



New South Wales and Victoria
Memorandum of Understanding for
Cross-Border Collaboration
2024

New South Wales Government
Government of Victoria

1. Introduction

The New South Wales (NSW) and Victorian Governments acknowledge the importance of collaborating to improve service delivery, build community resilience and develop the economies of cross-border communities.

This Memorandum of Understanding re-affirms and builds on the commitment to collaboration established in the inaugural Memorandum of Understanding signed by respective Premiers in 2020, re-affirmed by its extension by respective Premiers in 2022 and as reflected through the ongoing work of their respective Cross-Border Commissioners.

2. Purpose

Victoria and NSW share a border and recognise the unique circumstances experienced by communities that live, work and do business within a cross-border context.

As a principles-based document, this Memorandum of Understanding sets out the overall framework within which Victoria and NSW will work together in the identification, progression and resolution of cross-border issues that impact the residents, workers, businesses and visitors in the towns and communities along the Victoria/NSW border.

3. Objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding

Border communities benefit from access to health, education, employment, social, recreation and other services on both sides of the border, but also face a unique set of challenges that can result from differences in the way neighbouring state Governments and their agencies conduct their business.

The objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding are to:

- Provide an authorising environment for both Governments to collaborate on areas of mutual interest;
- Identify and resolve cross-border issues that impede economic and social outcomes for border communities;
- Develop opportunities to share and align policy and practice to support efficient and equitable outcomes for border communities;
- Provide efficient and consistent service delivery and operating environment to border communities; and
- Enable information sharing, collaboration and networking opportunities between Government agencies.

4. Principles for Cross-Border Collaboration

The following principles underpin this Memorandum of Understanding and reflect the shared values and the common commitment by both jurisdictions to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities within the region.

Under this Memorandum of Understanding, the NSW and Victorian Governments agree that cross-border collaboration between the two jurisdictions will:

- focus on the best outcomes for border communities.
- occur in any area of mutual interest where opportunities exist.
- be driven by the responsible agencies in each Government and at the local level where possible.
- include consultation with relevant Ministers and their Government agencies, local Governments, communities, business and industry groups, and regional organisations to identify areas for collaboration.
- involve the Cross-Border Commissioners of NSW and Victoria as key conduits for the improvement of collaboration and the identification of priority areas.
- support existing cross-agency Memoranda of Understanding, operational arrangements and service-level agreements which deliver coordinated NSW and Victorian Government services across the border including health, ambulance services, policing, emergency services and human services.

5. Priority Focus Areas for Collaboration

The Cross-Border Commissioners of NSW and Victoria will work within the respective Government of each Cross-Border Commissioner, and together, to identify Priority Focus Areas for Collaboration under this Memorandum of Understanding. Priority Focus Areas will reflect border-related matters of mutual interest and concern between the Governments of NSW and Victoria, consistent with the objectives and principles above.

Priority Focus Areas will be agreed, from time to time, between each Government by the respective Ministers of each state assigned responsibility for border issues. The manner in which the respective Ministers and their respective Cross-Border Commissioners engage within their own Governments in relation to Priority Focus Areas remains at the discretion of each state.

The identification and agreement of Priority Focus Areas is not intended to limit the potential for cross-border collaboration on other matters.

6. Status of this Memorandum of Understanding

The Governments of NSW and Victoria acknowledge the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding are not legally enforceable but rely on a spirit of cooperation between the two jurisdictions.

This agreement does not remove power from either Government to make policy decisions. Final policy decisions remain in control of each jurisdiction.

7. Review of this Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding will be reviewed every four years and formally reconfirm commitment to collaboration during the final year of its duration.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or extended at any time by the written agreement of both parties.

Premiers are responsible for approving any future Memorandum of Understanding.

8. Dispute Resolution

Where any dispute arises under this Memorandum of Understanding, the NSW and Victorian Governments will take all necessary steps to resolve the dispute expeditiously by mutual agreement and align with the guiding principles of this agreement.

9. Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding commences on the date of execution and expires four years thereafter.