

# Conversation Starter CS18-01: Resource sharing effects

## HOW IS RESOURCE SHARING BEING USED TO OVERCOME THE CHALLENGES OF SCALE, WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS, AND IN WHAT FORM ARE THE BENEFITS MANIFESTING?

In preparation for the 2021-22 Triennium, the State Grants Commission (the Commission) is seeking council comments on the types of resource sharing arrangements they have in place or expect to be applying, and what results or impacts in terms of improved service delivery, efficiencies or types of savings, are being realised as a result.

This information will help the Commission determine the scope of any review of its Scale cost adjustors.

### Conversation Starter: Background

As part of the 2018 Hearings and Visits program, the Commission seeks information and input from councils to help it understand the main issues and drivers, and extent of the impacts, from changes in the way councils source its skills and service its community.

This information will assist the Commission in determining what, if any, impacts the adoption of resource sharing arrangements might have on the Commission's assessment of relative Scale advantages and disadvantages.

### Conversation Starter: Questions

To help understand these issues and impacts, the Commission seeks council's views on the following questions:

1. To what extent, and across which areas, would resource sharing arrangements help offset any or some of the challenges experienced by councils attributable to scale?
2. To what extent are any of the expenditure categories that the Commission currently recognises as being challenged by Scale (primarily General Administration, and to a lesser extent, Planning and Community Amenities, Waste Management and Environment and Recreation and Culture) benefitting from the use of resource sharing, compared to other areas? Is the impact even or unbalanced?

3. In what way, and to what extent, has your council participated in any resource sharing arrangements, either as service provider or as service recipient?

### Submissions deadline

To enable discussion at the Commission's 2018 Hearings and Visits which commence 13 February 2018, submissions should be received by Friday 2 February 2018.

*The Commission has prepared these flyers to act as thought provokers and conversation starters with councils in order to initiate discussions on the issue being considered.*

*The intention is to gain council input on these issues early in the Commission's process of formulating any reviews.*

*These Conversation Starter flyers are not intended to be detailed papers.*

*Council submissions on Conversation Starter issues can take any form councils wish. If available, the Commission would appreciate documentary evidence, data and council suggestions on the extent of the issue, and if appropriate, suggestions of suitable data sources relating to the matter being considered.*