

PRODUCTIVE, LIVEABLE AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES FOR AUSTRALIA

A Call to Action 2013



Productive, Liveable and Sustainable Cities for Australia

“Australia’s continuing prosperity in the competitive, globalised world of the 21st century will largely depend on how successful we are at making our cities work better.”

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Anthony Albanese, December 2012

“What is a successful modern city? At its weakest it is simply a place where millions live in cramped conditions. At its best, it is a series of connected communities. This must be our vision.”

Greg Hunt, Opposition Spokesperson on Climate Change, November 2012

“As one of the most urbanised countries in the world...Australia must take action now to address how our cities might develop in the future.”

Dr Mal Washer, Chair, Standing Committee on Environment & Heritage, August 2005

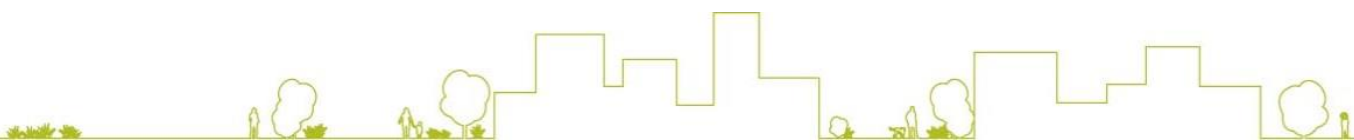
Cities are powerhouses of Australia’s productivity and population. Cities generate 80 per cent of the nation’s GDP and are home to three quarters of our citizens. More sustainable and more liveable cities will deliver a stronger economy and an enhanced lifestyle for all Australians.

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 future challenges, growth and wellbeing.

As the 2013 election draws near, ASBEC calls on all political parties to embrace our six-point strategy to:

1. **Elevate the Major Cities Unit and establish a Minister for Cities and Urban Development.** Transform the Major Cities Unit, currently situated as part of the Department of Infrastructure and Transport, into a Department for Cities and Urban Development to provide a centre of excellence within the Australian Government, resourced to work across governments and portfolios to develop and implement policies supporting better cities. The Minister for Cities and Urban Development will be responsible for cities policy across portfolios.
2. **Adopt a National Approach to our cities with a strong Governance Framework.** Implement a framework to inform public policy and decision-making; develop a set of national, evidence-based urban indicators to measure the performance of cities; adopt an integrated and accountable approach to governance, based on national competition policy, that encompasses all three spheres of government; and identify effective funding models to ensure urban infrastructure is adequately financed.
3. **Establish an Urban Infrastructure Fund.** Increase the capital available to fund local community infrastructure focused on improving productivity, liveability and sustainability and linked to the Cities Governance Framework.
4. **Align Infrastructure Australia with National Urban Policy.** Ensure Infrastructure Australia can effectively interface with the Major Cities Unit and the National Urban Policy Forum, and better integrate infrastructure prioritisation and delivery with urban development policy and research.
5. **Deliver a quantum leap in Affordable and Sustainable Housing.** Implement a national framework for the delivery of affordable and sustainable housing. This framework should establish targets for new and existing buildings; identify barriers and provide strategies to overcome them; provide meaningful housing policies and supporting initiatives that offer incentives for developers, owners and tenants to convert industry leadership into standard practice; align voluntary standards with mandatory requirements; harmonise rating tools; and provide an implementation plan to convert the framework into action.
6. **Focus on Adaptation and Resilience.** Apply ASBEC’s Built Environment Adaptation Framework to the development of a coordinated, well-resourced and nationally consistent suite of policies to better protect our cities from predicted climate change risks and maximise resource security.

Australia is confronted by significant long-term challenges, from population growth, housing affordability and infrastructure development, to climate change, resource constraints, food and water security and the influences of the global economy. These challenges will be most severely felt in our major cities, which will accommodate around 85 per cent of our 35 million-plus population by 2050. How our cities adapt to these future challenges is dependent on the policies and programs we implement today, including at a national level. It is these policies which will determine whether our cities - and the people who live in them - survive or thrive.



Who we are

Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council

The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) is the peak body of key organisations (see full list below) committed to a sustainable built environment in Australia. Collectively, ASBEC's membership has direct reach to more 200,000 professionals in the built environment sector and represents an industry worth more than \$600 billion in value.

Cities and Regions Policy Task Group

ASBEC is committed to improving the long-term productivity, liveability and sustainability of urban and regional communities through performance benchmarks and goals, identification of infrastructure priorities, use of incentives, modernised governance and public finance vehicles. ASBEC's Cities and Regions Policy Task Group is focussed on developing recommendations that lead to a long-term, joined-up urban and regional policy that delivers sustainable dividends.

The Cities and Regions Policy Task Group is comprised of representatives from the following organisations:

Australian Conservation Foundation	Consult Australia
Infrastructure Sustainability Council Australia	Facility Management Association of Australia
Australian Institute of Architects	Green Building Council of Australia
Chartered Institute of Building	Planning Institute of Australia
City of Melbourne	Property Council of Australia

ASBEC Members

Full members

Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association
 Association of Building Sustainability Assessors
 Australian Conservation Foundation
 Australian Institute of Architects
 Australian Institute of Building
 Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors
 Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heating
 Chartered Institute of Building
 Consult Australia
 Energy Efficiency Council
 Engineers Australia
 Facility Management Association of Australia
 Good Environmental Choice Australia
 Green Building Council of Australia
 Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia
 Insulation Australasia
 Planning Institute of Australia
 Property Council of Australia
 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Oceania
 Shopping Centre Council of Australia
 Standards Australia
 The Australian Property Institute

Observer members

Australasian Procurement and Construction Council
 Australian Building Codes Board
 Bond University
 CRC for Low Carbon Living
 City of Melbourne
 Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency
 NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
 NT Department of Lands and Planning
 Places Victoria
 QLD Department of Public Works
 SA Department of the Premier and Cabinet
 Sustainability Victoria
 Victorian Building Commission
 Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development
 WA Department of Finance - Building Management and Works

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