

Productive Cities

Australian Infrastructure Plan

February 2016



Most Australians live and work in cities and a large proportion of our economic output is generated there. We must act now to maximise the opportunities of a growing urban population and manage the challenges that come with it.

Actions

- Australia's largest cities should plan for and deliver integrated, timetable-free, 'turn up and go' train and bus services – similar to New York, Singapore, London and Berlin.
- Investment is needed to address an imbalance between the inner and outer suburbs of our cities by delivering infrastructure to the outskirts of cities which enables improved access to mass road and rail networks.
- The Australian Government should play a more active role in our cities with the first step being the development of a National Population Policy to set a vision for Australia's growing population and identify the necessary infrastructure, services, housing and reforms.
- Our four largest cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth – will need to rapidly increase the delivery of higher density housing. Successful higher densities should provide people with high-quality, affordable housing that is well-connected to infrastructure, community public spaces and world-class amenities.
- All governments should foster greater long-term population growth in Australia's smaller cities, which are renowned for their liveability. Growing their populations will increase their vitality while easing the infrastructure challenges facing the larger cities.
- Governments and regulators need to be responsive to emerging technologies and ensure regulatory settings maximise opportunities to increase productivity and reflect the long term interests of customers.
- Getting the governance right in all our cities will be central to their success. The delivery of consistent long-term metropolitan planning, supported by integrated governance frameworks, should be a high priority for state and territory governments. At a local level, the amalgamation of councils provides an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of this level of government.



7
MILLION

Australia's cities are undergoing a process of significant change. Between 2011 and 2031, the population of our cities is projected to increase by almost seven million.



Our four largest cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth – will need to rapidly increase the delivery of high quality, higher density housing. The Audit found that each of these cities will need to deliver about 500,000 to 700,000 additional dwellings over the next 15 to 20 years.



Without action the cost of congestion across our biggest cities is projected to increase from \$13.7 billion in 2011 to \$53.3 billion in 2031.