

A six-point plan for more productive, liveable and sustainable cities

Wednesday 19 June 2013

Australia's peak body for a sustainable built environment has called for more proactive policy on Australia's cities.

As the 2013 election draws near, the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) has developed a six-point plan for Australia's cities to ensure they are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable, socially inclusive and able to meet our future challenges.

"Australian cities are the country's largest productivity and residential hubs, hosting three quarters of our population and generating more than 80 per cent of our GDP. A nationally-coordinated focus on cities is paramount," says Romilly Madew, Chair of ASBEC's Cities and Regions Policy Task Group.

ASBEC calls on all political parties to join us in supporting the following actions:

- Elevate the Major Cities Unit and establish a Minister for Cities and Urban Development
- Adopt a national approach to our cities with a strong governance framework
- Establish an Urban Infrastructure Fund
- Align Infrastructure Australia with National Urban Policy
- Deliver a quantum leap in sustainable, affordable housing
- Focus on climate change adaptation and resilience.

"How our cities grow and take shape will have a major impact on our people and their future prosperity.

"While we applaud the work of the current Australian Government – particularly the establishment of the Major Cities Unit and launch of the National Urban Policy – we must now transform these ideas into actions and results.

"The policies and programs we implement today will determine whether our cities are prosperous, liveable and sustainable places for many generations to come," Ms Madew concludes.

Download ASBEC's Call to Action for productive, liveable and sustainable cities: www.asbec.asn.au

About ASBEC

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) is a collective of leading industry organisations committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. ASBEC's membership consists of a range of key industry government and academic organisations who are involved in the planning, design, delivery and operation of our built environment and who are concerned with the economic, social and environmental performance of the sector.

ASBEC's activities, including research and policy development on built environment issues, are an example of a collaborative, co-ordinated approach undertaken across all segments of the built environment. ASBEC works actively to develop and promote leading practice in the design, planning and operation of our cities, at a buildings, precincts and citywide scale.

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