

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PAVES THE WAY FOR A SMARTER APPROACH TO CITIES

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The Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council (ASBEC) welcomes the release of the Australian Government's *Smart Cities Plan*, which outlines a vision for enhancing liveability, sustainability and productivity in our urban communities.

ASBEC President Prof Ken Maher said "The building sector, through ASBEC, has long called for a whole-of-government approach to planning, energy efficiency measures, infrastructure investment and urban design, to create better long-term outcomes for cities. We congratulate the Federal Government for their focus on the future of our cities, and look forward to this process leading to tangible action."

"The City Deals model, involving a compact between all spheres of government, reflects a form of planning and infrastructure investment that supports jobs and more liveable, healthy, productive and sustainable communities."

Of course, sustainable cities are vitally underpinned by sustainable buildings.

"Australia's commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement binds us to meaningful action on reducing emissions. A major element towards meeting this objective includes a long-term metropolitan-scale approach to city planning, essentially underpinned by efforts to improve the environmental performance of buildings."

"Governments, industry and the community will need to work collaboratively together to deliver transformative outcomes for our cities and built environment. As one of the world's most urbanised countries, we can't afford not to." said Prof Maher.

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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