



**THE HON PETER DUTTON MP
MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION
AND BORDER PROTECTION**

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Mayor Troy Pickard
President
Australian Local Government Association
8 Geils Court
DEAKIN ACT 2600

Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 24 December 2015 concerning the Significant Investor visa (SIV) and attracting investment migration to rural and regional Australia. I appreciate the time you have taken to bring this matter to my attention.

The SIV is part of the Business Innovation and Investment Programme that encourages successful business people to settle in Australia and use their proven skills to develop business activity in Australia.

On 1 July 2015, the Australian Government introduced changes to the SIV, including a new complying investment framework designed to support Australia's long-term economic future by boosting investment in emerging enterprises and promoting local commercialisation of innovative research and development.

The new framework followed extensive stakeholder consultations, including public consideration of complying investment design options, which were conducted by the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade), as the policy settings for the SIV complying investment framework fall within the responsibilities of the Minister for Trade and Investment, the Hon Andrew Robb AO MP. Austrade engaged extensively with the state and territory governments throughout the design process.

While there are currently no specific incentives in the SIV legislation for the investments to be made into rural and regional Australia, state and territory governments have a role in nominating SIV applicants to make sure that the potential investment aligns with the priorities of that state or territory.

The Government is committed to ensure that the SIV achieves its objectives and will continue to review the complying investment framework as required.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely


25/01/16

PETER DUTTON