

Partners in Government Agreement

Preamble

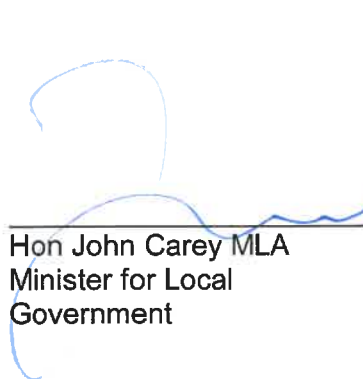
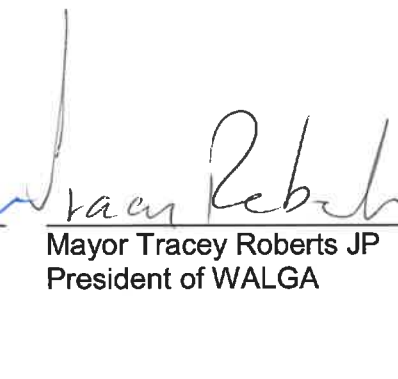

The Western Australian Government and the Local Governments of WA both strive to make Western Australia a better place to live, work and visit. Both spheres of government exist for the benefit of the community.

Working together, the State Government and Local Government, as independent spheres of Government, are more equipped to confront the major challenges facing Western Australia as well as everyday issues affecting local communities. The Western Australian Government, with its leadership and policy direction, and Local Government, with an on-the-ground presence in all Western Australian communities and a mandate to govern for community benefit, have complementary strengths which, when combined, provide the greatest benefit to Western Australia.

In a large and diverse state, it is necessary to work closely to address challenges and use government resources efficiently. As government service provision varies depending on location, demand and capacity, a partnership approach, built on trust and respect ensures good governance and sound decision-making across both spheres of government.

This agreement continues the tradition of the State Government and Local Governments working in genuine partnership for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Signed by:

		
Hon John Carey MLA Minister for Local Government	Mayor Tracey Roberts JP President of WALGA	Mr Jamie Parry President of Local Government Professionals Australia WA

On this day, the 20th of September 2021

Objectives

This Partners in Government Agreement establishes the foundation for a positive relationship between the Western Australian Government and Local Government to:

- Enhance communication between both spheres of Government to promote good governance, accountability and transparency
- Encourage innovation and continuous improvement
- Deliver services and infrastructure for the benefit of Western Australian citizens and communities

Principles

This Partners in Government Agreement is underpinned by the following principles:

Community benefit

State and Local Government are committed to striving for improved community benefit and wellbeing, recognising the importance of responsible, efficient and effective spending of public money. The State Government has a genuine interest in the wellbeing of all of the State's residents, with each Local Government having a genuine interest in the wellbeing of its residents.

Innovation

State and Local Government will look to each other for direct advice and ideas in formulating solutions. Input from the other sphere of Government will be incorporated into decisions as much as possible.

Information and data sharing

State Government agencies, WALGA, LG Professionals WA and Local Governments will share data and information to realise greater community impact.

Service delivery and infrastructure

State and Local Government aim to efficiently and equitably deliver appropriate services, and provide suitable infrastructure.

Community engagement

State and Local Government acknowledge the importance of meaningful community engagement.

Strategic Alignment

State and Local Government will aim to align strategic local, regional and state-wide plans to ensure efficient and effective use of resources.

Commonwealth engagement

State and Local Government will work together to advocate for mutually beneficial outcomes for Western Australia with the Commonwealth Government.

Partners in Government Group

The Partners in Government Group, will meet twice yearly to discuss matters of importance to both sectors. The Group shall comprise:

- Premier
- Treasurer
- Minister for Local Government
- Minister for Transport; Planning
- WALGA President
- WALGA Chief Executive Officer
- LG Professionals WA President
- LG Professionals WA Chief Executive Officer
- Such other State and Local Government representatives as appropriate to the subject

Meetings between Local and State Government leaders are encouraged in addition to the formal Partners in Government Group meetings.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, WALGA and LG Professionals WA are the lead organisations from the respective spheres of government responsible for this agreement. All other State agencies and all local governments are to work together in the spirit of this agreement where practicable.

Working Together

The aim of working together is to achieve positive outcomes for WA communities.

For instance, consultation should be undertaken with the Local Government sector for a legislative or policy proposal that will have an impact on Local Governments. Ideally, Local Government will have opportunity to consider the proposal's impacts and provide input for consideration. The same would apply for Local Government initiated proposals that will have an impact on the State Government. This approach would ensure all affected parties can thoroughly consider the proposal and provide meaningful input to the process. Agreement partners also recognise that this may not be possible in all circumstances.

State and Local Government are important stakeholders in decisions made by the other sphere of Government. Input from the other sphere of Government should be sought respectfully and considered meaningfully.

Focus Areas

Focus Areas and goals of the Partners in Government Agreement will evolve over time depending on external events, economic, social and environmental circumstances, and governmental priorities.

Current Focus Areas of the Partners in Government Agreement are included as Appendix 1 and will be publicised as part of the Partners in Government Group Communiqué following each Partners in Government Group meeting.

Evaluation and Review

Under this agreement, the parties will review focus areas at least annually. In addition, parties will consider the efficacy, successes and failures of the agreement at each Partners in Government Group meeting.

Appendix 1 – Current Focus Areas as at 20 September 2021

Focus Areas of the Partners in Government Agreement are reviewed at least once per year to ensure ongoing alignment between State and Local Government.

The Current Focus Areas, agreed at the [DATE] meeting of the Partners in Government Group are as follows:

Economic Sustainability

State and Local Government are focused on economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. Priorities include facilitating job creation and preservation, providing support for small business, buying local, supporting tourism and food production, addressing skills shortages and driving industry development.

Infrastructure

State and Local Government are focused on the development, upgrade and maintenance of infrastructure to support communities, jobs and economic recovery in line with the WA Infrastructure Strategy.

Community Support

State and Local Government are focused on supporting our most vulnerable residents, providing community and health services, supporting Aboriginal communities, revitalising culture and the arts, and creating opportunities for community engagement, recreation, and employment in these industries.

Climate Action

State and Local Government are focused on mitigating the effects of climate change, while planning for its impacts. Green jobs, mitigation of coastal erosion and inundation, and protection of the environment are key priorities of both spheres of Government.

Local Government Act

State and Local Government are focused on working together to develop contemporary legislation for Local Government.

Closing the Gap Agreement

State and Local Government are committed to working together on the implementation of the National Closing the Gap Agreement.

National Cabinet

State Government and Local Government provide advice as required to inform the National Cabinet decision making.