



## Appendix A

# Council of Australian Governments national criteria for cities

COAG has agreed to reforms to ensure our capital cities are well placed to meet the challenges of the future. The COAG Reform Council has been asked to:

- review capital city strategic planning systems against agreed national criteria;
- support continuous national improvement in capital city strategic planning;
- build and share knowledge of best practice planning approaches.

There are nine criteria for future strategic planning of capital cities. These are described below. These criteria will provide the platform to re-shape our capital cities. The criteria are intended to ensure that our cities have robust, transparent and

long-term planning systems in place to manage population and economic growth, address climate change, improve housing affordability and tackle urban congestion.

The Australian Government is working with each of the State and Territory Governments to support improvements in strategic planning, and to share best practice planning approaches. This sharing of knowledge and best practice will not only benefit capital cities; rather, all Australian cities will benefit from this exchange.

The COAG Reform Council's report on the review of capital cities strategic planning systems against the national criteria will be submitted to COAG in December 2011.

### National objective and criteria for future strategic planning of capital cities

#### Objective

*To ensure Australian cities are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable, socially inclusive and well placed to meet future challenges and growth.*

#### Criteria

Capital city strategic planning systems should:

1. Be integrated across:
  - a) functions, including land-use and transport planning, economic and infrastructure development, environmental assessment and urban development;
  - b) government agencies.
2. Provide for a consistent hierarchy of future oriented and publicly available plans, including:
  - a) long-term (for example, 15 to 30 years) integrated strategic plans;
  - b) medium-term (for example, five to 15 years) prioritised infrastructure and land-use plans;
  - c) near-term prioritised infrastructure project pipeline backed by appropriately detailed project plans.
3. Provide for nationally-significant economic infrastructure (both new and upgrade of existing) including:

- a) transport corridors;
  - b) international gateways;
  - c) intermodal connections;
  - d) major communications and utilities infrastructure;
  - e) reservation of appropriate lands to support future expansion.
4. Address nationally-significant policy issues including:
    - a) population growth and demographic change;
    - b) productivity and global competitiveness;
    - c) climate change mitigation and adaptation;
    - d) efficient development and use of existing and new infrastructure and other public assets;
    - e) connectivity of people to jobs and businesses to markets;
    - f) development of major urban corridors;
    - g) social inclusion;
    - h) health, liveability and community wellbeing;
    - i) housing affordability;
    - j) matters of national environmental significance.
  5. Consider and strengthen the networks between capital cities and major regional centres, and other important domestic and international connections.
  6. Provide for planned, sequenced and evidence-based land release and an appropriate balance of infill and greenfields development.
  7. Clearly identify priorities for investment and policy effort by governments, and provide an effective framework for private sector investment and innovation.
  8. Encourage world-class urban design and architecture.
  9. Provide effective implementation arrangements and supporting mechanisms, including:
    - a) clear accountabilities, timelines and appropriate performance measures;
    - b) coordination between all three levels of government, with opportunities for Australian Government and Local Government input, and linked, streamlined and efficient approval processes including under the Australian Government's *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
    - c) evaluation and review cycles that support the need for balance between flexibility and certainty, including trigger points that identify the need for change in policy settings;
    - d) appropriate consultation and engagement with external stakeholders, experts and the wider community.