



Australian Government

Infrastructure Australia
Major Cities Unit

Governing the Australian metropolis

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International Roundtable on Metropolitan Governance
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Outline



1. Infrastructure Australia and Major Cities Unit
2. Australian context
3. Challenges of city governance in the 21st century
4. Australian Government's new role in cities



National Context

- National leadership in urban systems: “back from the abyss”
- Address under-investment in infrastructure nationally
- Current Government initiatives:
 - Infrastructure Australia and Building Australia Fund
 - Major Cities Unit





Transforming our Cities

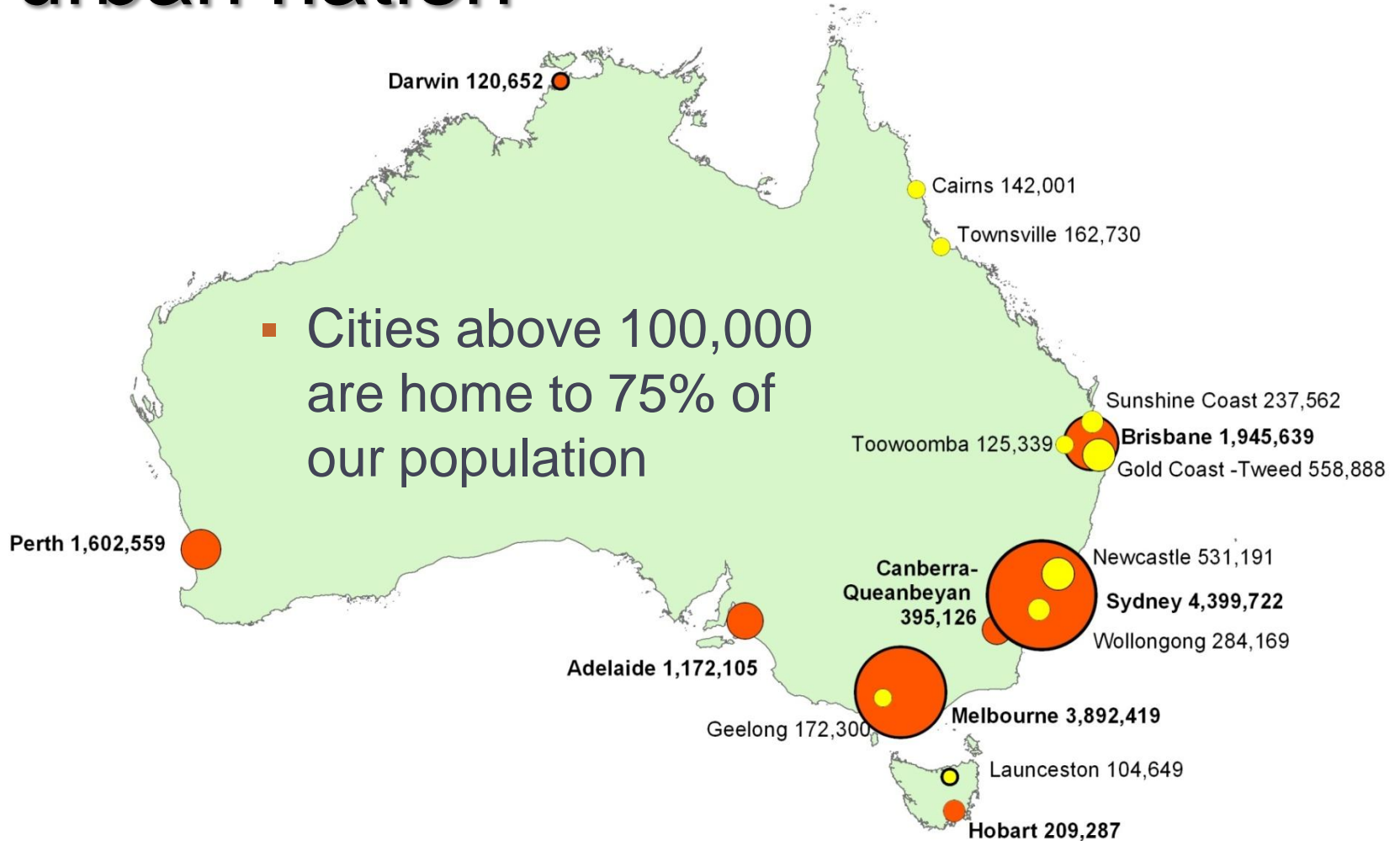
Major Cities Unit

- National view of challenges facing cities
- Co-located with Infrastructure Australia
- Small team using leverage
- Developing national cities strategy



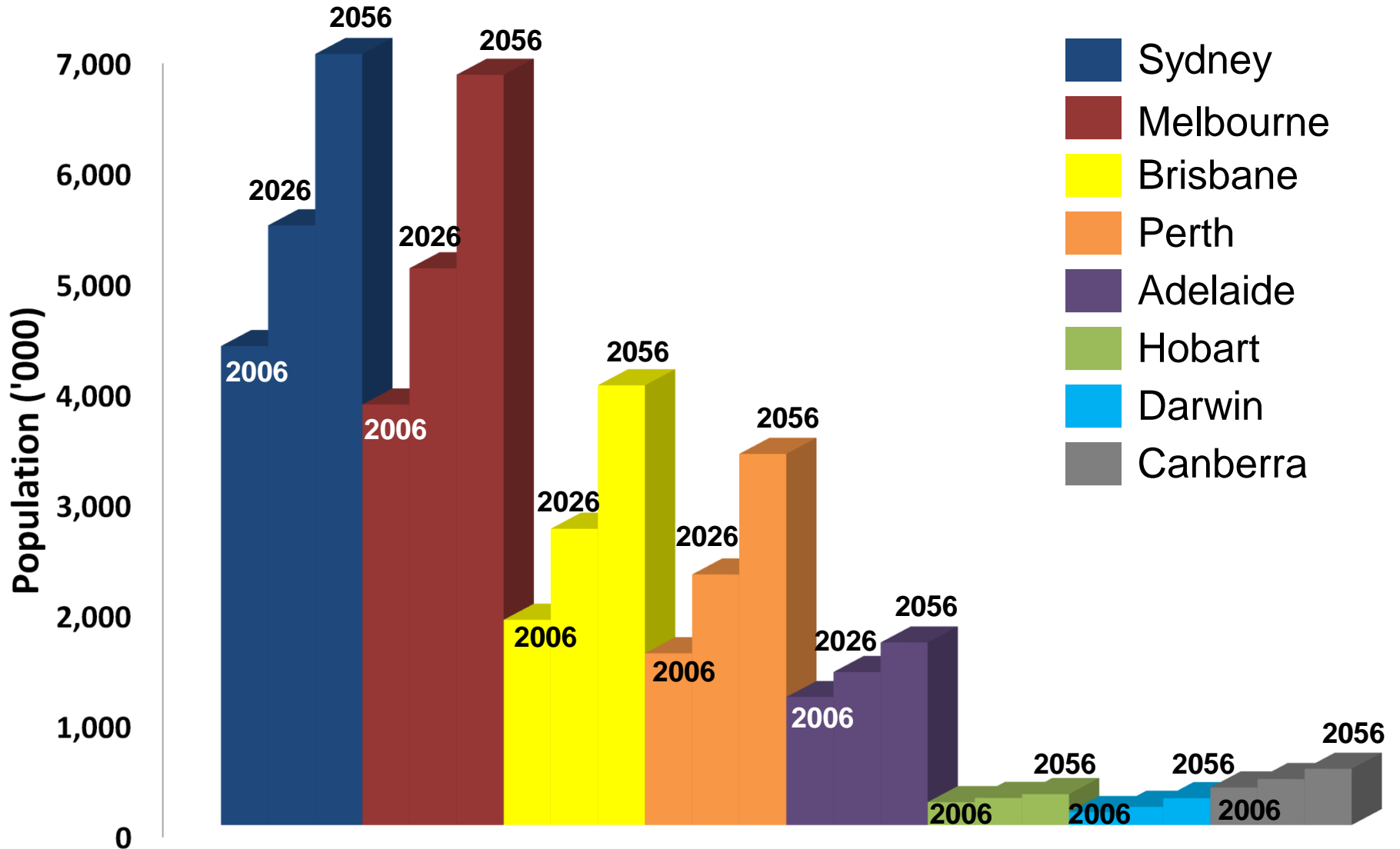


An urban nation





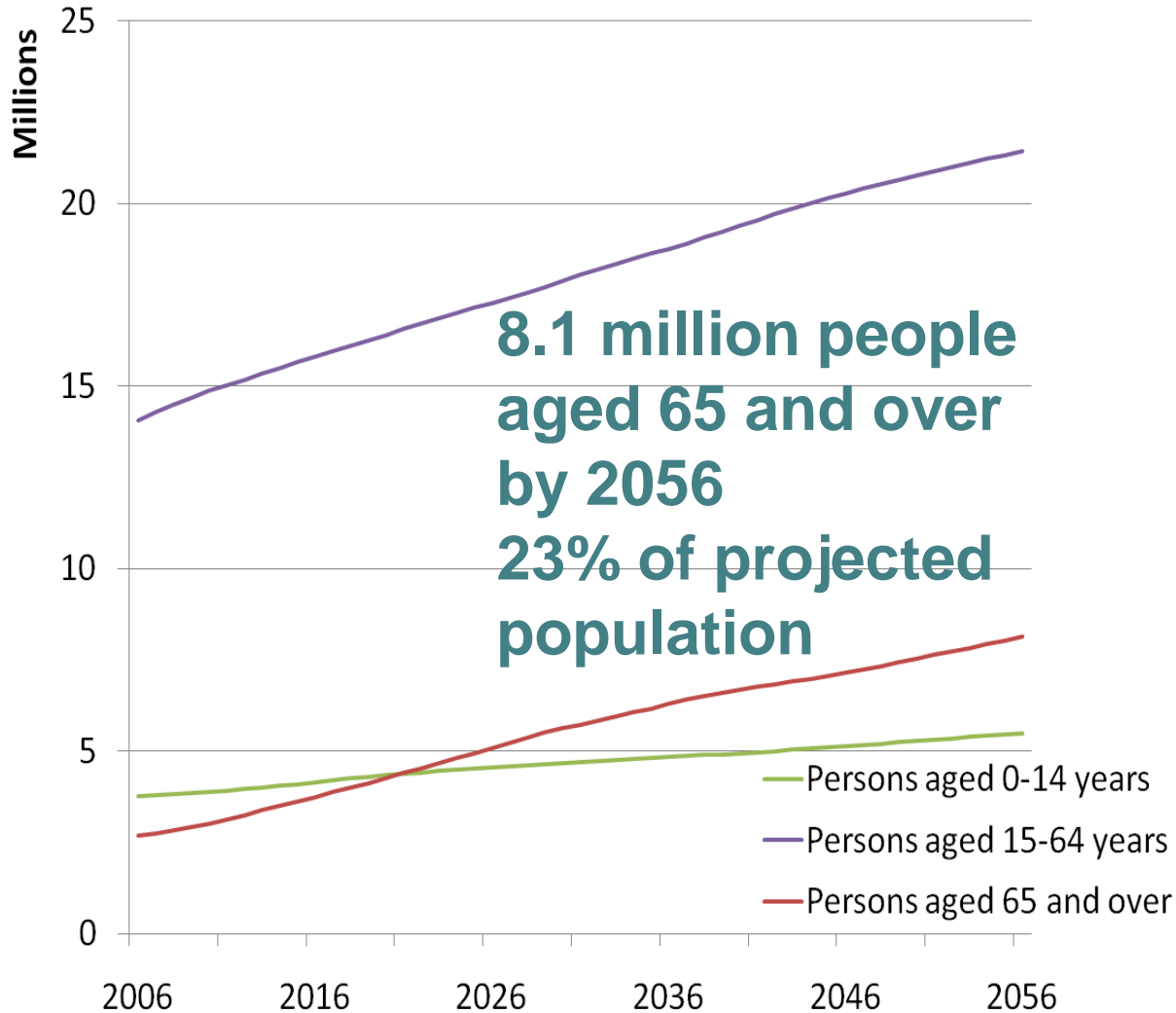
Population forecasts



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) Population Projections 2006-2100. ABS cat 3220.0

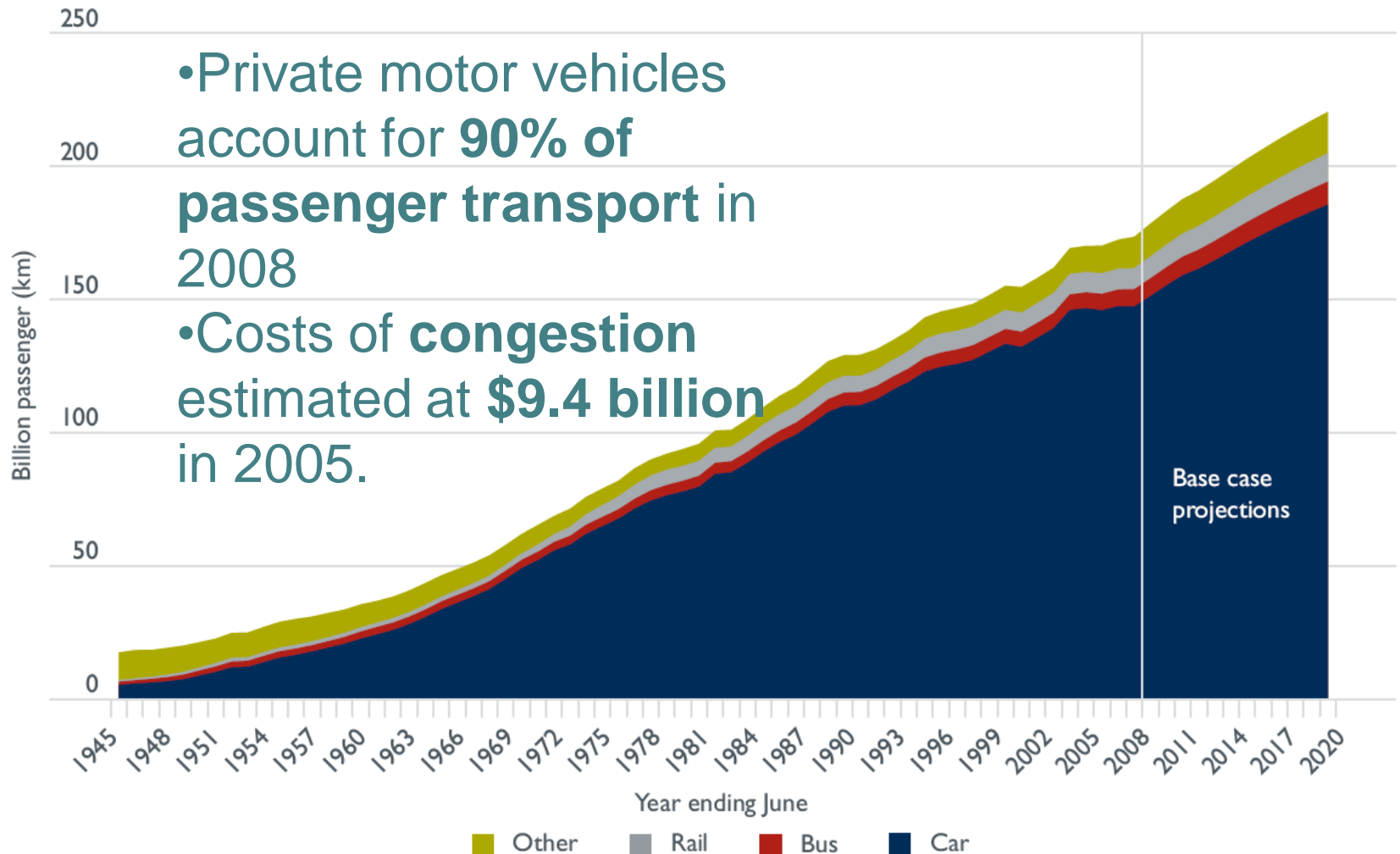


Ageing population





Motorised travel in the eight capital cities





Climate Risks

- Sea level rise
- Heat waves and fire
- Storm events
- Declining rainfall





Urban governance in Australia

1788 -1900

Colonial
cities

1945-1975

Rapid post-
war
expansion

1901 - 1944

Federation of
States and
Territories

1976–2001

Global cities





Urban governance in Australia

- Are we equipped to govern the Metropolis?

Australian Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Tax and transfer system•Immigration•National infrastructure
6 States and 2 Territories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Metropolitan planning•Urban transport•Health, Education, Utilities
565 Local Governments (139 LGAs in Capital cities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Development approval•Roads, rates and rubbish•Local community services and facilities
Regional and other collectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Advocacy•Collaboration





Urban governance in Australia

Capital Cities	Number of LGAs
Sydney	43
Melbourne	31
Brisbane	5
Perth	30
Adelaide	19
Canberra	1
Darwin	3
Hobart	7





Challenges of governance



- Constitutional roles and limitations
 - No prescribed role for Federal government in cities
 - Local government not recognised at all
- Fragmented jurisdictions
 - Many LGAs
 - Multiple agency service boundaries
- Financial constraints
 - Rate capping for local government
- Accountabilities
 - For tied grants
 - For transparent development processes



Governing the Metropolis

“To address this complex, connected set of challenges, and to lift our urban productivity, we must establish new frameworks for how the different levels of government, along with businesses and the community, work together to build better cities and suburbs.”

Prime Minister the Hon. Kevin Rudd

October 2009 speech to Business Council of Australia



Australian cities – a path to reform

Council of Australian Governments COAG

States and Territories

Australian Local
Government
Association

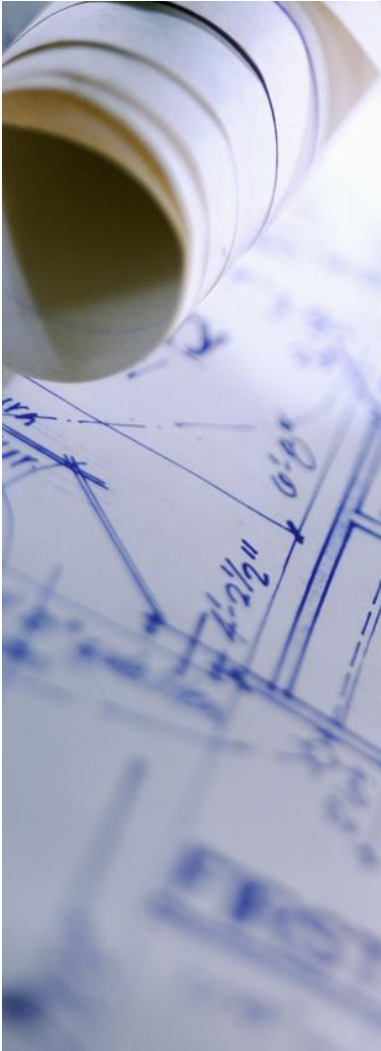
Intergovernmental
and National
Partnership
Agreements

Ministerial councils
Australian Council
of Local
Governments

Working Groups
and
Taskforces



Australian cities – a path to reform



- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed on 7 December 2009 to:
 - National criteria for capital city strategic planning systems
 - to address population and economic growth; climate change, housing affordability & supply, urban congestion
 - State governments to meet criteria by 2012
 - Link federal infrastructure funding to criteria



Principles for governance

- Leadership
 - South-east Queensland
- Co-operation
 - 14 Adelaide Mayors
- Collaboration and resource sharing
 - Council of Capital City Lord Mayors
- Participation
 - Melbourne 2030 consultation
- Accountability and transparency
 - Western Australian Planning Commission





Cities as solutions

“Enlightened and committed political leadership combined with effective urban planning, governance and management that promote equity and sustainability are the critical components to the building of harmonious cities.”

Anna K. Tibaijuka
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-HABITAT)
2009