



Council of Mayors
South East Queensland



metrovancover
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Statement of Intent For Ongoing Collaboration and Cooperation

The Metro Vancouver Regional District (Metro Vancouver)
Council of Mayors (SEQ) Pty Limited

February 2023

BETWEEN:

Council of Mayors (SEQ) Pty Limited (CoMSEQ) ABN 87 141 329 302 of Level 12, 343 Albert Street, BRISBANE in the state of Queensland, 4000, Australia

The Metro Vancouver Regional District - Metro Vancouver (MV) of Metrotower III, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5H 0C6, Canada

BACKGROUND

1. Since 2017, Metro Vancouver and Council of Mayors (SEQ) have enjoyed a strategic relationship founded on their endeavours to promote urban and regional management within Asia Pacific.
2. The opportunity exists to build on shared connections and further strengthen a bilateral relationship to create meaningful social and economic engagement for the two regions.
3. The Metro Vancouver Region (MV) has two Metro Cores, the established downtown of Vancouver and the growing Surrey Centre. Both Metro Cores have high job density, are well connected by transit to a number of Regional City Centres built into, and built up from, some of the most awe-inspiring natural landscapes. Metro Vancouver spans ancestral territories of numerous First Nations, including Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh, and is a gathering place for people of many backgrounds where the ocean, forest and mountains converge.
4. South East Queensland (SEQ) is the third-largest capital region by population and as it emerges from a disparate region of cities and towns to a more integrated region, SEQ will play an increasingly important role in Australia's national success and productivity.
5. MV is a regional district under the Province of British Columbia's Local Government Act. It is a political body and a corporate entity that delivers regional services, policy, and political leadership. MV's members include Village of Anmore, Village of Belcarra, Bowen Island Municipality, City of Burnaby, City of Coquitlam, City of Delta, Electoral Area A, City of Langley, Township of Langley, Village of Lions Bay, City of Maple Ridge, City of New Westminister, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, City of Pitt Meadows, City of Port Coquitlam, City of Port Moody, City of Richmond, City of Surrey, Tsawwassen First Nation, City of Vancouver, District of West Vancouver and City of White Rock. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors composed of elected officials from each local authority.

6. CoMSEQ is a corporate entity under the Australia's Corporations Act 2001. It is an organization that represents the interests of the fastest growing region in Australia, advocating for 11 local governments located in SEQ, working together to tackle SEQ's biggest challenges and leverage opportunities to ensure the region is the best possible place to live, work and play. Using the collective influence of member Councils, CoMSEQ helps shape positive government policy and funding outcomes for SEQ, representing the interests of Brisbane, Ipswich, Lockyer, Logan, Moreton, Noosa, Redland, Scenic Rim, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba. CoMSEQ is governed by a Board of Directors composed of Mayors from SEQ local governments.
7. Both organisations represent regions with similar characteristics; some of the most populous areas within their province/state, growing populations and becoming increasingly influential regionally and internationally, embarking on a transition towards a more specialised and diversified economy, and participation in global flows and exchanges enabled by a new international context.
8. In this new cycle, both regions compete and compare as much with global peers, as with other domestic regions, with national long-term success requiring each region to become competitive at a global scale.
9. The respective regions face ongoing challenges associated with climate change and population growth, at a time when the jobs that are driving our economy are changing, with new technologies, globalisation and demographic change transforming the future of work and the talent and skills of our workforce.
10. Consistent alignment also exists between the organisations' respective strategic visions, as both seek to improve the vitality and resilience of their respective growing regions, including issues such as critical infrastructure to support growing communities; housing affordability; waste reduction and circular economy; climate action; and fostering regional collaboration.
11. Meanwhile, civic leaders seek to prioritise strategic and long-term investments for greater regional connectivity, innovation and sustainability to facilitate the future success of respective regions.
12. Organisations acknowledge each has a unique experience and knowledge base within their respective regions.
13. The organisations have agreed to enter into this non-binding Statement of Intent (SOI) setting out principles of collaboration for the benefit of their respective regions.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The global economy no longer revolves around a small handful of nations and cities, with new international dynamics creating an imperative for regions to engage globally to promote partnership and shared prosperity. In the pursuit of socially and environmentally sustainable prosperity, regions across the Asia-Pacific are embarking on a cycle of people-oriented growth, all requiring bold and courageous civic-leadership. Today's growth regions are faced with complex and converging issues from housing constraints, rapidly rising cost of living (lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic) to protecting communities from increasing frequency of extreme weather events while maintaining effective levels of service delivery. These challenges are multifaceted and cannot be tackled in isolation.

Similar to South East Queensland, Metro Vancouver continues to grow by about 35,000 residents per year, with a projected growth of an additional one million residents by year 2050. Accommodating growth within a land-constrained region implies greater density of development, and we strive to structure our growth by ensuring the majority of it goes to a network of Urban Centres and along transit corridors, integrating land use and transportation planning and infrastructure, protecting important lands like the agricultural, ecologically important and industrial lands in the region; improving the economics of public services; increasing the viability of local businesses and retail services; fostering the creation of vibrant and resilient centres for culture and community activities, and maintaining an attractive urban environment. Additionally, growth coincides with supporting climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect our natural environment.

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. This SOI applies to the proposed collaboration between MV and CoMSEQ to foster a strategic partnership based on shared interests, by exploring potential areas of cooperation and allow ongoing dialogue for mutually beneficial knowledge exchange.
- 1.2. The purpose of the SOI is to set out the principles of cooperation between the CoMSEQ and MV to advance their respective regions and grow the reputation and influence of each organisation in rapidly evolving times.

2. PRINCIPLES

Collaboration will be guided by the following principles:

- 2.1. work together in the spirit of mutual respect and collaboration;
- 2.2. share best practices and experiences concerning an array of initiatives, both tangible and intangible, that will lead to an enduring legacy;
- 2.3. engage in open and productive dialogue, including participating in meetings, workshops and events to foster and advance ongoing collaboration;
- 2.4. share information, knowledge, and expertise to support collaboration; and
- 2.5. promote bilateral interests to advance and grow the influence of the regions across the Pacific and beyond.

3. ACTIONS

Collaboration may include the following actions:

- 3.1. cooperate and engage in exchanges in the areas of mutual interest, in order to develop the relationship between the two regions in a creative and practical manner that will benefit their respective residents;
- 3.2. share their experiences for their respective regions and any knowledge, and information including associated policies, initiatives and programs that may support the collaboration or be useful for the other organisation;
- 3.3. hold discussions to convene a forum of senior regional representatives (this may include officials, elected representatives and leaders of local First Nations) from each organisation to meet and support ongoing dialogue;
- 3.4. hold discussions to further deepen friendly and cooperative relationship, including supporting initiatives such as delegations and/or staff exchanges;
- 3.5. identify priority areas on which to collaborate and to regularly review the success of the collaboration and the outcomes the collaboration is achieving;
- 3.6. support and foster cooperation and trust between CoMSEQ and MV; and act in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation to foster a successful collaboration for the betterment of each other and their respective regions.

4. COLLABORATION MANAGEMENT

- 4.1. Each organisation will nominate a representative to be its contact person for the collaboration.
- 4.2. CoMSEQ and MV will discuss establishing a forum of representatives to meet regularly to support the collaboration, share information and introductions to support the collaboration and enhance knowledge and skills around a series of shared areas of interest.
- 4.3. MV and CoMSEQ will discuss the opportunities for the leadership of each organisation to meet at least twice each calendar year to:
 - 4.3.1. review and identify shared areas of interest for the collaboration to focus on and promote;
 - 4.3.2. discuss the collaboration and its associated activities and success;
 - 4.3.3. plan future events and opportunities (including representation and participation in Zero Waste Conference and the Asia Pacific Cities Summit & Mayors' Forum); and
 - 4.3.4. review the success of the collaboration and implement any changes and improvements to the collaboration, including the exploration of joint research initiatives.

5. AREAS OF SHARED INTEREST

As at the date of this SOI, shared areas of interest are:

- 5.1.1. managing population growth (including land-use planning and housing affordability)
- 5.1.2. regional connectivity (public transport and smart digital infrastructure)
- 5.1.3. sustainability (including but not limited to waste and circular economy, water security, climate change and resilience)
- 5.1.4. economic development (including but not limited to regional and global brand, reputation influence, access export markets, trade and investment promotion)

6. NON-BINDING

- 6.1. Except for this section 6.1, section 7.1 and section 8.1, this SOI is not binding on the parties. For greater certainty, except for this section 6.1, section 7.1 and section 8.1, nothing in this SOI will imply in any way that any provision of this SOI is legally binding on the parties, or is capable of generating any contractual obligations between the parties. This section 6.1, section 7.1, and section 8.1 will be binding on MV and CoMSEQ.

7. LEGISLATION

7.1. The goals, policies, actions and practices contemplated in this SOI are subject to all applicable laws governing MV and CoMSEQ.

8. TERM

8.1. This SOI will be in effect until either MV or CoMSEQ terminates this SOI, by advising the other party in writing.

Signed for and on behalf of Council of Mayors (South East Queensland):



Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

The Right Honourable Adrian Schrinner,
Brisbane Lord Mayor Chair of Council of Mayors (SEQ)

Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Mayor Paul Antonio, Deputy Chair of Council of Mayors (SEQ)

Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Scott Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Council of Mayors (SEQ)

Signed for and on behalf Metro Vancouver Regional District:



Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

George V. Harvie, Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

John McEwen, Vice Chair, Metro Vancouver Board

Signature _____

Print Name _____ Date _____

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver