

LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

FACT SHEET 9 SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGIONS

Nationally, local government seeks support for sustainable urban regions through initiatives that address key urban issues such as water, energy efficiency, affordable housing, urban transport, urban design and social cohesion.

Local government calls for national leadership in the area of urban policy to support all cities and towns in Australia.

The majority of Australians live in urban centres. Collectively, cities and towns generate an estimated 80% of Australia's GDP. A national urban policy would have a major impact on the quality of life, economic prosperity and environmental health of all Australians.

Recognition should be given to the role that the Australian Government might play in working with other spheres of government, the private sector and the community towards achieving improved economic, social and environmental outcomes in Australia's major population centres.

Local government seeks a commitment from the Australian Government to work collaboratively with state, territory and local governments, including through funding commitments, on the development and implementation of a national sustainable urban regions program. This program would seek to achieve a wide range of integrated outcomes, including in the following areas:

- Sustainable urban transport including efficient freight, passenger and public transport;
- Water friendly developments, including water reuse, conservation and management;
- Integrated water and stormwater management systems;
- Bushland conservation;
- Sustainable housing and urban land use;
- Community inclusiveness;
- Climate change/energy efficiency;
- Community health/obesity; and
- Housing choice and affordability.

The urban transport position reflects the outcomes of the National Local Roads and Transport Congress Communiqué (July 2007).