



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure,
Transport, Regional Development,
Communications and the Arts

Regional Investment Framework

The Australian Government's approach to supporting strong and sustainable regions.

Purpose

The Framework is a new approach to how the Australian Government delivers regional investment – valuing local voices and priorities, being informed by and building the evidence, operating with flexibility, integrity and transparency, and coordinating across governments to make investments work better for regions. It provides an integrated and coordinated framework for regional development regardless of a region's economic circumstances.

Guiding Principles – applied across all Australian Government investments in all regions

- ✓ Realising the Government's ambition of "no one held back and no one left behind" requires specific regional investment across all portfolios.
- ✓ Australia's regions and their economies are diverse, with each having unique strengths and challenges.
- ✓ Delivering on the potential of regional Australia requires building on each region's unique strengths, including helping regions undergoing significant economic change to transition or adapt to specific structural challenges.
- ✓ Place-based decision making that draws on the experience of local government alongside regional bodies must guide investment in our regions.

Priority Focus Areas – our investments in regions will have key objectives across all Australian Government portfolios

- ✓ Meeting the needs of, and providing opportunities for, First Nations people.
- ✓ Supporting the transformation to a net zero economy and decarbonisation.
- ✓ Achieving gender equality.

Investing in People	Investing in Places	Investing in Services	Investing in Industries and Local Economies
<i>Putting people at the forefront of growth, with local voices influencing decision making.</i>	<i>Targeted and place-based investment that enables communities to thrive.</i>	<i>Investment in regional services with a focus on improving quality and accessibility.</i>	<i>Ensuring regional industries and economies are positioned for sustainable growth.</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listening to local voices and partnering with communities. ✓ Targeted investment in skills, education, training and local leadership capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supporting adaptive, accessible, sustainable and liveable regions. ✓ Delivering infrastructure where and when it is needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhancing connectivity, accessibility and equity of services. ✓ Investment including across communications, health, water, and transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Investment to help activate economic and industry growth. ✓ Supporting the conditions needed for industries to diversify and grow.

Implementation



The Framework guides the Government's approach to design and delivery of regional initiatives. It will influence decision making in Budget processes, drive meaningful collaboration across and between governments, embed data and evidence to support better outcomes, and ensure local voices are heard and influence responses.

Informed Investment

- The Commonwealth's **Budget and Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook** processes will ensure the Framework is influencing Government decision making.
- Agencies across the Commonwealth will embed the Framework's principles and priorities in their proposals, with the support of a refreshed **Regional Australia Impact Statement** process.

Coordination and Collaboration

- A new and regular forum for **engagement and collaboration** between Australian Government agencies will ensure investments are complementary and coordinated.
- The Commonwealth will work in **genuine partnerships** with local and state and territory governments through refreshed, regular forums - supporting joined-up outcomes.

Insights and Intelligence

- **Local insights, data and intelligence** will be central to decision making, drawing on a broad range of groups and networks, such as local government and Regional Development Australia committees.
- Local insights, data and intelligence will contribute to **evidence-based decision making** and delivery of regular State of the Regions reports.