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Date: 17 October 2020 at 2:40:58 pm AWST
To: "Paul Rosair (paul@naja.com.au)" <paul@naja.com.au>
Subject: **Regional capitals announcement**

Hi Paul,

Reaching out to you from The Nationals WA State Conference in Albany – and the sun is out! In her speech today Mia announced an election commitment regarding regional capitals. Please find the excerpt below, which you may wish to pass on to Regional Capitals Alliance members. Media statement also attached.

Mayor Wellington opened the conference and outlined Albany's growth aspirations – population and otherwise – which sat very well with what The Nationals WA are proposing if returned to government. Happy to catch up and discuss further at your convenience.

REGIONAL CAPITALS

Our State's regional cities and major towns are home to 250,000 people – that's almost half the population of regional WA – and they are critical to the future of the whole State.

Last year I posed the question to you all – where are our Bendigo's, our Ballarat's and Wagga Wagga's.

COVID-19 has demonstrated there's a latent demand for regional living and we need to strike while the iron is hot.

The Nationals in Government will commit \$250 million over five years to 11 regional cities and towns across the State to support their aspiration grow into modern, sustainable, dynamic places to live and work.

From Kununurra to Albany – we want to entice workers and their families to live in the regions.

In partnership with these 11 Local Governments, we'll create an investment framework to fund:

- urban renewal projects to revitalise residential and commercial areas in need of transformation;
- invest in tourism and visitor infrastructure;
- support infrastructure and planning to create water sensitive cities; and
- drive innovation and incubation to create space for start-ups, problem solvers and new businesses to diversify the economy.

Cultivating modern, sustainable communities should not just be the domain of major metropolitan cities.

Why shouldn't each of our regional capitals plan for a rich diversity of culture, business, built form and natural environment experiences?

Each place – will have a different way to achieve these outcomes. And that's ok!

We'll back our regions and the people who live here to drive those projects.

We're going to back them to turbo-charge their efforts so the people who live in these places want to stay, and those looking over the fence want to move.

Delma agrees with me. She's a champion for this great city of Albany. She understands its potential.

Scott has seen the benefit of Pilbara Cities in Karratha – Port Hedland is next.

Rowena knows the Goldfields are humming but wants a diversified economy.

James is a Councillor in Bunbury knows there's untapped potential for that community.

Ian – our Regional Cities spokesperson and our only MP to represent a regional city – knows we need this investment.

Our candidates can go back to these communities and say that no other Party will make this investment.

They may tinker around the edges.

But we're promising \$250 million over five years.

We're promising a fund that will give these communities the confidence to invest. It will give the private sector the confidence to invest.

Only our candidates can promise that – and that's because it's only our candidates really fighting for Royalties for Regions.