



**Australian Government**  
**Infrastructure Australia**

# The future of policy – how to run a country from the city

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Property Council Congress 09  
Hamilton Island 15 September 2009



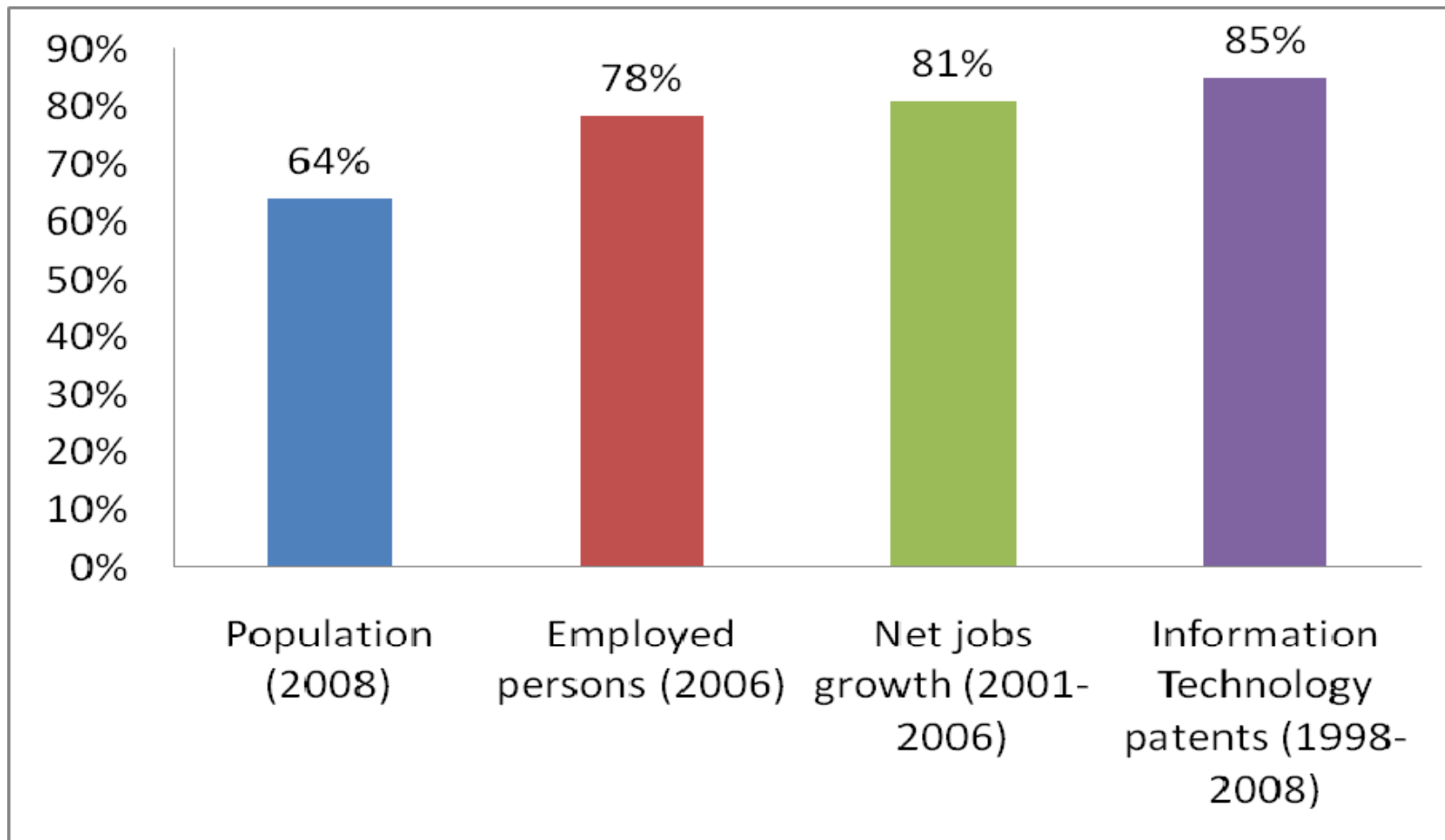
# National Context

- National leadership in urban systems: back from the abyss
- Re-investment in infrastructure nationally
- Responding to calls for investment in our cities and improved governance arrangements
- Current Government initiatives:
  - Infrastructure Australia and BAF
  - Major Cities Unit
- Government priority: Transforming our cities





## Capital cities contribution to the nation



Sources: [Australian Bureau of Statistics \(2008\)](#); [Bureau of Infrastructure Transport and Regional Economics \(2009\)](#) ; [Council of Capital City Lord Mayors \(2008\)](#)



**“There is a need to recapitalise our cities to improve competitiveness, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. This can only be achieved through better governance involving all levels of government, business and the community acting in the national interest”**

*Property Council of Australia (2002) Recapitalising Australia's Cities*



# National Urban Policy



- A new, long-term strategic framework for the sustainable development of our cities
- Vision:  
**Through good governance, our cities are productive, liveable and sustainable**
- Articulating the expectations, responsibilities, strategies and actions of governments, the private sector and the community
- To transform our urban systems



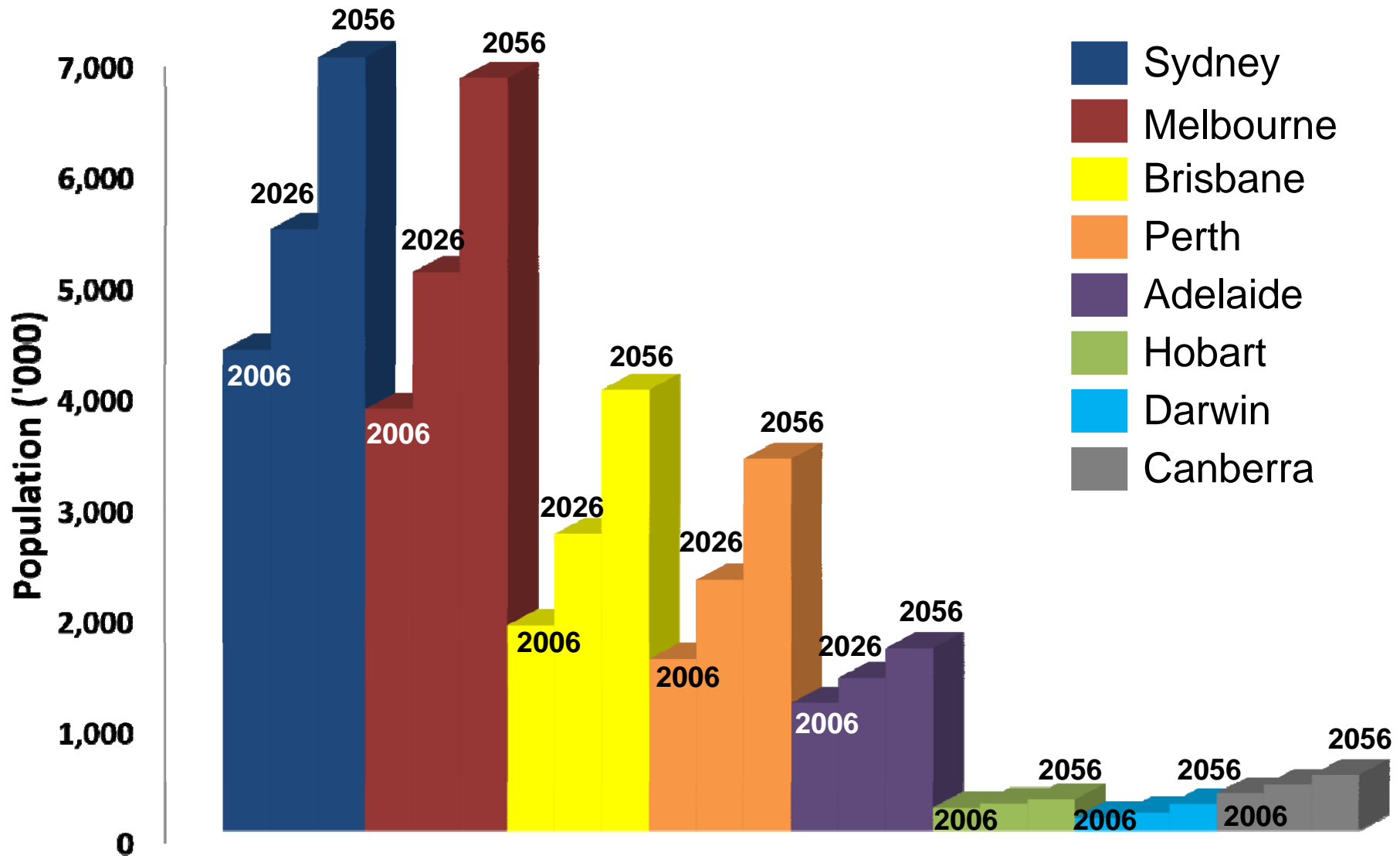
# Urban policy challenges

- Managing population growth and demographic change
- Ensuring equity, accessibility and living affordability
- Reducing CO2 emissions and responding to climate change
- Enabling innovation and opportunity





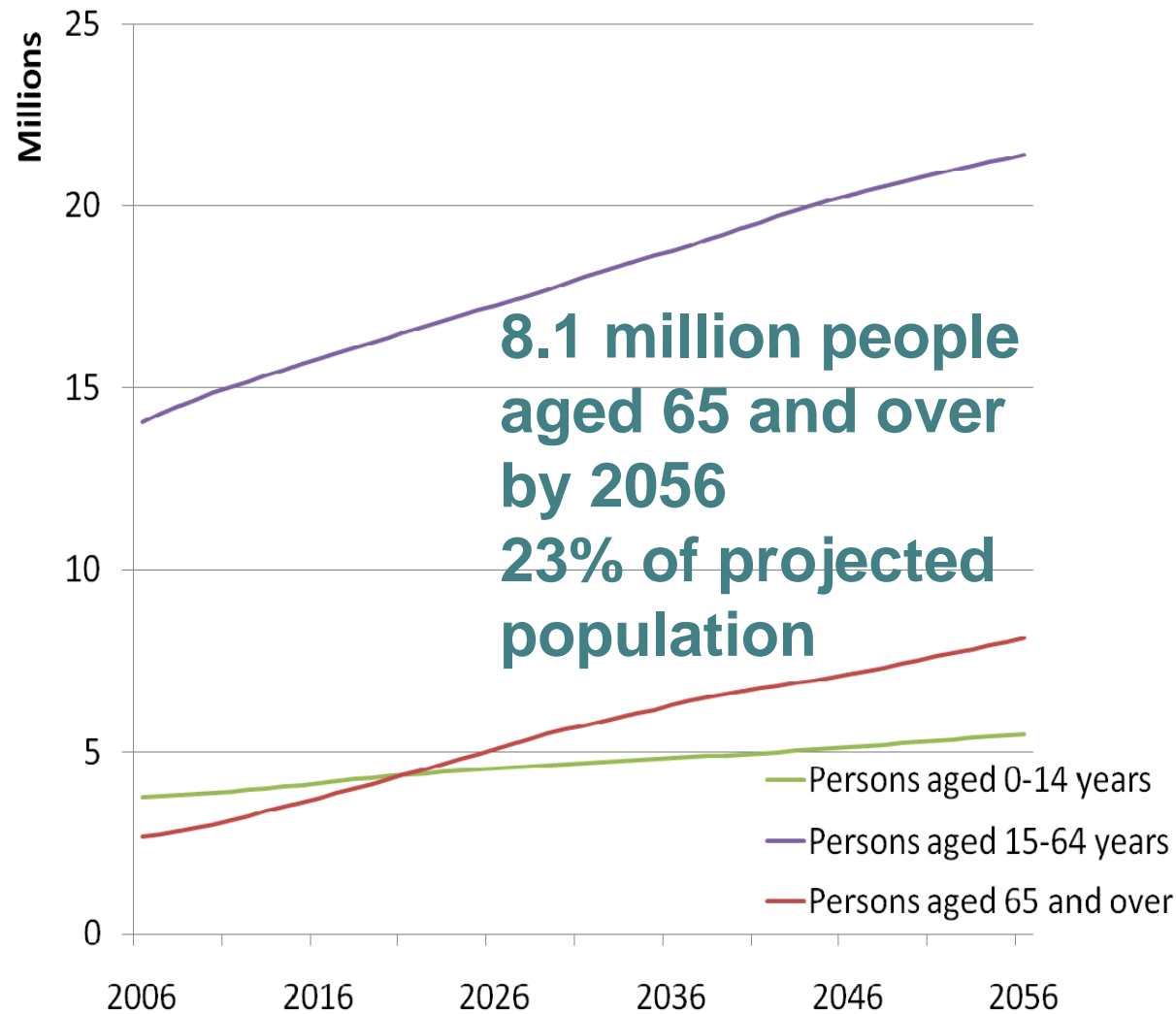
# Population forecasts



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) Population Projections 2006-2100. ABS cat 3220.0



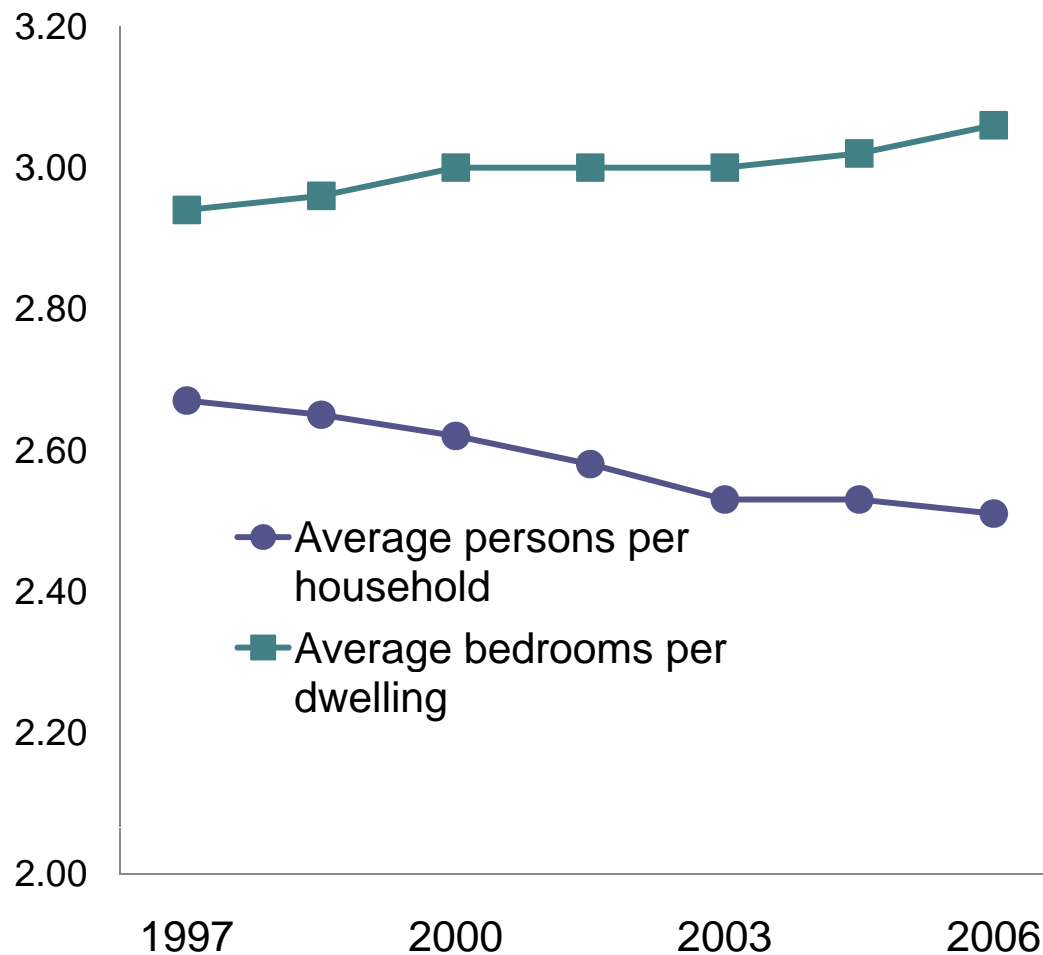
## Ageing population







## Housing consumption

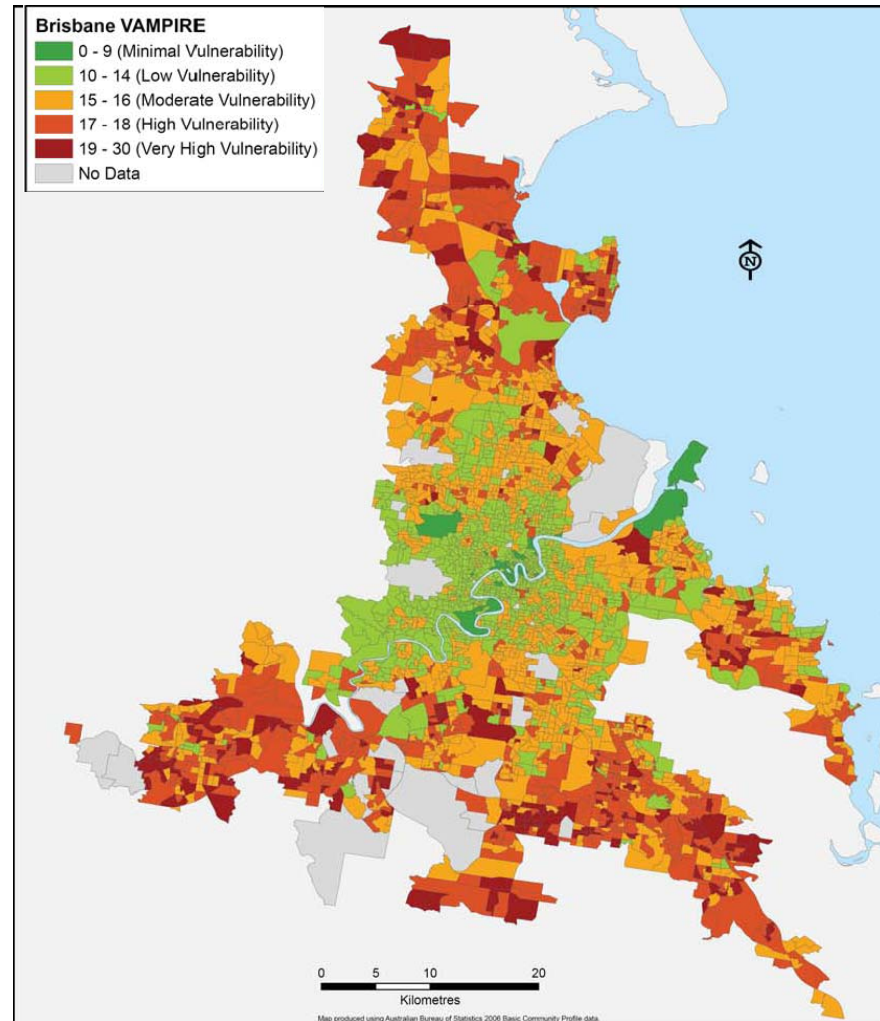


Source: ABS: 4102.0 Social Trends (2008)



## Living Affordability and Vulnerability

- Land cost
- Construction cost
- Transport costs (fuel, tolls, tickets)
- Household operating costs (energy, water, waste)



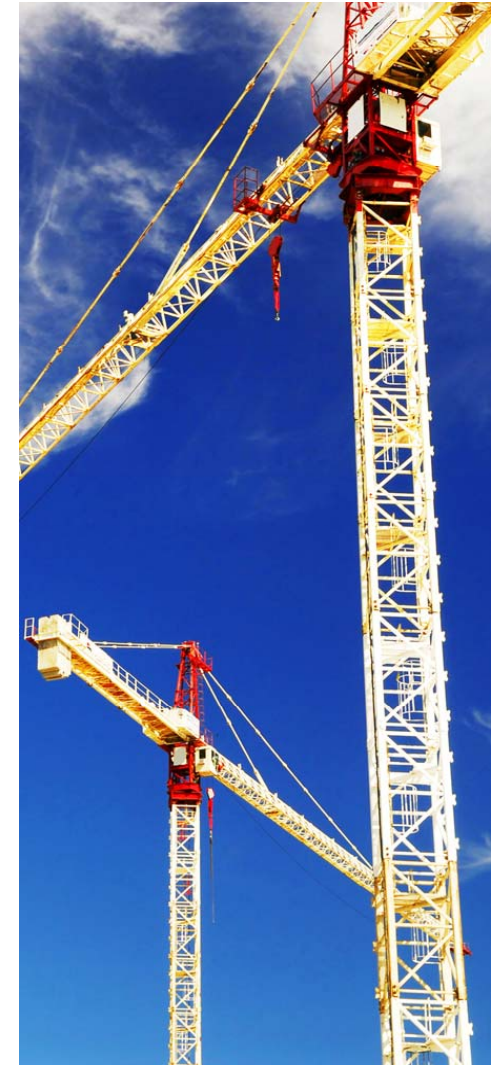
Source: Dodson and Sipe (2008) Unsettling the suburbs.  
Urban Research Program, Griffith University



# Private sector: part of the solutions

The private sector is critical to the implementation of the National Urban Policy to:

- Achieve more sustainable distribution of population, jobs and services
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Create high quality amenity for living, working and recreating in our cities





# A sustainable urban future

*“In the future – in fact already – good urban policy and smart urban development will not just enhance our democracy, and improve national productivity, they will improve ... business prospects too.”*

*The Hon. Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
7 August, 2009.*

