



22 May 2014

The Hon Paul Toole, MP
Minister for Local Government
Level 33, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Re: Revitalising Local Government

Thank you again for the opportunity to meet with you on Monday, 19 May as part of the Community Cabinet meeting at Hurstville.

As discussed with you, we fully support the need for change in Local Government in NSW. SSROC is committed to making a valuable contribution to the reform process and, as such, we have allocated a considerable amount of time and resources to develop a broad framework of a model for regional collaboration with assistance from Professor Gary Sturgess.

As indicated in our submission to the Independent Local Government Review Panel, and as discussed with you, many of the reform objectives can be achieved by regional collaboration and necessary enabling legislation. SSROC aims to deliver these outcomes and continue to benefit from the services of a regional organisation by a model that provides for:

- Membership of a regional group determined by Councils
- A Council of Mayors governance model
- Sub regional groups or Joint Organisations as described by the panel, but without the detailed prescription suggested by the Panel, for strategic planning purposes and/or specific projects that have an end date
- The State Government entering into a 'compact' with local government, specifying the obligations on both sides in relation to intergovernmental relations.

Our proposed solution builds on what is currently the best of regional collaboration with a number of key enabling legislative changes and mutually agreed changes to intergovernmental relations between the State Government and its agencies and Local Government.

We would very much like the opportunity to meet with you again, and the Premier if possible, to further expand and develop our proposal.

Yours sincerely



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