



Australian Government
Infrastructure Australia

The role of public transport in transforming our cities

AusRail 2010
23 November 2010

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Infrastructure Australia's role

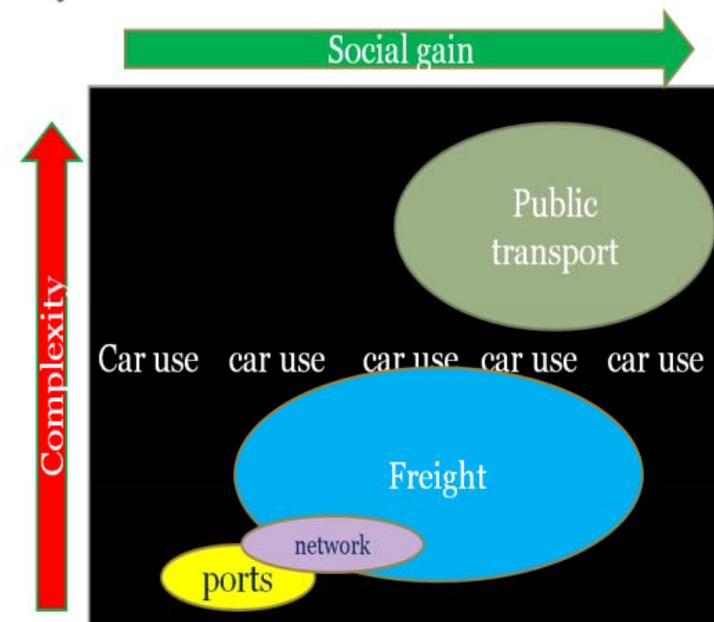
- Infrastructure Australia is to drive a long term, co-ordinated national approach to infrastructure
- Infrastructure decisions need robust plans
 - diagnosis, strategy, projects
- Reform and investment framework assesses projects for national significance, economic merit, deliverability
 - recommended public transport projects e.g. Melbourne, Adelaide





Infrastructure Australia work

- Coordinated national approach was missing
- National ports strategy is with governments
- National freight network strategy is with the Infrastructure Australia Council
- Passenger transport is more challenging
 - particularly public transport
- Context includes the future of Australian cities
 - and role of Commonwealth





Government expectations

- High level policy objectives for public transport include
 - compact urban form
 - less road traffic congestion
 - lower carbon footprint
 - reduced reliance on liquid fuels
 - less social exclusion
- High level constraint is availability of public funds
 - from outside the public transport system
 - there are other call on these funds



Academic expectations

- The high level aims need people to switch to public transport
- Post war 20th century, the switch was from public transport
- In the last five years there has been some reversal. Increase in population is equaled by increase in public transport use
- Reasons
 - petrol prices?/road congestion?
 - lifestyle choices?
 - bigger cities?



Public expectations

- An undercurrent of passenger dissatisfaction
- Some negative commentary in every city
- Better public transport = more people switch from cars
 - need to improve “quality”
- Hensher, ITSRR et al.
 - quality is more than an abstract matter
 - quality is a demand determinant that can be measured





What can be improved - lots

- Statements of governments' expectations
- Integrated and systematic planning
- Introduction of best practices
- Get the pricing signals right
- Governance arrangements
- Use of existing assets
- Financial incentives
- Targeting of investment
- Research – understanding how to offer a better product



Public transport is a war against the car

The customer is the determinant



Attitudes need to change

- Sense of urgency
- Involvement
 - not just someone else's business
 - more money is not the only answer
- Beyond 'catering for demand'
 - give people a better deal than they get from car use
- Part of the city
 - packaged with land use
 - supporting policy reform e.g. congestion pricing





Everyone's expectation

- Commonwealth role
 - usually stated as: more funding
- Key questions for everyone, not just the Commonwealth:
 - why not just the Grants Commission?
 - why hasn't it been done already?
 - what should the Commonwealth get in return?
- Infrastructure Australia reform and invest process
 - merit = benefits / costs
 - benefits = amount of switching to public transport



Debate needed: Commonwealth permanent role?

Strategy	Strategic	Strong
	Tactical	Moderate
	Operational	
Delivery	Service Delivery	
	Project Delivery	
	Maintenance	
Evaluate	Efficiency	Moderate
	Tactical results	Moderate
	Strategic results	Strong



Layers?

1. National public transport **strategy**:
 - what do you want
 2. City public transport **plans**
 - how best to get it / degree of national consistency?
 3. **Operations** within city
 - including projects to support the plans
- At present most attention is on one only element of 3 – projects
 - without 1 and often without 2



Leadership beyond funding

- **Who** is to develop the proposition for a national public transport strategy?
 - to get buy in from governments
 - and convince the community
- **When** should there be milestones for this urgent task?
 - for example, draft for public consultation
 - advice presented to governments
- **What** are you doing to help this process?