

19/326 ACT–NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Regional Collaboration

Summary of Impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT–NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Regional Collaboration is the primary framework for our engagement with NSW Government and its agencies. • Every three years the ACT–NSW MoU is renegotiated. This refresh of the ACT-NSW MoU will contain priority focus areas to drive progress on strategic, intractable and high-value issues rather than an expansive action list. • The priority focus areas of the ACT–NSW MoU are; health, infrastructure and transport, strategic water and land use planning, environment, economic development and a governance framework for the Parkwood urban release area.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Social

Community and individual health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT–NSW MoU sets out a regional approach to health outcomes, and seeks to improve joint service planning with a view to more effectively and efficiently distribute health activities across the region’s health networks. With a focus to assess where to divert NSW patients from the ACT, and where to retain cross-border flows for efficiency.
Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT–NSW MoU seeks to improve the coordination of effort in the delivery of services across the region, building on existing cross agency MoUs, operational arrangements and service-level agreements, which currently deliver coordinated NSW and ACT government services across the border for policing, emergency services and human services. • The coordination of the delivery of services will be complemented by a regional infrastructure priority list across the regional transport network, connecting the region and giving an integrated approach to transport allowing people to access services they need.
Access to social networks and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strong and sustainable borderless environment is essential to meet the current and future needs of the ACT and Canberra Region communities. • The ACT–NSW MoU will help to deliver social outcomes in the NSW and ACT through informed investment decisions on infrastructure priorities and economic development opportunities, which will foster and facilitate community and social networks.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of proposed actions under the ACT–NSW MoU priority focus areas will be within existing 2019-2020 resources or approved budget processes. • Further consideration around Directorate funding may be required to support the implementation of priority actions in future years.
Investment and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation and NSW Government, the ACT is developing a Canberra Region Economic Development Strategy (CREDS). Upon finalisation the CREDS will highlight

Economic Growth	potential economic benefits of investing in the Canberra Region, outlining key growth sectors and present a roadmap to maximise economic potential in the region. The action items identified in CREDS will be one of the priority focus areas for the ACT–NSW MoU.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT–NSW MoU aims to enhance employment and economic growth across the Canberra Region by implementing suggestions from the CREDS.

Environmental

Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT–NSW MoU recommends the implementation of actions that support regional collaboration on biodiversity as outlined under the <i>NSW South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036 (SETRP)</i> Implementation Plan and the ACT Planning Strategy.
Environmental Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT–NSW MoU recognises the prominence of climate change adaptation and sustainability within ACT Government policy settings and includes actions to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by facilitating the installation of charging stations on major routes to and from Canberra. There is an additional focus on the national parks and conservation within Canberra and the surrounding South East NSW region by improving outcomes in the protection of important natural and cultural landscapes through a robust co-ordinating mechanism to consider conservation-drivers in the ACT and NSW.
Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT–NSW MoU recognises the importance of waste reduction and resource recovery measures for the ACT and South East NSW and recommends actions to support the transitioning from a linear to a circular economy through consideration and alignment of state and territory-level strategies.