

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR STREAMLINED AGREEMENTS

An agreement between:

- the Commonwealth of Australia; and
- the States and Territories of
 - ◆ New South Wales,
 - ◆ Victoria,
 - ◆ Queensland,
 - ◆ Western Australia,
 - ◆ South Australia,
 - ◆ Tasmania,
 - ◆ the Australian Capital Territory, and
 - ◆ the Northern Territory.

This Agreement will contribute to the delivery of specified projects in key sectors.

National Partnership for Streamlined Agreements

OVERVIEW

1. This National Partnership (the Agreement) is created subject to the provisions of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations (IGA FFR) and should be read in conjunction with that Agreement and its Schedules, which provide information in relation to performance reporting and payment arrangements under the IGA FFR.

Purpose

2. This Agreement has been developed to provide a consolidated framework for facilitating low value and/or low risk projects across sectors. These projects are simple in nature, bilateral or multilateral, outputs-focused, do not include aspirational objectives and signed by relevant Commonwealth and State portfolio ministers.
3. The general principle will be that initiatives where Commonwealth funding is under \$100 million over the life of the project, and that are relatively straightforward projects, would be added as new schedules to this agreement, unless requested by a party to be developed as a full Project Agreement. Initiatives above this threshold could also be included as schedules if agreed by the parties.
4. This Agreement seeks to reduce complexity in the arrangements for administering National Partnership payments while maintaining accountability for, and transparency of, funding.
5. Where indicated in the Schedules to this Agreement (Schedules), this Agreement replaces previous standalone agreements. Consolidation of standalone agreements does not change funding levels or funding profiles for individual projects. For some projects consolidated into this Agreement, some obligations on the States such as the detail and frequency of reporting required have been reduced. This minimises administrative burden and gives the States greater flexibility in how to deliver projects within their jurisdictions while remaining accountable for the funding.

Reporting Arrangements

6. The States will report the minimum required to demonstrate that agreed milestones have been met during the operation of this Agreement, as set out in Part 4 – Performance Management and Reporting.

Financial Arrangements

7. The Commonwealth's and States' estimated financial contributions to the operation of this Agreement are set out in Schedules.

PART 1 – FORMALITIES

Parties to the Agreement

8. This Agreement is between the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the States and Territories (the States). Schedules to this Agreement are between the Commonwealth and signatory States.

Terms of the Agreement

9. This Agreement will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and one other Party sign it.
10. General arrangements that apply to all projects are set out in the body of this Agreement. Specific arrangements for individual projects are set out in the Schedules.
11. Schedules will commence as soon as the Commonwealth and the relevant Party/Parties sign them and will expire on completion of the project, including final performance reporting and processing of final payments against milestones, unless terminated earlier or extended as agreed in writing by the Parties.
12. For Schedules replacing previous standalone agreements, the terms and obligations that applied from 1 July 2020 onwards in the relevant standalone agreement will be replaced by this Agreement, and the relevant Schedule, for states as they sign this Agreement.

PART 2 – OBJECTIVES AND OUTPUTS

13. This Agreement will:
 - a. contribute to the delivery of specified projects in key sectors; and
 - b. reduce complexity in the arrangements for administering National Partnership payments while maintaining accountability for, and transparency of, funding.
14. Outputs of individual projects to be delivered under the Agreement are set out in the Schedules.

PART 3 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH PARTY

15. Under this Agreement, the Parties have specific roles and responsibilities, as outlined below. Any additional roles specific to individual projects will be outlined in the Schedules.

Role of the Commonwealth

16. The Commonwealth will be responsible for:
 - a. monitoring and assessing achievement against milestones in the delivery of the projects under the Schedules to this Agreement to ensure that outputs are delivered within the agreed timeframe;
 - b. providing a financial contribution to the States to support the implementation of the projects outlined in the Schedules;

- c. where applicable to the projects outlined in the Schedules¹, in accordance with the *Building and Construction Industry (Improving Productivity) Act 2016*, ensuring that financial contributions to a building project or projects are only made where a builder or builders accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme is contracted; and
- d. where applicable to the projects outlined in the Schedules², ensuring that compliance with the Code for the Tendering and Performance of Building Work 2016 (Building Code 2016) is a condition of Australian Government funding.

Role of the States and Territories

- 17. The States will be responsible for:
 - a. all aspects of delivering on the project outputs set out in the Schedules to this Agreement to which they are a party;
 - b. reporting on the delivery of outputs to which they have agreed as set out in Part 4 – Performance Management and Reporting;
 - c. where applicable to the projects outlined in the Schedules to which they are a party³, ensuring that only a builder or builders accredited under the Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme is contracted, and providing the necessary assurances to the Commonwealth; and
 - d. where applicable to the projects outlined in the Schedules to which they are a party⁴, ensuring that compliance with the Building Code 2016 is made a condition of tender for and performance of building work by all contractors and subcontractors, and providing the necessary assurances to the Commonwealth.

Shared roles

- 18. The Parties will meet the requirements of Schedule E, Clause 26 of the IGA FFR, by ensuring that prior agreement is reached on the nature and content of any events, announcements, promotional material or publicity relating to activities under this Agreement, and that the roles of both Parties will be acknowledged and recognised appropriately.

PART 4 – PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND REPORTING

- 19. Milestones for projects, their relationship to the activities, expected completion dates, relevant reporting dates and expected payments to be made will be set out in Schedules. The Parties agree to meet the milestones and/or performance benchmarks set out in these Schedules. The Commonwealth will make payments subject to the performance report demonstrating the relevant milestone has been met. Milestones should reflect the completion of a phase of the project.

¹ See interpretation

² See interpretation

³ See interpretation

⁴ See interpretation

20. The States will provide performance reports in accordance with requirements they have agreed to in Schedules. The States will report the minimum required to demonstrate that milestones have been met against the agreed performance benchmarks or milestones, that is, yearly and at most six-monthly. Each performance report is to contain a description of actual performance in the period to date against the project milestones.
21. Reporting requirements should be proportionate to the risk involved by the project. States have the flexibility to determine how best to meet the reporting requirements of this Agreement and can make use of any appropriate data sources, including existing State reporting mechanisms.
22. Performance indicators should be meaningful, simple and comprehensible to the public. Indicators should be limited to those necessary to measure performance and inform the public about progress of projects or other outputs.

PART 5 – FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

23. The Commonwealth's and the States' estimated financial contributions to the operation of this Agreement, including through National Partnership payments to the States paid in accordance with Schedule D – Payment Arrangements of the IGA FFR, are shown in Schedules. All payments are GST exclusive.
24. Budgets contained in Schedules are indicative only and States retain the flexibility to move funds between components and/or years, as long as outcomes are not affected. The Commonwealth contribution can only be moved between years with the agreement of the Commonwealth.
25. If a milestone is met in advance of the due date, where the relevant performance report demonstrates that the milestone has been met, the Commonwealth may make the associated payment earlier than scheduled provided it falls within the same financial year as the original milestone date.
26. The Commonwealth's funding contribution will not be reduced where the States secure funding from other activity partners.
27. Having regard to the agreed estimated costs of projects specified in Schedules to this Agreement, the States will not be required to pay a refund to the Commonwealth if the actual cost of the project is less than the agreed estimated cost of the project. Similarly, the States bear all risk should the costs of a project exceed the agreed estimated costs. The Parties acknowledge that this arrangement provides the maximum incentive for the States to deliver projects cost effectively and efficiently.

PART 6 – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Enforceability of the Agreement

28. The Parties do not intend any of the provisions of this Agreement to be legally enforceable. However, that does not lessen the Parties' commitment to this Agreement.

Review of the Agreement

29. To assess the degree to which the agreed objectives have been achieved, a review of the Agreement and the streamlining approach may commence as early as once ten new Schedules have been signed, but in any event will commence in time for it to be completed by 31 December 2022. A review of the template for Schedules to this Agreement will be scheduled to be completed by 1 July 2022.

Variation of the Agreement

30. The Agreement may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by all the Parties.
31. Multilateral and bilateral Schedules may be amended or added at any time by agreement in writing by all relevant Commonwealth and State portfolio ministers. Once a Schedule has been added the terms of this Agreement apply to that Schedule.
32. Schedules and/or *Performance requirements, reporting and payment summary* Tables that have no impact on other Parties may be added or amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Commonwealth and State portfolio ministers.
33. For multilateral Schedules, performance milestones or benchmarks, reporting dates, associated payments and summary of estimated financial contributions that have no impact on other Parties to the Schedule may be amended at any time by agreement in writing by the relevant Commonwealth and State portfolio ministers.
34. A Party to the Agreement may terminate their participation in the Agreement at any time by notifying all Parties in writing.

Delegations

35. The relevant Commonwealth portfolio minister is authorised to agree and amend Schedules and to certify that performance milestones and/or benchmarks set out in relevant Schedules have been achieved, so that payments may be made.
36. Relevant State and Territory portfolio ministers are authorised to agree and amend Schedules.
37. Commonwealth ministers may delegate the assessment of project-based performance benchmarks or milestones and the authorisation of related project payments to senior Commonwealth officials, having regard to the financial and policy risks associated with those payments.

Dispute resolution

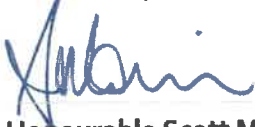
38. Any Party may give notice to other Parties of a dispute under this Agreement, including its Schedules.
39. Officials of relevant Parties will attempt to resolve any dispute in the first instance.
40. If a dispute cannot be resolved by officials, it may be escalated to the relevant Ministers.

Interpretation

41. The Australian Government Building and Construction WHS Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme) and the Building Code 2016 (the Code) (as amended from time to time) apply to all construction projects indirectly funded by the Australian Government through grant and other programs where, from 1 January 2015:
- a. for the purposes of the Scheme, the value of the Commonwealth contribution is at least \$6,000,000 (including GST) and represents at least 50% of the total project value, and for the purposes of the Code, the value of the Commonwealth contribution is at least \$5,000,000 (including GST) and represents at least 50% of the total project value; or
 - b. for the purposes of the Scheme and Code, the value of the Commonwealth contribution is \$10,000,000 (including GST) or more, irrespective of the proportion of Commonwealth funding; and
 - c. for the purposes of the Scheme, the head contract for building work is valued at \$4,000,000 or more, and for the purposes of the Code, the head contract for building work is valued at \$3,000,000 or more.

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

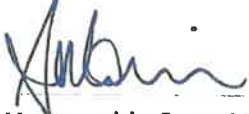
*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern
Territory by*

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

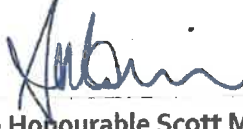


The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*



The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

22/5/20

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by



Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

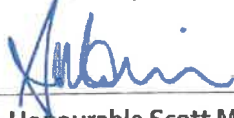
Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*



The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

16 6 20
[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*



The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

12 June 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

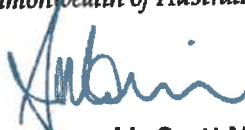
*Signed for and on behalf of the Northern
Territory by*

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*



The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*

The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*



The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this agreement as follows:

*Signed for and on behalf of the
Commonwealth of Australia by*



The Honourable Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia

12 May 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of New South Wales by*

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of the State of New South Wales

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Queensland by*

The Honourable Annastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier of the State of Queensland

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of South Australia by*

The Honourable Steven Marshall MP
Premier of the State of South Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the Australian
Capital Territory by*

Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister of the Australian Capital Territory

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Victoria by*



The Honourable Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of the State of Victoria

30 June 2020

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Western Australia by*

The Honourable Mark McGowan MLA
Premier of the State of Western Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]

*Signed for and on behalf of the
State of Tasmania by*

The Honourable Peter Gutwein MP
Premier of the State of Tasmania

[Day] [Month] [Year]

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

The Honourable Michael Gunner MLA
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory of Australia

[Day] [Month] [Year]