

THE NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE GOES LOCAL

REGIONAL BUSINESS

NSX recognises that the growth of SMEs is increasingly important in regional economies and has created a regional exchange initiative to focus on the needs of regional business for growth capital and business solutions.

NSX has already had **success in attracting regional business**, with over 50 Bendigo Bank Community Banks® currently listed on its Exchange from every state and territory in Australia.

THE NATIONAL STOCK EXCHANGE OF AUSTRALIA

NSX Limited is unique in Australian Financial Markets. It operates both the National Stock Exchange of Australia and the Bendigo Stock Exchange. Both exchanges are focused on listing small to medium sized businesses and community based organisations.

NSX Limited now has more than 110 listed securities representing over \$1billion in market capitalisation across its two exchanges.

WHAT IS A REGIONAL EXCHANGE?

Regional Exchanges operate as sub-markets of the National Stock Exchange. They are not licensed Stock Exchanges in their own right, but they do provide access to all the benefits and opportunities of the broader NSX Market for regionally based businesses.

NSX can support regional economic development by creating a regional market that brings together the local investment and business communities. By working along side existing local infrastructure (i.e. Councils, businesses, clusters, hubs, incubators, regional development boards and business forums), **NSX** can create a regional capital market mechanism that allows businesses to access local capital and list earlier in their growth phase.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Regional Exchanges can be established as partnerships with Business Chambers and Councils and other agencies involved in regional economic development, thus ensuring that there is a strong focus on the needs of the region itself.

THE BENEFITS OF A REGIONAL EXCHANGE

A regional exchange can:

- Provide greater **access to capital** for local business
- Allow emerging and innovative companies to fund growth
- Create **local investment opportunities** for local investors
- Provide succession and exit strategies for local businesses
- Establish a local network of accredited business advisers
- Foster **local innovation** and retain local investment
- List community organisations i.e. banks and Telco's
- Be quick to establish and require little investment

WHAT IS THE PROCESS INVOLVED?

1. Undertake a regional review to identify
 - Local SMEs,
 - local infrastructure, partners, and stakeholders,
 - supporting regional development strategies.
2. Work with NSX to create a regional exchange plan
3. Liaise with local business advisers (local commercial accounting and legal firms) regarding accreditation with NSX
4. Establish a local exchange as a joint venture

WHY PARTNER WITH NSX?

Credibility – NSX operates a well regulated, transparent orderly and highly efficient market.

Track Record – The NSX Wollongong Exchange launched in 2005.

Accessibility – NSX's criteria for listing is appropriate for **SMEs**:

- companies with a market capitalisation of just \$500,000 can meet NSX's size requirements,
- a spread of only 50 shareholders is required to list on NSX,
- only 25% of shares are required to be released to the public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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