

# **Queensland and New South Wales**

## **Memorandum of Understanding for Cross-Border Collaboration**



**Queensland Government**

**New South Wales Government**

December 2023

## **1. Introduction**

The Queensland and New South Wales (NSW) governments acknowledge the importance of collaborating to improve service delivery, build community resilience and develop the economies of cross-border communities.

This Memorandum of Understanding re-affirms and builds on the commitment to collaboration established in the inaugural Memorandum of Understanding signed by the respective Premiers in 2011.

## **2. Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The border regions of Queensland and NSW comprise diverse communities with unique economic, social, cultural and environmental attributes and needs.

These communities face challenges due to their geographic location close to or across jurisdictional borders. This causes an intersection of government policies, legislation, regulation and practices.

Addressing these challenges will involve targeted actions to improve social and economic outcomes and community health and wellbeing.

As a principles-based document, the Memorandum of Understanding sets the overall framework and provides the authority for the Queensland and NSW governments and their agencies to collaborate on areas of mutual interest, share information to identify and resolve cross-border issues that impede economic regional development and provide efficient and consistent service delivery to communities.

## **3. Principles for cross-border collaboration**

The Queensland and NSW governments will be guided by the following principles:

- a. Cross-border collaboration will be outcomes-focused.
- b. Priority Focus Areas will be identified in this Memorandum of Understanding.  
However, the two jurisdictions can collaborate on other areas of mutual interest.
- c. Collaboration will be evidence-based and driven by the responsible agencies at a local level where possible and in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- d. Collaboration will consider national and state objectives and build on existing cross-agency operational activity and agreements.

## **4. Priority Focus Areas**

The Queensland and NSW governments agree to establish close co-operation based on shared priorities and, where possible, to strengthen the relationship in areas of common interest.

Priority Focus Areas will prioritise cross-border issues for resolution, based on engagement with agencies and cross-border stakeholders, to improve regional economic development, service delivery and community resilience and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Priority focus areas and actions will be agreed by jurisdictions and will be reviewed annually.

## **5. The Memorandum of Understanding in operation**

Under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Premiers agree:

- a. That Ministers and their agencies remain responsible for implementing actions that support the agreed focus areas identified in the Memorandum of Understanding. This does not prevent Ministers and their agencies implementing actions that address other areas of mutual interest.
- b. That Ministers and their agencies will resolve cross-border issues proactively at the local level.
- c. That Ministers and their agencies may refer matters requiring cross-government coordination to their respective agency responsible for cross-border collaboration where appropriate.
- d. That the Memorandum of Understanding does not detract from or negate each government's legislated right to make decisions that affect its jurisdiction.
- e. That responsibility for the re-negotiation of this Memorandum of Understanding, and annual processes for review of the Priority Focus Areas is delegated to senior officials from the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner, in consultation with the NSW Cabinet Office.
- f. Premiers remain responsible for approving any re-negotiated Memorandum of Understanding.
- g. To establish a Cross-Border Senior Officers' Group, co-chaired by the NSW Cross-Border Commissioner and senior officials from the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
- h. That progress in implementing actions under the Memorandum of Understanding will be captured in an annual report.
- i. The primary contacts for this Memorandum of Understanding will be senior officials from the Queensland Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the NSW Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner.

## **6. Engagement**

The Queensland and NSW governments recognise the importance of ongoing engagement with regional stakeholders, particularly local governments, and other relevant organisations to help resolve cross border issues at the local level and to meet the intent of the MOU.

The Queensland and NSW governments recognise the importance of collaborative regional engagement with these entities and local communities and businesses, noting that

engagement mechanisms need to be accessible and culturally-appropriate for all community members, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## 7. Legal status of the Memorandum of Understanding

The Queensland and NSW governments acknowledge that the Memorandum of Understanding provisions are not legally-enforceable but rely on the spirit of cooperation between the two jurisdictions.

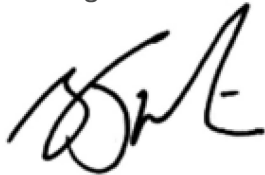
This agreement is not intended to remove power from either government to make policy decisions that affect its jurisdiction.

## 8. Review of this Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by agreement in writing of both parties.

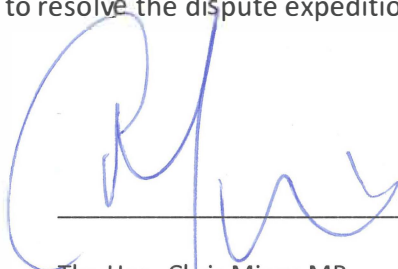
## 9. Dispute resolution

Where any dispute arises under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Queensland and NSW governments will take all necessary steps to resolve the dispute expeditiously by mutual agreement.



The Hon. Steven Miles MP  
Premier  
Queensland Government

Date: 26/04/2024



The Hon. Chris Minns MP  
Premier  
NSW Government

Date:

