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INDEPENDENT NSW GOVERNMENT REVIEW STARTS NATIONAL CONVERSATION

The independent Federal Financial Relations Review panel chaired by David Thodey has today released its first major publication, a Discussion Paper starting a national conversation on working together for a better future.

“Our society is evolving. Across the world, people are adapting to new realities and choices are being made to change with the times,” said Mr Thodey.

“As Australians are planning for the future, they have every right to expect that their governments are doing the same.

“What ultimately matters for good government is the outcomes for citizens and delivering our high- quality standard of living now and into the future.

“While there are no easy solutions to the issues we face as a nation, federation offers the opportunity to explore innovative solutions to the new challenges of a changing world and to share the solutions nationally with benefits for all Australians.”

The Federal Financial Relations Review Panel was appointed earlier this year by NSW Treasurer Dominic Perrottet to bring fresh expertise to the important issue of preparing for our future.

Key to the Panel’s review will be consideration of how more sustainable and modernised funding arrangements can ensure we meet the needs of future generations. Good policy now can avoid hard choices later.

The Panel has been tasked with recommending practical options to bring out the best in our federation. This includes options to:

- Facilitate change to how the two levels of government partner on major national issues and to ensure they put citizens at the centre of decision making
- Improve the design of Commonwealth funding mechanism to support citizen outcomes and improve taxpayer value for money
- Modernise the state’s revenue base to ensure it is sustainable and minimises the burden on our citizens; and
- Recalibrate the mix of Commonwealth funding to reduce the financial dependency of the states.

Mr Thodey said the Panel welcomes everyone to join the conversation and make a submission to help shape our collective future.

The discussion paper can be accessed at: <http://treasury.nsw.gov.au/index.php/discussion-paper>

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