



# Sustainable Communities Critical Insights

Delivering Services, Building Futures ... Enhancing Lifestyles



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Local government infrastructure is rapidly ageing and fast moving to a point where it will be in dire need of renewal or replacement, as we struggle to cope with the cumulative demands and impacts of coastal migration, development booms or declining populations. There is a real risk that some of our communities will not even be sustainable in the long-term.

Councils everywhere are faced with 3 major challenges:

- *how to meet the increasing demand for new and upgraded infrastructure*
- *how to prolong the life or renew existing infrastructure*
- *how to pay for it.*

There is a clear course of action for all Councils, irrespective of size or location.

1. Elected members need to accept their stewardship responsibilities.
2. Councils must know what their communities can afford. This requires good asset management planning.
3. Councils need to move from annual budgeting to long-term financial planning.

Effective infrastructure management is a whole-of-Council responsibility. Infrastructure and long-term financial planning has to become an essential part of doing business.

There is no better time to start. You need to ensure that your council has a plan to sustainably manage your community.

**IPWEA has produced an informative DVD telling the story and providing critical insights into sustainably managing communities. Contact IPWEA for further details.**