

## Position Description

### Regional Development Advisory Council

#### Background

In September 2023 the NSW Government announced the Regional Development Roadmap and its commitment to ensuring that future investments meet the needs and priorities of regional communities. As part of the reform the NSW Government will:

1. Invest \$400 million into the Regional Development Trust
2. Update the *Regional Development Act 2004*, and
3. Establish the Regional Development Advisory Council (Advisory Council)

The Advisory Council will be appointed by the Minister for Regional NSW in accordance with the *Regional Development Act 2004*, and the *Regional Development Regulation 2018*.

The role of the Advisory Council is to provide independent advice to the Minister for Regional NSW about investments made under the \$400 million Regional Development Trust. The Advisory Council's independent advice helps ensure projects and programs are evidence-based and that regional communities are at the centre of government decision-making.

The Advisory Council will comprise of at least 5 but no more than 7 members including:

- at least 3 members who, in the Minister's opinion have relevant skills and experience in regional matters outlined in the *Regional Development Regulation 2018* and summarised in the selection criteria section below
- a person who identifies as an Aboriginal person and has knowledge and experience in supporting economic development within Aboriginal communities
- a representative of Regional Development Australia or another appropriate body with relevant regional focus, as determined by the Minister.

#### Responsibilities (member)

Advisory Council members are responsible for providing the Minister for Regional NSW with advice to:

- support and assess Regional Development Trust investment decisions in accordance with the *Regional Development Act 2004*, and the Trust Investment Strategy and Governance Framework
- support the administration of the Regional Development Trust Fund including independent oversight and governance relating to its operation
- understand current and emerging economic and social development issues affecting regional NSW communities including but not limited to Aboriginal communities, local representatives, services and industry

- leverage regional economic development opportunities.

### Responsibilities (chairperson)

In addition to the responsibilities of members, the chairperson is responsible for the leadership of the Advisory Council. This includes:

- facilitating the effective functioning of the Advisory Council
- ensuring the Advisory Council performs its functions and complies with relevant legislation, policies, and requirements
- maintaining appropriate records of decision-making, with the support of the Secretariat
- respect for the position they hold with regard to access to information in their position as Advisory Council chairperson, and not use their position in any way for personal, organisational or political gain, and
- liaising and building and maintaining effective working relationships with the Secretariat, the Chairs of other advisory bodies, and other representatives from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

### Selection criteria

The Regional Development Advisory Council will be selected based on following:

- knowledge and experience relating to one or more of the following areas:
  - climate adaptation and resilience
  - community service activities
  - the development of new regional industries
  - the education sector
  - finance
  - local government
  - natural resource management
  - primary industries
  - public administration
  - regional and rural economics
  - regional housing development
  - regional planning and infrastructure
  - small business.
- proven ability to foster collaboration and work with diverse skill sets to reach a consensus and/or solution

- demonstrated communication skills including experience communicating complex issues with community and industry stakeholders
- one position will be held by an Aboriginal person with knowledge and experience in supporting economic development within Aboriginal communities
- financial, governance, risk management, and business acumen are expected together with sound judgement, discretion and the highest level of personal integrity and ethics.

The following factors will also be taken into account in determining the appointment of a person as a member of the Advisory Council:

- whether the person has lived and worked in a regional area,
- whether the person's appointment would contribute to the Advisory Council having a range of skills, experiences and backgrounds.

### Term of appointment

The Advisory Council members will be appointed for a period of 3 years from December 2024. The Advisory Council will be required to convene a minimum of once a quarter in a regional NSW location.

### Remuneration

The Advisory Council is classified as Group C – Level 4 in accordance with the Classification and Remuneration Framework for NSW Government Boards and Committees:

- Regional Development Advisory Council chairperson - \$60,000 per annum
- Regional Development Advisory Council members - \$30,000 per annum

### More information

- [Regional Development Act 2004](#)
- [Regional Development Regulation 2018](#) outlines the constitution and operations of the Advisory Council including general meeting procedures, disclosure of pecuniary interests and persons that are not eligible to be appointed to the Advisory Council.