

**VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BY
THE HONOURABLE JOHN BARILARO MP
DEPUTY PREMIER OF NEW SOUTH WALES, MINISTER FOR REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES,
MINISTER FOR SKILLS, AND MINISTER FOR SMALL BUSINESS
20 TO 30 MARCH 2018**

PURPOSE OF TRAVEL

The NSW Deputy Premier in his capacity as Minister for Regional NSW, undertook a visit to the United States of America (USA) from 20 to 30 March 2018 to exchange information with Economic Development Agencies in the States of New York and North Carolina aimed at boosting Regional NSW economies. The purpose of these meetings was to gain a stronger understanding of the key opportunities and constraints with the economic development framework to provide insights for the development of NSW Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) and other key policies across NSW. The key objectives of the visit included:

- Investigating innovative initiatives regarding workforce development, and infrastructure development;
- Examining what policies or programs were found to be the most / least successful and why;
- Investigating how they approach growing priority Regional NSW sectors, including Agriculture, Tourism, and Advanced manufacturing;
- Exploring how they are planning for technological change in the future and how technology is discussed in the context of regional economic development; and
- Examining how they approach governance across their regions.

BENEFITS OF TRAVEL FOR THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Deputy Premier visited the USA on 20 to 30 March 2018 to establish a relationship between NSW and the States of New York and North Carolina to exchange information about regional economic development.

The visit provided the opportunity to learn about innovative ways of attracting and retaining skills, and creating long-term sustainable work, developing industries, and building economic-enabling infrastructure. The Deputy Premier was able to learn about specific programs, meet with local government officials and business leaders, and see first hand some of the projects that were funded under the economic development programs in New York. These meetings provided useful insight for the development of REDS and other NSW policy. This has led to the development of a strong working relationship with the offer of a future reciprocal visit to regional NSW.

DETAILS OF MEETINGS

Corning, New York 21 March 2018

The Deputy Premier met with representatives from the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council, Steuben County Industrial Development Agency, Finger Lakes Wine Country

Tourism Marketing Association, and Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce. Specifically, the Deputy Premier met with:

- Donna Howell - Regional Director for the Southern Tier and Executive Director of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council
- Thomas Tranter – Co-Chair of the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council and President of Corning Enterprises, the collaborative arm of Corning, Inc.
- Jamie Johnson – Executive Director of Steuben County Industrial Development Agency
- Laury Poland – President of Finger Lakes Wine Country Tourism Marketing Association
- Jennifer Conway – President and CEO, Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce

The Deputy Premier was also taken on a driving tour through Corning to see some of the projects that have been completed under the Regional Economic Development Council program. Specifically, they took a tour of the Corning Museum of Glass, Corning Community College Nursing School, and a new hotel project.

Plattsburgh, New York 22 March 2018

The Deputy Premier met with representatives from the North Country Regional Economic Development Council, the Mayor of Plattsburgh, and local officials and business leaders. Specifically, the Deputy Premier met with:

- Garry Douglas – President, North Country Chamber of Commerce and Co-Chair of North Country Regional Economic Development Council
- Tony Collins – President of Clarkson University and Co-Chair of North Country Regional Economic Development Council
- Colin Read – Mayor of the town of Plattsburgh
- William Owens – Former Congressman and Partner at Stafford Owens
- The Deputy Premier also met with representatives from organisations such as the City of Plattsburgh, Country Malt Group (Grain Corp), North Country Workforce Development Board, and offices of Congress.

After the meetings, the Deputy Premier was taken on a walking tour of downtown Plattsburgh, including a visit to the historic Strand Performing Arts Center, which was restored under the Regional Economic Development Council program.

Raleigh, North Carolina 23 March 2018

The Deputy Premier met with representatives from North Carolina Department of Commerce's Rural Economic Development Division to discuss strategies, programs, and policies in place to support rural economic development. Specifically, the Deputy Premier met with:

- Kenny Flowers – Assistant Secretary, Rural Economic Development Division
- George Sherrill – Chief of Staff, North Carolina Department of Commerce
- William Miller – Deputy Secretary, North Carolina Department of Commerce
- The Deputy Premier also met with Directors of specific programs of the Rural Economic Development Division.

Atlanta, Georgia 24 – 28 March 2018

The Deputy Premier was invited to attend and speak at the SMR (Small Modular Reactor) advanced reactor conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The purpose of the visit was to learn about the advances in technology for Small Modular Reactors, including safety, cost and timings for availability.

The Deputy Premier also met with the US Department of Energy to learn of their future plans and level of support for SMR's as a part of the US energy mix.

Meetings were held with the following groups:

- Ed McGinnis, Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy, US Department of Energy + Andrew Richards, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Nuclear Energy
- Jack Bailey, VP Business Development and Nils Breckenridge, Regional Sales Manager - NuScale.
- Marcelo Salvatore, National Director, Nuclear Technology Assessment, Ministry of Energy and Mining, Argentina
- Mark Lesinski, President and CEO, Canadian National Laboratories
- General Manager, U-Battery, UK.

OFFICIAL DELEGATION

The Honourable John Barilaro MP
Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business

Accompanied by:

Mr Gary Barnes
Deputy Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet (20-25 March 2018)

Mr Mark Connell
Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Premier

FINANCIALS

Minister	The Honourable John Barilaro MP
Portfolio	Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Skills, and Minister for Small Business
Destinations(s) visited a) Countries b) Cities	a) United States of America b) Corning, NY; Plattsburgh, NY; Raleigh, NC, Atlanta, GA
Dates of travel a) Departure date b) Return date	a) 20 March 2018 b) 30 March 2018 (arrival date into Australia)
Number of official travel days	9
Number of accompanying a) Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) 1 b) 1
Accompanied by spouse a) in an official capacity b) in a private capacity	a) N/A b) N/A
Costs (\$A)	
Airfares a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$17,148.12 b) \$10,239.72
Accommodation a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$4953.48 b) \$830.79
Official hospitality a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) Nil b) Nil
Other expenses a) Official gift presentation b) Ground transport c) Meals and refreshments d) Other miscellaneous costs	a) Nil b) \$567.33 c) \$469.11 d) Nil
TOTAL estimated travel cost \$A a) Minister and Minister's staff b) Government officials	a) \$22,731.66 b) \$11,476.89

Note: This report does not include costs for data roaming, official passports, visas, or insurance.