time the business growth in Australia has become a competition amongst States. We need to stop this competitive attitude and focus more on what is right for Australia and work together and not against each other.

Federal Government must have more focus on promoting regional centres as the place to do business. To continue the philosophy that only capital cities can provide the employment and infrastructure opportunities for business is wrong and the Federal Government must take a leadership stance on this.

Regional cities in Australia have put a lot of emphasise in recent years into creating an environment where business is welcome and that the infrastructure is more than capable of accommodating new business. If we take a holistic Australian attitude then the development



of regional cities and towns that will complement the growth in our capital centres will become the norm in the policies of Australia.

We thank you for the opportunity of making this submission and look forward to the Federal Government taking a leadership stance that promotes cohesiveness across Australia for the benefit of Australia.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Kirk", written over a light blue grid background.

Cr RJ (Bob) Kirk
Mayor Goulburn Mulwaree Council