Strategic Cooperation Agreement

between

the Northern Territory of Australia

and

the Australian Capital Territory
Preliminaries

1. This Agreement implements a commitment to strategic cooperation between the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and the Northern Territory (NT) (the jurisdictions).

2. A close working relationship offers benefits including joint leadership on matters of strategic importance to the jurisdictions, within the Australian Federation.

3. This Agreement will operate indefinitely from the date of execution, unless one or both jurisdictions provide written notice of withdrawal from the Agreement.

4. First Ministers will lead cooperation under this Agreement and will meet at least annually to progress strategic priorities.

Objective

5. Through this Agreement, jurisdictions will draw upon shared attributes and combined strengths as self-governing territories, to promote mutual interests by maintaining a forward and progressive outlook, and taking collaborative action for the benefit of our citizens.

Principles

6. The principles that will guide joint cooperation under this Agreement are:
   a. Equitable economic, social and cultural development.
   b. A dynamic outlook and strong cooperation to advance mutual interests as self-governing territories of the Australian Federation.
   c. Sustainability, environmental protection and the advancement of our unique artistic heritage and cultural context.
   d. A focus on working together to share innovative and disruptive approaches in the design and delivery of government services.
   e. Transparency, accountability and maximising benefit for our citizens.

Operation of Agreement

The Agreement will be delivered through a commitment to:

a. identifying areas of mutual interest arising from the jurisdictions’ shared Territory status under the Australian Constitution;

b. developing joint approaches on strategic policy and legislative matters influenced by the jurisdictions’ shared self-governing status and context;

c. collaboration and relationship-building, mutual exchange and knowledge sharing on initiatives that support economic development and sustainable growth including but not limited to innovation, renewable energy, smart city and digital technologies and shared expertise;
d. pursuing opportunities in the space related sectors aligned with the trilateral Memorandum of Understanding between South Australia, the ACT and NT;

e. progressing mutual exchange of business delegations between our cities; and

f. reporting periodically on progression and outcomes under this Agreement.

Administrative arrangements
7. Respective First Ministers' agencies will provide Secretariat support to lead the coordination of this Agreement.

8. Other governance structures may be established as required to progress shared priorities.
   a. Jurisdictions will work together to identify strategic priorities and maintain an ongoing relationship through strong engagement between officials and the sharing of information.
   b. Collaboration in areas outside of those specified in this Agreement will take place where appropriate and beneficial to do so including with community and business groups.

9. The Agreement is not legally enforceable, however has been entered in the spirit of cooperation. Final policy and funding decisions remain the responsibility of respective governments.

10. The Agreement may be amended at any time by mutual written consent.

Agreement
11. Jurisdictions have confirmed their commitment to this Agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory
Witnessed by

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory of Australia by

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory
Witnessed by

Ms Kathy Leigh
Head of Service
ACT Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
Australian Capital Territory
9 February 2018

Ms Jodie Ryan
Chief Executive Officer
Department of the Chief Minister
Northern Territory
9 February 2018