

CITIES REFERENCE GROUP

Terms of Reference - 2018

The Australian Government's *Smart Cities Plan* sets out its vision for our cities and maximising their potential. The Plan will position Australia's cities to succeed in the 21st Century economy, supporting productive, accessible, liveable cities that attract talent, encourage innovation and create jobs and growth.

The Plan includes three pillars: Smart Investment, Smart Policy and Smart Technology. The Government is committed to working with governments, business and the community in each of these areas to capture the opportunities, and address the challenges, faced by Australia's cities now and into the future.

The Smart Cities Plan represents a new framework for cities policy at the federal level. It will guide action across various portfolios to deliver better outcomes for our cities, the people who live in them and all Australians.

PURPOSE

The Cities Reference Group will draw representatives from across industry, the research community and non-government groups. It will provide innovative expert advice to support delivery of the Australian Government's *Smart Cities Plan*. Meetings will be a forum for robust discussion that fosters new thinking, tests ideas and promotes policy leadership.

REMIT

1. To provide advice on current and emerging policy and stakeholder issues for Australia's cities, to help inform delivery of the *Smart Cities Plan*.
2. To bring forward ideas and innovative approaches for the delivery of the *Smart Cities Plan* and City Deals.
3. To advise on opportunities that the Commonwealth could pursue to achieve the objectives of the *Smart Cities Plan*, including opportunities for collaboration with other governments, experts and communities.
4. To help lead and promote a national conversation about the benefits of City Deals and the Smart Cities Plan to Australia's cities, and to contribute the insights gained through this conversation.
5. To provide advice on approaches to monitoring and measuring progress in Australia's cities.

MEMBERSHIP

The Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population is Chair of the Cities Reference Group.

The Reference Group will have members drawn from industry, the research community and non-government organisations. Membership will be at the invitation of the Minister.

The Group will include representatives of a number of organisations – recognising that the ability to draw on networks will enhance the quality of advice to Government.

Membership of the group may also be extended to individuals with expertise in urban issues, at the invitation of the Minister.

Membership will include expertise across the following priority areas:

- infrastructure and investment
- housing affordability
- jobs and skills
- innovation and digital opportunities
- city planning, governance and regulation
- liveability and sustainability.

Where a member resigns from their current representative role, the Minister may invite the organisation to nominate an alternative representative to sit on the Reference Group.

New members may be added to the Reference Group at any time.

OPERATIONS AND GOVERNANCE

The Reference Group will be chaired by the Commonwealth. Meetings will be held three times per year. Out-of-session advice may be sought from the group or individual members as required.

The Cities Division in the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities will provide secretariat support.

Members of the Cities Reference Group will not be remunerated, however, travel costs incurred to attend formal meetings or other activities (subject to prior written agreement by the Department) will be reimbursed.