

Foreword

Like the three that have come before it, this year's State of Australian Cities report provides not just a snapshot of our 18 major cities, but a rich picture of their changing patterns and the effect that these changes have on the lives of the three out of every four Australians that live within them.

Since 2010, these annual reports have provided vital insight into the productivity, sustainability and liveability of our cities. No other document brings together so much up-to-date information about what is happening in our cities and the evolving story of how we live and work.



Not only does this report contain the most recent data on our cities, it also provides a much richer picture than ever before of *where* change is occurring in our cities. Yes, our cities rank well globally. But it is important that we look further to the vastly different landscapes within and between our cities. Access to jobs, commuting times, proximity to public transport, use of renewable compared to traditional forms of energy for our homes and workplaces, and protecting ourselves from the damaging effects of climate change are just some of the public policy issues explored and sometimes explained in these pages. For public policy decision makers and the curious public, there is no better compendium to explain what is going on in our cities today.

This year, the on-line version contains valuable additional data with hundreds of links to maps and more detailed information available from [supplementary online map application](#).

Also this year, each chapter includes case studies which offer the reader insight into how universities, agencies, governments and individuals are helping us manage the myriad of challenges we face every day in our urban areas. My heartfelt thanks to all those who have agreed for their research findings and experiences to be part of this report. It is a privilege to include them in these pages. Finally, thank you to the staff of my department who have produced the State of Australian Cities 2013. I hope interest in it will equal and indeed exceed the editions that have come before it which have been seen now by nearly three million readers.

A body of evidence such as this is the foundation for building more productive, sustainable and liveable Australian cities. I commend it to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Albanese', written in a cursive style.

Anthony Albanese

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy

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