



**Australian Government**  
**Infrastructure Australia**  
**Major Cities Unit**

# Cities – Complex and Dynamic

Requiring systems thinking

Dorte Ekelund – Executive Director  
Major Cities Unit

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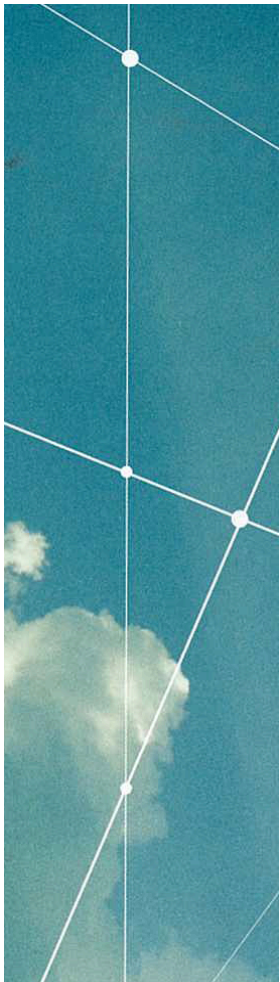
# Outline

- National context
- Government initiatives:
  - Infrastructure Australia and BAF
  - Major Cities Unit
- Transforming our cities
- Questions





# National context



- National leadership in urban systems: a policy vacuum
- Under-investment in infrastructure nationally
- Calls for investment in our cities and improved governance arrangements



“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”

– The Property Council of Australia (May 2002) *Recapitalising Australia's Cities*.



“Well-planned infrastructure that prepares us for the future requires all three levels of government to focus on long-term planning, without turf wars and cost shifting”

– Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (September 2008)  
Submission to Infrastructure Australia





# National Initiatives



- Establishment of:
  - Building Australia Fund
  - Infrastructure Australia
    - Advisory Council
    - Office of Infrastructure Coordinator
  - Major Cities Unit



# National Strategic Priorities



- Expand Australia's productive capacity
- Increase Australia's productivity
- Diversify Australia's economic capabilities
- Build on Australia's global competitive advantages
- Develop our cities and regions
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Improve social equity, and quality of life, in our cities and regions



# Infrastructure Australia – process+features

- Rigorous approach to drive national productivity
- Collaborative approach with industry, government and the community
- Public and private sector on the Board working together in the national interest
- Strong political support
- Longer-term pipeline of projects plus strategic policy agenda





# Infrastructure Australia – City Issues

- Broader emphasis including congestion, liveability, sustainability
- Planning and Governance:  
“A lack of appropriate governance frameworks underlies many planning and infrastructure delivery problems within Australia’s major cities”





# Transforming our Cities



- Major Cities Unit
  - Co-located with Infrastructure Australia
  - Small team of four - leverage
  - Based in Sydney CBD
  - Prime Ministers priorities



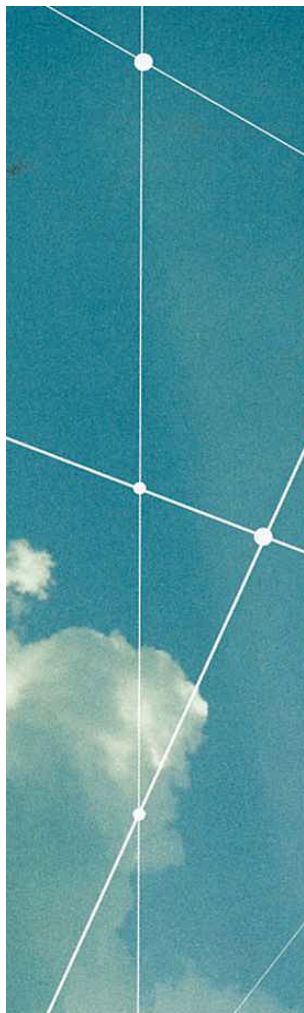
# Transforming our Cities (cont.)



- MCU Strategic Work Program:
  1. Governance and Policy
  2. Engagement and Consultation
  3. Research, Benchmarking and Best practice
  4. Project Funding



# A National Urban Policy



- A long-term strategic framework for the sustainable development of our cities
- Vision: Through good governance, our cities are productive, liveable and sustainable
- Articulate expectations, responsibilities, strategies and actions of governments, the private sector and the community required to transform our urban systems
- Sign-on from the 8 May Local Government and Planning Ministers Council



# National Urban Policy - framework

Where are our cities now?



Where are we going?



Where do we want to be?



How do we get there?



How are we going?



# Themes of a National Urban Policy

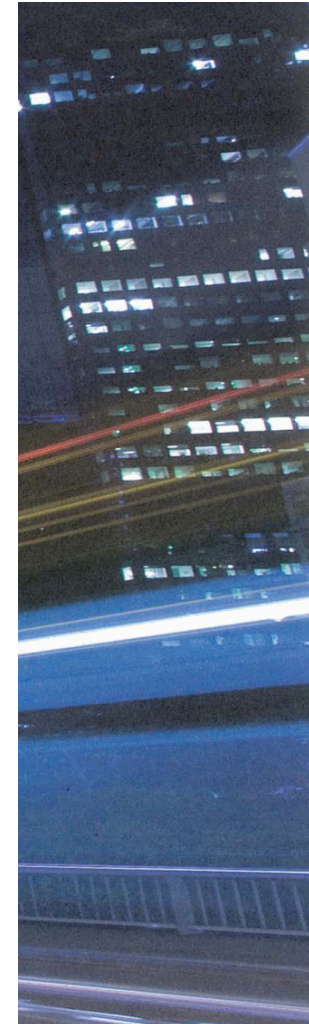
- Population growth and demographic change
- Economy, productivity and innovation
- The pattern of urban settlement
- Transport and infrastructure
- Housing and living affordability
- Health and liveability
- Climate change, water and environment
- Governance





# COAG Taskforce

- Explore best practice planning arrangements for major cities
- Ensure planning arrangements are able to effectively deliver on the broader national urban development policy.
- Report back to COAG by the end of 2009.





# Summary

- Cities are of national importance
- Importance of infrastructure to deliver outcomes in urban systems
- Rigorous and integrated approach to the planning and management of cities





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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of several tall skyscrapers against a clear blue sky. The buildings are made of glass and steel, with many windows visible. The perspective makes the buildings appear to converge towards the top of the frame.

# Questions