

Canberra, ACT



Chapter 7





Chapter 7

Summary Action Plan

The Australian Government is committed to strengthening the advantages of Australia's cities and responding to emerging environmental, infrastructure and social challenges. In releasing the first *National Urban Policy*, the Australian Government is establishing a comprehensive framework of goals, objectives and principles which it has committed to and will apply in determining its future actions in Australia's major cities, that is, those with population greater than 100,000 people. The Australian Government is dedicated to making a positive difference in our cities.

To ensure that the *National Urban Policy* achieves its goals and objectives, the Australian Government has formulated this set of initiatives which complement the range of activities and investments already taking place. Together, these

activities and investments give effect to the goals and objectives of the *National Urban Policy* to increase the productivity, sustainability and liveability of our cities.



Townsville, QLD

Australian Government Initiatives	Current programs and reform areas	Short term (2011–2014)	Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)
PRODUCTIVITY			
1. IMPROVE LABOUR AND CAPITAL PRODUCTIVITY			
BY:			
– Aligning workforce availability and capacity to meet labour force demand	<p><i>Sustainable Population Strategy</i></p> <p><i>Skills for Sustainable Growth</i> to deepen Australia's skill levels, including key reforms to education and training</p> <p><i>Powering Ideas</i> agenda supporting industrial transformation by helping workers and entrepreneurs move into higher, value-added activities</p>	<p>Implement the <i>Sustainable Population Strategy</i></p> <p>\$100 million new funding to Suburban Local Jobs through the <i>Sustainable Communities Program</i> to plan and provide for employment precincts, manufacturing hubs and multi-function developments close to residential areas in order to reduce travel times to work and services</p> <p>Continue to implement productivity and human capital development reforms to build a high-skill, high-tech, low pollution economy</p> <p>Work with industry and others to promote opportunities for the development of specialised clusters of economic activity with high potential for interactive innovation</p> <p>Produce new spatial reports on land use and infrastructure</p> <p>Implement the Government's <i>Building Australia's Future Workforce</i> package which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$558 million to deliver around 130,000 training places tailored to the needs of different industries and regions through a <i>National Workforce Development Fund</i> – Continuing investments to improve the apprenticeship system with \$200 million to assist apprentices to progress and complete their training in a more timely way – \$1.75 billion to partner with the States and Territories on reform of the vocational education and training system – \$263 million to deliver core skills 	<p>Continue to implement recommendations of the <i>Sustainable Population Strategy</i></p> <p>Seek COAG support to augment planning system reforms to include city-wide economic strategies and spatially-based productivity and innovation policies</p>

Australian Government Initiatives	Current programs and reform areas	Short term (2011–2014)	Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)
<p>2. INTEGRATE LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE BY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating planning of land use, social and economic infrastructure - Investing in urban passenger transport - Protecting corridors, sites and buffers 	<p>\$36 billion through <i>Nation Building Program</i> and <i>Building Australia Fund</i> to support national network of highways and rail lines</p> <p>\$7 billion in passenger rail projects in each of the mainland capital cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parramatta to Epping - Noarlunga to Seaford extension and Gawler Line - Northbridge Link - Moreton Bay Rail - Regional Rail Link - Gold Coast Rapid Transit <p>Released the <i>Aviation White Paper</i></p> <p>Established Moorebank Project Office to develop an intermodal terminal on Commonwealth owned land</p> <p>Funded Integrated Design Strategy trial in Adelaide to promote best practice</p> <p>Committed to working with airport lease holders and other levels of government to achieve a more balanced airport planning framework (through the <i>National Aviation White Paper</i>)</p>	<p>Agree on implementation plan for the <i>National Ports Strategy</i> and <i>National Land Freight Network</i> around corridor and site protection, and incorporate with COAG capital city planning systems reforms</p> <p>Commission Infrastructure Australia to review how nationally significant transport, communications and energy corridors, sites and buffers in our major cities can be better planned, protected and managed</p> <p>Engage with airport operators, State/Territory and Local Governments to better plan land use and infrastructure around airports, including public transport connections</p> <p>Implement recommendations of the <i>Aviation White Paper</i></p>	<p>Apply the principles and objectives of the <i>National Urban Policy</i> and COAG strategic planning to <i>Nation Building II</i> program and other Commonwealth investment programs</p> <p>Require, as a condition of funding for <i>Nation Building II</i>, that each capital city to have in place by 2014 a freight strategy consistent with the <i>National Ports Strategy</i> and <i>National Land Freight Network</i></p> <p>Implement effective land use and planning strategies that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - require planning and protection of economic infrastructure corridors, sites and buffers in order to be eligible for Commonwealth infrastructure funding - protect identified Commonwealth lands from incompatible use or sale - implement a national land use planning framework for land near airports and flight paths

Australian Government Initiatives

Current programs and reform areas

Short term (2011–2014)

Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)

<p>3. IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maximising returns on new and existing infrastructure – Taking into account operational and maintenance costs of infrastructure and assets – Connecting private investment capital to infrastructure and assets of high public benefit – Utilising smart infrastructure – Enhancing connectivity through the <i>National Broadband Network</i> 	<p>Infrastructure Australia's reform and investment framework</p> <p><i>National Ports Strategy</i> and <i>Draft National Land Freight Network</i></p> <p><i>National Broadband Network</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a universal, high-speed fibre network to facilitate smart infrastructure <p>Co-funded with States extensive studies on projects dealing with urban congestion in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane</p>	<p>Invest \$61.4 million in a <i>National Managed Motorways Trial</i></p> <p>Provide an additional \$36 million to Infrastructure Australia to boost its strategic capacity and deepen the <i>National Priority List</i></p> <p>Infrastructure Australia to establish a private sector working group to develop strategies to further private and superannuation sector investment in nationally significant infrastructure</p> <p>Work with States and Northern Territory to finalise the <i>National Ports Strategy</i> implementation plan by August 2011</p> <p>Work with States and Territories to finalise the <i>National Land Freight Network Strategy</i> for COAG consideration in 2011</p> <p>Continue to encourage best practice delivery of PPPs by the States and Territories in infrastructure procurement where these provide value for money</p> <p>Implement governance reforms to enhance transparency in infrastructure planning, including a National Construction Schedule and post-build evaluation framework</p> <p>Implement the new tax <i>Infrastructure Investment Incentive</i>, linked to the <i>National Priority List</i> to encourage private sector investment in priority infrastructure</p>	<p>Continue to progress through COAG the <i>National Ports Strategy</i> and <i>National Land Freight Network</i></p> <p>Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of reforms and the <i>Infrastructure Investment Incentive</i></p> <p>Continue reform of infrastructure planning and investment strategies and private financing of infrastructure investments</p> <p>Continue roll-out of <i>National Broadband Network</i></p>
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SUSTAINABILITY

4. PROTECT AND SUSTAIN OUR NATURAL AND BUILT ENVIRONMENTS

<p>BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Protecting and enhancing natural ecosystems – Supporting sustainable development and refurbishment of our built environment 	<p>Working with the community, Governments and industry to manage our natural resources through the <i>Caring for our Country</i> Program (SEWPaC/DAFF)</p> <p>Protecting internationally significant species and areas through the application of the <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> (SEWPaC)</p> <p>Improving the efficiency of new buildings and major renovations through the <i>Building Code of Australia</i> and <i>Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act</i></p>	<p>Request Infrastructure Australia to advise on strategies to maximise existing infrastructure assets and improve efficiency in transport, energy and water</p> <p>Implement the of the <i>Sustainable Communities Program</i> to invest in projects that support sustainable development and refurbishment of our built environment</p> <p>Invest \$29.2 million in the <i>Sustainable Regional Development</i> initiative to support better sustainability planning in regions that are experiencing high growth</p> <p>The Government will provide \$8 million over two years for competitive grants to assist local communities to manage and conserve heritage places that are important to Australians. The program will also enable greater community access to heritage places of local and national significance</p>	<p>Continue to monitor and support improved protection and sustainability of our natural and built environments</p>
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Australian Government Initiatives	Current programs and reform areas	Short term (2011–2014)	Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)
<p>5. REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND IMPROVE AIR QUALITY</p> <p>BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supporting and investing in low emissions technologies – Putting a price on carbon – Sustainable urban planning and regulatory reform 	<p>Implementing pricing and energy efficiency mechanisms for cost effective greenhouse gas emission reductions</p> <p>Supporting research and development of low emissions technologies, including <i>Solar Cities</i>, <i>Smart Grid</i> technology</p> <p><i>Green Vehicle Guide</i> website and mandatory fuel consumption labelling</p>	<p>Introduce a carbon price from July 2012</p> <p>Reduce incentives for unnecessary driving by replacing the current tax formula for valuing car fringe benefits with a single statutory rate of 20 per cent, regardless of the kilometres travelled</p> <p>Work with industry and governments to improve air quality by setting product standards, urban design, public transport planning and climate change abatement measures</p> <p>Apply more stringent mandatory air pollution standards for all new cars, 4WDs and utes</p> <p>Continue to partner with governments and business in developing low emissions vehicles, <i>Smart Grid</i> and <i>Solar Cities</i> program</p> <p>Continue to support research and development of low emissions technology</p> <p>Continue the <i>Green Vehicle Guide</i> website</p> <p>Implement the <i>Tax Breaks for Green Buildings Policy</i></p> <p>Increase the energy efficiency requirements in the <i>Building Code of Australia</i> and introduce the <i>Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act</i></p>	<p>Monitor and progress carbon pricing implementation</p> <p>Implement recommendations for travel demand management</p> <p>Monitor progress towards achieving 20 per cent renewable energy by 2020</p> <p>Continue to monitor and work to improve air quality, pollution and emissions</p>
<p>6. MANAGE OUR RESOURCES SUSTAINABLY BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reducing resource consumption and waste – Improving water, energy and food security 	<p><i>Water for the Future</i> program through CSIRO</p> <p>Agreement with COAG on urban water reform and waste policy</p>	<p>Further strengthen the role for Infrastructure Australia in undertaking cost-benefit analysis of proposals for infrastructure funding to include consideration of better use of water and energy in infrastructure</p> <p>Continue implementing the <i>Water for the Future</i> program and COAG urban water reforms</p> <p>Implement the <i>National Waste Policy</i> to set the nation's waste management and resource recovery (ongoing)</p>	<p>Continue to implement the <i>National Waste Policy</i> and urban water reforms</p>
<p>7. INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, EMERGENCY EVENTS AND NATURAL HAZARDS BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mitigating risks and adapting to change – Incorporating climate change risks into infrastructure siting, design, construction and operation – Climate change science and research 	<p>Leading national reform to ensure cities are dealing with climate change impacts, including through the provision of good science and information</p> <p><i>Natural Disaster Mitigation Program</i></p>	<p>Work with States and Territories to develop guidance, including spatial mapping, to help reduce exposure of urban assets and infrastructure to climate change risks</p> <p>Strengthen the role for Infrastructure Australia in undertaking assessments of infrastructure to consider whether proposals adequately deal with risk of climate change impacts</p>	<p>Continue to progress and implement work resulting from working with States and Territories on mitigating risk and adapting to change</p>

LIVEABILITY

8. FACILITATE THE SUPPLY OF APPROPRIATE MIXED INCOME HOUSING BY:

- Encouraging a range of housing types to suit diverse household needs across metropolitan areas and regional cities
- Facilitating suitable accommodation for people of all ages and abilities

\$5.66 billion *Social Housing Initiative* to build 19,300 new social housing and repair or upgrade 80,000 homes

\$6.2 billion *National Affordable Housing Agreement*

National Disability Strategy to meet the diverse needs of people with disability and their carers

National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness

Ensure Australian Government housing outlays are targeted to support the objectives and priorities of the *National Urban Policy*, in particular to supply more affordable and accessible housing in attractive, inclusive developments, located close to centres and public transport

Work with States and Territories to address impediments to better functioning of the housing market to improve supply and affordability

Continue to work on the *COAG Housing Supply and Affordability Reform* agenda to deliver greater housing supply and affordability, zoning and planning approvals processes, infrastructure charges, regulations and opportunities for underutilised land

Ensure housing assistance is adequate, targets those in need and supports participation incentives

Ensure that housing programs support the age-friendly objectives of the *National Urban Policy*, including progressively increasing the supply of adaptable housing that is built to universal design standards to ensure access for the elderly and people with disabilities

Support the priority approval and construction of aged care housing, including through high care developments that are well integrated with urban areas so that aged care facilities and places become operational more quickly

Support urban development that supports ageing in place, is socially inclusive and is integrated with surrounding community facilities

Continue to monitor and progress actions to facilitate housing supply and affordability

9. SUPPORT AFFORDABLE LIVING CHOICES BY:

- Locating housing close to facilities and services, including jobs and public transport, in more compact mixed use development
- Supporting new outer metropolitan housing with access to facilities, services and diverse education and employment opportunities

National Rental Affordability Scheme

\$120 million new funding for *Liveable Cities* and *Suburban Jobs* under the *Sustainable Communities* program to invest in planning, design and capital works projects to improve the quality of life in our cities, particularly in outer suburbs and growing major regional cities

Consider best use of Commonwealth owned land to support the supply of housing, improved community amenity and jobs creation through *Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy*

Progress policies and implementation around Commonwealth owned land to support the supply of housing, improved community amenity and jobs creation through *Commonwealth Property Disposals Policy*

Monitor long-term outcomes of the *Liveable Cities* program

Australian Government Initiatives	Current programs and reform areas	Short term (2011–2014)	Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)
<p>10. IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improving transport options – Reducing travel demand by co-location of jobs, people and facilities 	<p>\$40 million for bike paths built under the <i>Economic Stimulus Plan</i></p> <p><i>National Cycling Strategy</i>, which aims to double the number of cyclists between 2011-2016</p> <p>Incorporate active travel into the Department of Infrastructure and Transport portfolio</p>	<p>Continue to roll out the <i>National Broadband Network</i>, which will allow greater telecommuting and flexible work arrangements, complementing the new \$100 million <i>Suburban Local Jobs Program</i></p> <p>Monitor and report on progress toward achieving national cycling target to double the number of cyclists by 2016</p> <p>Work with State/Territory and Local Governments to improve accessibility and mobility in cities including more compact and mixed use development, improved public transport and active transport options, and more efficient use of infrastructure assets</p> <p>Encourage the development of urban areas that promote healthy lifestyles through cycling and walking networks, recreation facilities and high quality public spaces</p>	<p>Implement Government-agreed recommendations of Tax Summit</p> <p>Evaluate achievement of national cycling target to double the number of cyclists by 2016</p> <p>Further consider effective active transport action strategies</p>
<p>11. SUPPORT COMMUNITY WELLBEING BY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Providing access to social and economic opportunity – Improving the quality of the public domain – Improving public health outcomes – Redressing spatially concentrated disadvantage 	<p>Preventative Health Agency established which includes promotion of healthy lifestyles</p> <p>National Compact with the Third Sector to strengthen not-for-profit sector to provide support for people in need</p> <p>Service delivery reform agenda to provide better support for people when they need it</p> <p>Developing strategies to support and expand volunteering, philanthropy and social investment to build community resilience and social inclusion</p> <p>Invested more than \$1 billion to local government authorities through the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program to build and modernise community infrastructure</p>	<p>Develop an <i>Australian Urban Design Protocol</i> and support best practice with industry practitioners</p> <p>Incorporate the need to improve public health outcomes with urban built environment considerations, through the <i>Urban Design Protocol</i></p> <p>Implement <i>Preventative Health Agency</i> programs which include promotion of healthy lifestyles, and <i>National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health</i></p>	<p>Monitor progress and implementation of the <i>Australian Urban Design Protocol</i></p> <p>Monitor outcomes of the Preventative Health Agency, National Partnership Agreement on Preventative Health and other initiatives to support community wellbeing and improved public health, including through the built environment</p>

Australian Government Initiatives	Current programs and reform areas	Short term (2011–2014)	Medium (2014–2017) to Long term (2017–2020)
GOVERNANCE			
12. IMPROVE THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR CITIES BY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Facilitating a whole-of-governments approach – Integrating planning systems, infrastructure delivery and management – Encouraging best practice governance and applying the principle of subsidiarity 	COAG capital city strategic planning systems reform process to have long-term strategic plans by January 2012	Ensuring Commonwealth policies, investment and other activities across government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meet the principles and objectives of the <i>National Urban Policy</i> and COAG reforms – Coordinate across Australian Government agencies – Cooperate and partner with State and local governments, businesses and the community Seek support of States and Local Governments, through COAG, to expand the use of national criteria for capital city strategic planning systems to planning of regional major cities	Continue to progress Commonwealth commitment to ensure whole-of-government policy and investment in cities Monitor implementation and outcomes of city strategic planning system reforms in capital cities and regional major cities
13. STREAMLINE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES BY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of approval processes for development – Encouraging participation and engagement with stakeholders 	Microeconomic reform agenda <i>Local Government Reform Fund</i> Ministerial council on infrastructure and transport to include planning ministers	Establish an <i>Urban Policy Forum</i> to advise on <i>National Urban Policy</i> implementation Continue to provide funding to local government for community infrastructure Work with states and territories to address issues identified in the COAG Reform Council's review of capital city strategic planning systems Support Local Government to undertake reforms to streamline administration and development approvals, and implement strategic spatial planning, in accordance with the <i>National Urban Policy</i> goals and objectives	Monitor progress towards implementation of the <i>National Urban Policy</i> goals and objectives, and report on actions and outcomes Monitor progress towards streamlined administrative processes
14. EVALUATE PROGRESS BY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research, analysis and reporting 	<i>State of Australian Cities 2010</i> report establishes a baseline for reporting	Publish annual updates of <i>State of Australian Cities</i> to track progress in achieving objectives Include research into urban systems, environments and communities into <i>National Research Priorities</i> (NRPs) Produce spatial reports on land use and infrastructure impacts of population and structural change Develop a set of Sustainability Indicators to measure Australia's progress towards more sustainable regional communities with \$10.1 million for a new <i>Measuring Sustainability Program</i>	Annual update of <i>State of Australian Cities</i> report to track the progress of cities in achieving objectives Five yearly update of spatial report on land use and infrastructure