



AUSTRALIA'S FOREIGN RELATIONS (STATE AND TERRITORY ARRANGEMENTS) ACT 2020 FACT SHEET 3 – LOCAL GOVERNMENTⁱ

Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020 (the Act) fosters a systematic and consistent approach to foreign engagement across all levels of Australian government. It creates a scheme to ensure that arrangements between State or Territory governments and foreign government entities do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are not inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy.

This Fact Sheet should be read together with 'Fact Sheet 1–Overview'

How does the scheme apply to local government?

The Foreign Arrangements Scheme (the scheme) creates obligations for local governments that propose to enter, or enter, an arrangement with a foreign entity.

Under the Act, a State/Territory entity includes 'a body established for the purposes of local government by, or under a law of a State or a Territory'.

- Local governments are **non-core State/Territory entities**. As a consequence, all foreign arrangements entered into by local government are **non-core foreign arrangements**. This is the case irrespective of the nature of the relevant foreign entity with whom the arrangement is entered into.
- **Foreign entities** include a foreign country, its national government and a department or agency of that national government, as well as sub-national level governments in foreign countries, departments of those sub-national level governments, public entities established under the authority of a foreign country or its national or sub-national government, universities without institutional autonomy and any other entities prescribed by the rules.

What does the scheme do?

The scheme creates a 'notification' process for 'non-core foreign arrangements'. The scheme applies to prospective arrangements, as well as arrangements already in operation. Further detail is in **Fact Sheet 1**.

How will I comply with obligations under the scheme?

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is responsible for administering the scheme.

Obligations under the scheme are met via an online portal that enables States and Territories to make notifications to the Minister.

Where can I get further information?

Contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at foreignarrangements@dfat.gov.au

ⁱ * This FACT SHEET sets out some of the requirements of the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Act 2020. It is not intended to be comprehensive and should not be relied on as a definitive interpretation of the Act. It is also not intended as legal advice. Readers should rely on the substantive provisions of the Act as enacted by Parliament, and any applicable rules, in assessing their obligations and seek independent legal advice.