
CHAPTER 10
**THE CANBERRA REGION
JOINT ORGANISATION**





“The strength of the regional approach of the Canberra Airport and the CRJO are great building blocks for all our futures”.

ROWENA ABBEY, PRESIDENT, CRJO



10 Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO)

Canberra Airport has welcomed the formal recognition by the NSW Government of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation (CRJO) following the NSW Parliament's passing of legislation to establish a network of Joint Organisations in November 2017 to help drive better planning, economic development and service delivery in regional NSW.

The CRJO has its foundations in the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SERO), which was established in 2009. In May 2012, the ACT Government joined SERO, a landmark moment acknowledging the relationship between the ACT and the surrounding NSW region.

CRJO represents ten Councils in South-East NSW and includes the ACT Government. The NSW Member Councils include:

- Bega Valley Shire Council
- Eurobodalla Shire Council
- Goulburn Mulwaree Council
- Hilltops Council
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
- Snowy-Monaro Regional Council
- Snowy Valleys Council
- Upper Lachlan Shire Council
- Wingecarribee Shire Council
- Yass Valley Council

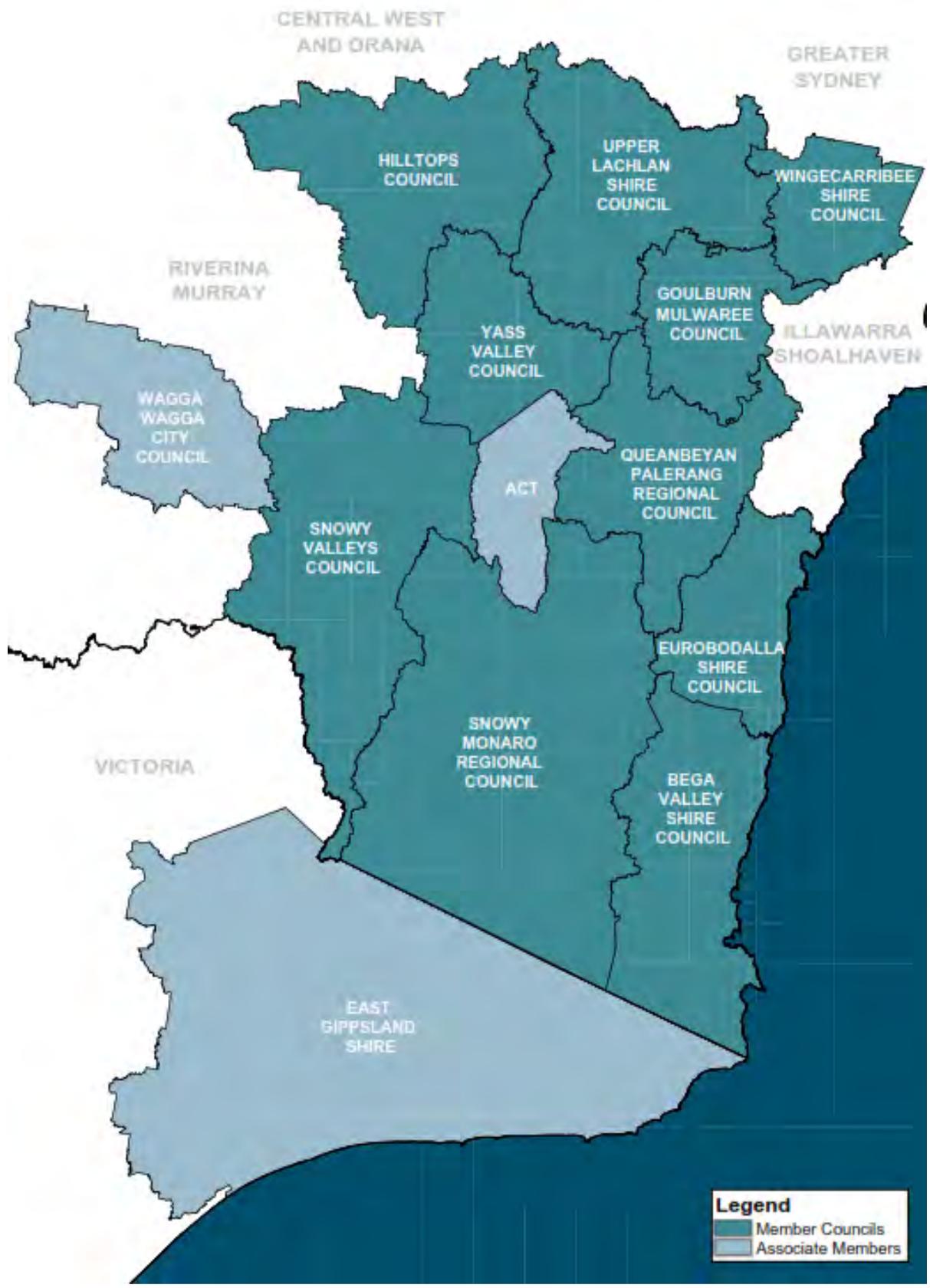
Associate and Affiliate Members include:

- ACT Government
- Canberra Airport
- Wagga Wagga City Council
- East Gippsland Shire Council

As an Affiliate Member of CRJO, Canberra Airport is actively engaged in the interest of a prosperous, sustainable and growing region.

In addition to the CRJO Councils, Canberra Airport has for more than ten years engaged with Shoalhaven Council, and more recently with other Local Government Areas (LGA) nearby the ACT, including Cootamundra-Gundagai and Cowra. The local region of engagement by Canberra Airport is flanked by the Pacific Ocean south of Nowra (Shoalhaven) to the Victorian border (Bega Valley), west over the Snowy Mountains and south-west slopes to Wagga Wagga, north via the Olympic Way to Cowra and east to Mittagong on the Southern Tablelands (Wingecarribee).

CRJO Membership Boundary Map



Canberra Airport has actively engaged with CRJO and previously SEROC for the purpose of consulting broadly on Airport matters and since 2013 to understand firsthand the aspirations and agendas of the communities of our region in the context of priority infrastructure programs, employment, investment, social and economic growth.

In March 2019, prior to impending State and Federal elections, the CRJO and ACT Government called on the next NSW and Federal Governments to support a three-point plan (Canberra Region Deal) to shape the future of the Canberra Region. The joint media release of Mayor Rowena Abbey, Chair of the CRJO, and ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr, set-out the following:

“From the Snowy, through the Tablelands and down to the Coast, the Canberra Region is a vision for a borderless South East NSW with Canberra at its heart,” said Yass Valley Council Mayor Rowena Abbey, Chair of the CRJO.

“We have identified a clear set of priorities for the incoming Federal and NSW Governments to help realise that vision, taking a regional focus to deliver national impacts.

“With the right support the Canberra Region can relieve population pressures on large cities like Sydney and Melbourne and thrive as a region of choice for people to live, work and play,” Mayor Abbey said.





The CRJO has identified investment in east-west freight, tourism and commuter connections between the inland and coastal towns as a key priority, to better connect Inland Rail at Wagga Wagga to global connections at Canberra Airport and the coastal corridor from Nowra to Eden.

“Further investment which realises the opportunities that the Canberra Region’s access to air, rail, sea and road affords can alleviate congestion concerns at Australia’s second busiest port, Port Botany, while also opening up commuter, tourism and trade connections from the western inland regions to the east of NSW” Mayor Abbey said.

“The Canberra Region Deal is a summary of priorities that we have been pursuing for some time, from faster rail to more health infrastructure,” said ACT Chief Minister Andrew Barr.

“The ACT is uniquely important to the Commonwealth Government as the National Capital, and a critical partner of the NSW Government in providing and cross-border services to thousands of NSW residents in the regions surrounding Canberra.

“We want to ensure that both Governments realise the opportunities of the region by supporting infrastructure investments and increased service delivery.

“We’re excited to continue working with NSW and the Commonwealth, regardless of their election outcomes, as the Canberra Region grows in both population and economic significance,” Mr Barr said.

The proposed Canberra Region Deal would:

1. Enhance transport and connectivity for passengers and freight, opening up tourism and other economic opportunities.
2. Create borderless services for the ACT and South East NSW communities, to enhance delivery of healthcare, higher education, waste management and recycling.
3. Continue developing a National Capital befitting of modern Australia.

As an Affiliate Member of the CRJO, Canberra Airport has similar aspirations for our region. The Airport supports the vision set-out in the Canberra Region Deal application of “taking a regional focus to deliver national impacts”.

