

12 October 2022

NAME
POSITION
ADDRESS

Via email: EMAIL

Dear TITLE,

RE: Letter of Support – Regional Cities New South Wales

On behalf of the Regional Cities New South Wales (RCNSW) membership I would like to advise our alliances position in relation to the Port of Newcastle as Parliament considers this issue this week.

It is our position that the Port of Newcastle presents a strategic opportunity to become a key priority port for regional NSW. This is on the basis that the Port's catchment area extends west to Parkes and north to Moree, taking in Dubbo, Tamworth, Armidale, Narromine and Walgett and will also be connected to the Inland Rail, once complete.

RCNSW recognises that regional NSW exporters are currently and will continue to experience increased export costs and delays when accessing the Ports of Botany and in the future Kembla. We further note that reliance on the current network poses risks for our producers due to the vulnerability of the network as a result of extreme weather events. Building resilience in to the State's export network must be priority for the NSW Government.

RCNSW makes the following recommendations regarding the Port of Newcastle and wider NSW Port connectivity:

- 1. RCNSW recommends updating NSW Government's Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023 to reflect the current Port of Newcastle's Masterplan and capacity to support regional NSW businesses seeking to access efficient port services to export their product; and**
- 2. RCNSW recommends the removal of the container tariff out of the Port in Newcastle to ensure a cost competitive exporting option for regional NSW producers.**

RCNSW believes connected regional cities are fundamental to enabling regional economies and these connections should aim to connect regions to each other, as well as to metropolitan capitals and international markets.

RCNSW asks as an elected representative of regional NSW that you our position as Parliament debates this issue to ensure a more competitive exporting solution for regional NSW producers.

I have attached RCNSW Port Connectivity Policy Position Paper for your consideration.

About Regional Cities New South Wales

RCNSW is an alliance comprised of 16 member councils dedicated to growing regional cities in New South Wales.

Our members are:

- Tamworth Regional Council
- Albury City Council
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Council
- Port Macquarie-Hastings Council
- Coffs Harbour City Council
- Griffith City Council
- Maitland City Council
- Bathurst Regional Council
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- Orange City Council
- Armidale Regional Council
- Dubbo Regional Council
- Lismore City Council
- Tweed Shire Council
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- Broken Hill City Council.

It is our proposition that regional cities are fundamental to the success of New South Wales, we want to ensure our cities continue to be great places to live and work while easing the population squeeze being felt in Sydney.

Should your office have any questions, please contact RCNSW Secretariat Ms Rachael Sweeney (*New South Wales Lobby Register No:18169904232*).

Yours sincerely,

Cr Mathew Dickerson
Chair, Regional Cities New South Wales
Mayor, Dubbo Regional Council