



Planning
Institute
Australia



Shaping
Australia's
Future

Through the lens: The tipping point

REPORT 2018

FOREWORDS



The Tipping Point is an initiative of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) to advance a national debate on the future of Australia so our way of life and current standards of living are maintained for future generations.

It follows *Through the lens – Megatrends shaping our future (Journey towards 50 million)* released by PIA in May 2016 which outlined a range of megatrends and population challenges to be addressed as Australia's population grows towards 50 million. It also called on Commonwealth government to lead the development of a coordinated response to address these challenges through the development of a **National Settlement Strategy**.

The recent release of the House of Representatives report on the Australian Government's role in the development of cities – *Building Up and Moving Out* supported PIA's submissions, including our call for the development of a **National Settlement Strategy**. It's crucial that these recommendations are now adopted and implemented to plan for our future and protect our unique liveability.

Whilst there are many ways to judge liveability, one thing is certain, Australian cities regularly feature towards the top of a range of liveability indexes. We are, however, at the **tipping point** – our communities are feeling the pressure like never before.

Instead of having an informed debate on how we should address these challenges and develop a vision for the future of Australia, the debate is often illogical and ill-informed.

A debate which addresses our changing demographics and equity of access to homes, jobs and education – whilst planning for megatrends – is needed.

Australia's politicians should embrace the opportunities the future holds, and map out a plan which is not at the mercy of our short electoral cycles. As **Australia's trusted voice on planning**, PIA stands ready to support and guide our leaders on this journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Nelson'.

Brendan Nelson RPIA (Fellow)
NATIONAL PRESIDENT



The first Commonwealth government Intergenerational Report published in 2002 predicted that Australia's population would surpass 25 million in 2042. In fact, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has estimated that our population surpassed 25 million on 7 August 2018 – some 24 years ahead of the 2002 prediction.

The last one million people were added in just 30 months. That equates to having to accommodate nationally 400,000 new residents a year. At an average household occupancy of 2.6 persons, that translates to 430 new dwellings required to be constructed every day.

Decisions about where and how to house this growth need to be made within a national context, not on an ad hoc basis by the states and territories. That is just one reason why the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) is advocating for the preparation of a **National Settlement Strategy**.

In recent years, around 60 per cent of our population growth has been due to overseas migration while only 40 per cent has been due to births exceeding deaths. Our immigration intake is overseen by the Commonwealth government, and it is the Commonwealth government that the nation should be looking to for guidance and leadership in terms of the preparation of the **National Settlement Strategy**.

PIA is therefore promoting that the Commonwealth government should act as a facilitator and bring the states and territories together to jointly formulate a **National Settlement Strategy** with input from all relevant stakeholders. That includes local government, the private sector, not-for-profit organisations and the Australian community.

The Commonwealth government has a responsibility to establish the framework for how Australia tackles the challenges being presented by global megatrends and how we enhance the sustainability and liveability of our cities and regions. The **National Settlement Strategy** is that framework.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. O'Connor'.

Steve O'Connor RPIA (Fellow)
NATIONAL PRESIDENT – ELECT

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PIA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. We honour Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to place.



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Flinders Street
Platform 5 Now
Platform 6 1 min
Platform 1 4 min
Platform 3 8 min
NEXT TRAIN VIA
City Loop
Take next train to
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and change to
City Loop train

PL 9/10 LILYDALE & BELGRAVE
PL 9/10 GLEN WAVERLEY & ALAMEIN
FOR ALAMEIN CHANGE AT CAMBERWELL

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Richmond Station



Destinations	Now
4 Fochabean	
6 Peterhead	3
1 Sandhillham	3
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8 Belgrave	7
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“ Our states, territories and local governments are trying to plan for a future where we all have different views about our common future.

Our collective coverage of plans looks like a patchwork quilt. ”

– Darren Crombie RPIA,
PIA Board Member

In August 2018, Australia reached the halfway point on its journey towards 50 million – a milestone expected to be passed late in this century. Like all journeys, there will be challenges, opportunities and rewards along the way.

Some are already becoming apparent.

Australia has cities and regions that are admired the world over – energetic, innovative and diverse. We have a booming tertiary education and services sector, and a reputation as a clean and green agricultural producer. We're well placed and located to capitalise on the Asian Century. But we lack a national plan to protect the things we value in a rapidly changing world where jurisdictional boundaries mean less and globalisation is the new norm.

Australian cities often rank highly in international liveability indexes, but there are emerging trends that need to be addressed to ensure our cities' reputation for liveability and amenity is maintained and enhanced.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index 2017 found the number of Australians experiencing job strain is increasing, and our work-life balance is among the worst of all OECD member nations. Long-term unemployment has doubled since 2007, housing costs (as a proportion of disposable income) have risen, and Australia's household debt levels are among the worst in the OECD.

The litmus test of change in liveability for most Australians is equity of access and fairness in housing, employment and education, along with the protection of the environment and character of the places we call home. As foundations of our society, they are often tested and highlighted during periods of accelerated growth.

Expensive housing, road congestion, poorly networked public transport, environmental threats, and overcrowded schools and hospitals are now commonplace in our largest cities.

Urban sprawl built on the back of a car-centric suburbia has left many people isolated from community facilities and work. And while Sydney and Melbourne head towards global megacity status, some of our regions are going backwards, hastening the development of a two-tiered Australia.

In a world where cities and regions compete across national borders, it is vital that Australia pursues every avenue to sustain and improve the productivity and liveability of its cities and regions.

Analysis by PIA of all 57 regional plans across Australia suggests we are planning for a population of around 39 million sometime before mid-century.

However, there is no consistency in how these plans address growth hotspots or respond to the factors identified in PIA's 2016 report *Through the lens – Megatrends shaping our future*. Nor is there a nationally consistent view on what Australia should look like over the next 50 years.

Strategic urban and regional planning largely falls to state and territory governments, and local government – despite the influence that federal government decision-making has on the growth and shape of every Australian city. This imbalance fails to recognise the impact of Commonwealth policies and investments on the country's overall growth and urban development. As a result, federal government policy has become “spatially blind” and the Commonwealth is influencing the shape of our cities and regions unintentionally.

There is a growing sense in Australia that we are at a tipping-point – that the liveability and functionality of our communities is being eroded.

Surveys of popular issues consistently highlight living conditions, access to housing and work, and safety as key concerns across Australia.

There is no rational discussion on Australia's trajectory towards becoming a nation dominated by several megacities or potential alternatives.

To effectively address the scale of our growth and challenges, all levels of government need to agree on a consolidated spatial planning approach with clear lines of sight and responsibility.

This is why PIA is championing a National Settlement Strategy. This is the only way we can have confidence that the liveability of our cities for future generations will be planned and not ad hoc.

A NATIONAL SETTLEMENT STRATEGY WOULD PROVIDE CONTEXT FOR QUESTIONS LIKE:

- What is the scale of growth we are working towards, and in what time frame?
- What should be the future distribution of our population?
- What kind of jobs should we plan for?
- What infrastructure is needed and how do we pay for it?

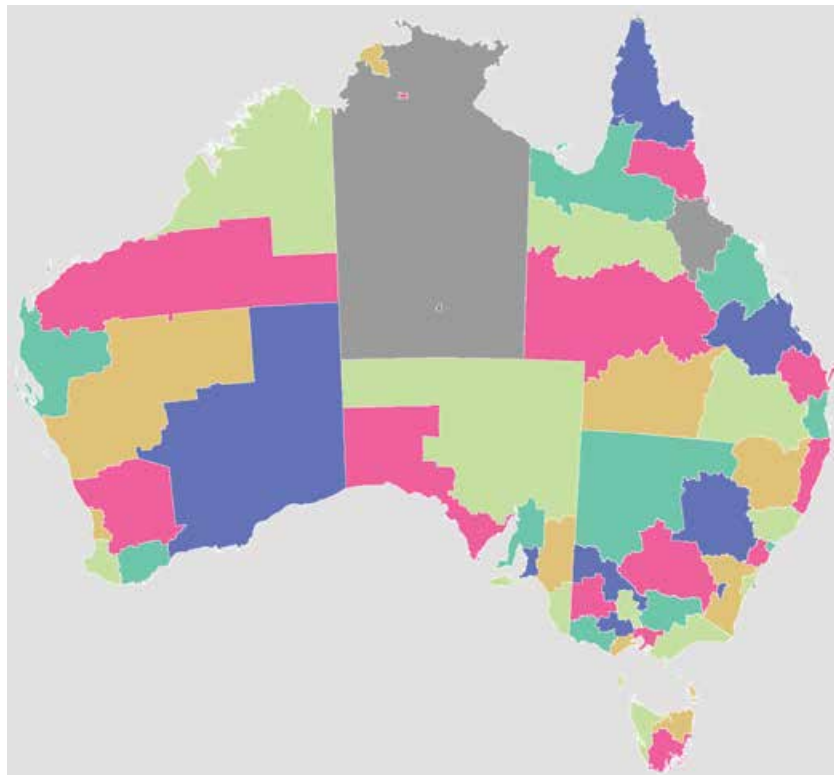


FIGURE 1: Regional Plan boundaries, June 2018. Aggregation of regional plans is not a national settlement strategy.

“A national settlement plan would focus on how we grow, not how much we grow, and it would allow us to plan beyond political and budgetary cycles.”

– Philip Davies, former CEO of Infrastructure Australia.
Speech, 25 June 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“ Australians pride themselves on the liveability of our cities. However, this is being eroded in the absence of clear strategies at a national level for managing and planning population growth. ”

– Ray Haeren MPIA,
Urbis WA Regional Director

HOW A NATIONAL SETTLEMENT STRATEGY WOULD HELP

Current and future growth challenges will be handled more effectively if planners are given a stronger national mandate to prepare for growth and change.

A National Settlement Strategy will vest greater public confidence in the ability of policy-makers to improve the liveability and performance of our cities. It will provide a strong basis for integrating regional city growth with the national and global economies. It will also uncouple the public discussion on Australia's future from a narrow debate on immigration numbers.

A strategy with clear outcomes for places will also help join up investment opportunities across government and the private sector, ensuring better delivery sequencing while lifting returns on investment.

It will ensure that infrastructure planning and delivery is guided by what is in the long-term national interest rather than being based on political considerations or the outcome of a narrowly focussed benefit-cost ratio (BCR) analysis.

FIRST STEPS

PIA's call for a National Settlement Strategy has recently been endorsed by a federal parliamentary committee inquiring into the Australian government's role in the development of cities.

The report by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities, entitled *Building Up and Moving Out* and tabled on 17 September 2018, made 37 recommendations.

The first steps proposed by PIA and endorsed in *Building Up and Moving Out* include:

- A national urban forum hosted by the Commonwealth government;
- Establishing a Ministerial Planning Council supported by a National Chief Planner;
- Securing national agreement on consistency across our regional plans regarding population projections, housing and employment projections and planning horizons; and
- Preparing a National Settlement Strategy – including an audit of current policy impacting cities and regions.

A National Settlement Strategy will express the goals, hopes and aspirations our communities have for themselves and the future of Australia. It will be informed by sound evidence based on research and not political ideologies.

Depending on the vision that emerges, it should include or provide:

- An expression of long-term growth and liveability outcomes – nationally and for states and regions;
- Outcomes of an audit of the spatial implications of Commonwealth policies impacting cities and regions (e.g. tax settings, infrastructure investment);
- Performance measurement of benchmarks/indicators that respond to a new vision for growth and the performance of places and communities with respect to health, wellbeing and liveability, breadth and depth of the labour market, education attainment and physical and digital connectivity;
- Context for a national population policy;
- Thirty-year plus population, housing and job targets for priority implementation in the states and regions; and
- A clarification of institutional settings for managing growth in places – recognising Constitutional roles.

It is increasingly apparent – to planners and the community alike – that governments need to work with public, private, non-profit and community stakeholders to better address important economic, social, and environmental planning challenges.

A National Settlement Strategy will be the vehicle for achieving this coordinated and integrated approach.

It will provide the sense of purpose and vision Australia needs to deal with the challenges on its journey to 50 million – and it will ensure we go on creating productive, sustainable and liveable places through active engagement, design excellence, and collaborative leadership.



The City of Brimbank Local Government Area, west of Melbourne.

PIA'S GOALS WIN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT

The September 2018 findings of the inquiry into the Australian government's role in the development of Cities conducted by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities backed all six of the major recommendations PIA included in its official submission.

The committee, drawn from all sides of politics, was unanimous in its recommendations.

The committee members were: John Alexander OAM (chairman), Sharon Bird (deputy chair), Warren Entsch, Andrew Gee, Andrew Giles, Emma McBride, Cathy McGowan, Ted O'Brien, Ann Sudmalis, Andrew Wallace, and Trent Zimmerman.

THE NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

Labor

LIBERAL



1 Development
of National
Settlement
Strategy



2 Infrastructure
funding alignment
to National
Settlement
Strategy



3 Appointment
of National
Chief Planner




4 Spatial review
of Commonwealth
policies



5 COAG
recognition
of Strategic
Planning



6 City Deal
realignment to
National Settlement
Strategy (including
regions)



The national plan of settlement must set out a vision for our cities and regions for the next 50 years and beyond. It must take account of the fact that Australia's cities and regions are not sustainable in their current form.

– John Alexander

The scope and complexity of the challenges of growth require a reconfiguration of our understanding of our cities and their relationship with surrounding regions. Managing these challenges requires a national vision – a national plan of settlement.

– John Alexander

This is a good, substantive report that contains a strong evidence-based plan for how to solve the many problems of our settlement.

– John Alexander

We are at a turning point right now. The evidence is clear. It is now time for action on this critically important policy area that affects Australians every day of their lives.

– John Alexander

Previous reports by this Committee have received delayed and token responses from the Department; I strongly recommend this one is given the consideration that it richly deserves.

– John Alexander

The governing of Australia is at its best when representatives from both sides can come together to determine the facts and deduce the best course of action in consideration of only one thing, the wellbeing of the Australian people now and in the future.

– John Alexander

TOWARDS A TIPPING POINT

Major hospital
had 'no further
'resuscitation'

Migration to Australia hits record

The Sydney Morning Herald

Sydney's growth
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SA pleads for migration

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Davies urges U-turn on planning cities

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LIVEABILITY: THE TIPPING POINT

LIVEABILITY: THE TIPPING POINT

Australian cities are widely regarded as some of the world's most liveable cities. Liveability indexes¹ frequently rate Australian cities highly, based on factors including climate, access to nature, and health care. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Better Life Index 2017 ranked Australia top for civic engagement out of 36 OECD countries, and very high in housing, health, education and the environment².

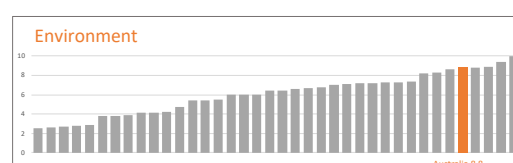
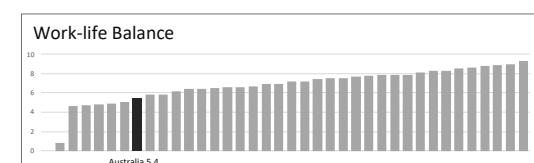
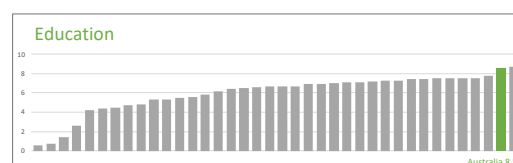
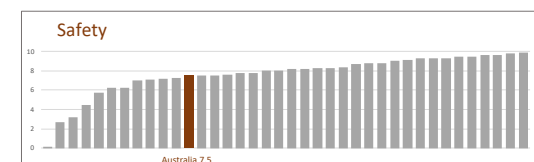
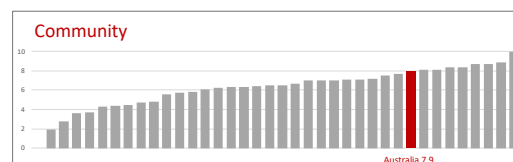
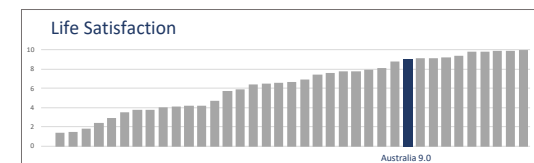
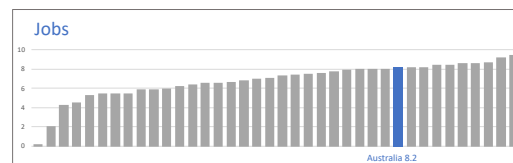
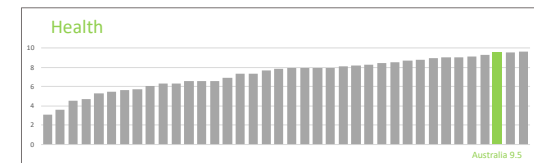
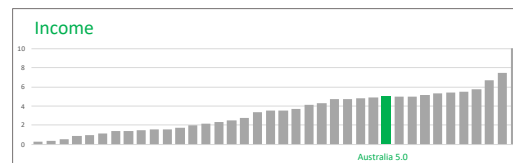
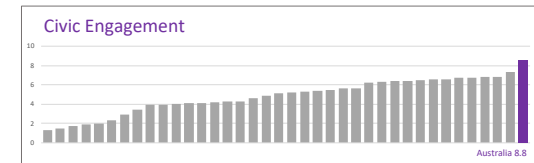
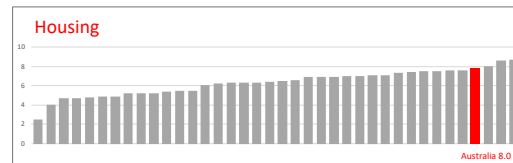
There have, however, been some worrying trends emerge over the last decade which need to be addressed to protect and enhance our liveability. The number of people experiencing job strain is increasing; labour market insecurity remains high, and long-term unemployment has doubled since 2007. Housing costs (as a proportion of disposable income) have also risen, and household debt is some of the worst in the OECD³.

Australia is below the OECD average in terms of work-life balance: Australian full-time employees reported having 30 minutes less time off per day (i.e. time spent on leisure and personal care) than those in other OECD countries, and more than 13 per cent of employees regularly worked 50 hours or more per week in 2016. In terms of personal security, only 64 per cent of Australians felt safe walking alone at night, which is in the bottom third of OECD countries⁵.

As one of the world's most urbanised countries, with unprecedented levels of growth in recent years, many of our communities are at the tipping point, and our liveability is being challenged unlike any time in recent memory.

Responding to this challenge requires a coordinated and national approach to the planning of our cities and regions. This can't be left to individual jurisdictions alone – it requires leadership to guide and shape the future liveability of Australia.

OECD BETTER LIFE INDEX 2017



MANAGING AUSTRALIA'S GROWTH

With a large land area and a federated governance model, Australia relies on a multitude of planning frameworks to drive economic development and deliver infrastructure and urban services.

Responsibility for infrastructure, employment planning and service delivery generally rests with the states, territories and local governments. The Commonwealth's involvement is limited mostly to funding, and while it has sometimes engaged in urban planning, its involvement has waxed and waned.

Strategic planning in Australia is generally comprehensive at a local, city and regional level, but it lacks consistency of purpose and approach. A stark reminder of this is that there is no one single definition of a "house".

Questions around where best to direct future population growth are rarely canvassed because there is no nationally endorsed position.

The highest level of strategic planning currently existing in Australia is generally at the regional level. PIA has analysed and mapped the coverage and attributes of the 57 regional plans across Australia to determine the extent to which they address growth and the emerging challenges facing our nation in the 21st century. Apart from large areas in the Northern Territory and Townsville, everywhere else in Australia is covered by a regional plan. Together, the plans assume a total population around 39 million at some time before 2050.

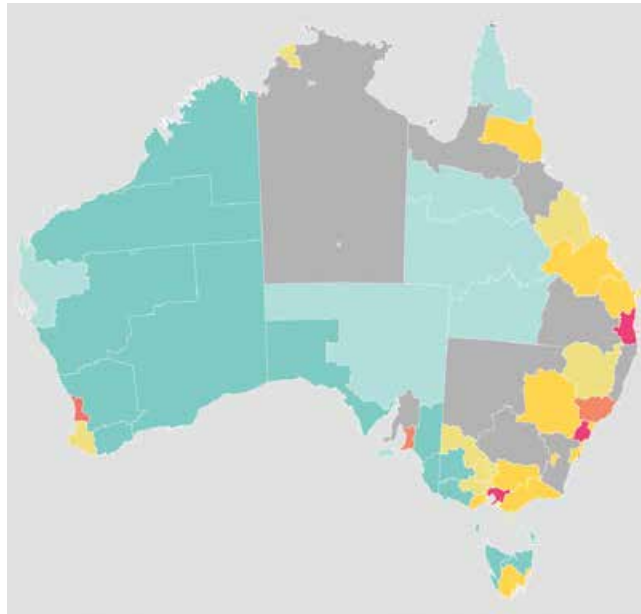


FIGURE 2: Regional Plan population projections

Most regional plans nominate population (and in many cases housing) growth targets, but they sometimes fail to consider changes in employment patterns, what our future jobs growth will look like, and where jobs should be located. They also fail to plan for the implications of decisions on immigration – not surprisingly since the states have no say in such decisions.

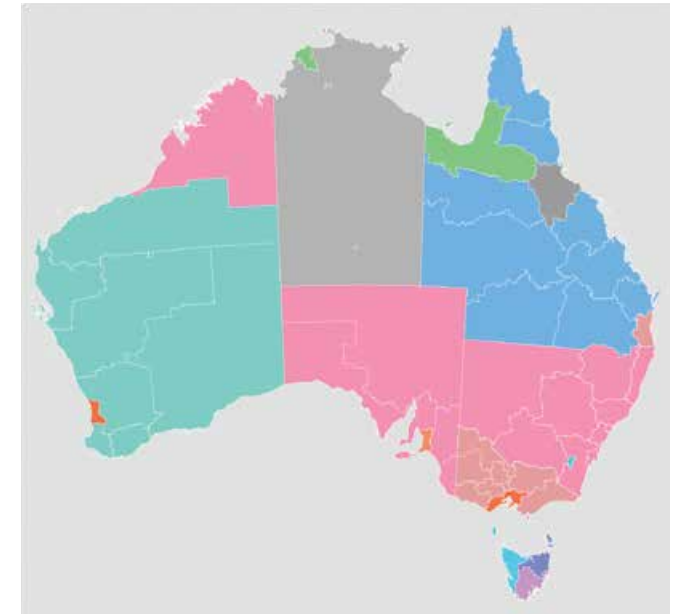


FIGURE 3: The end dates for regional plans vary widely, from 2020 (green) to 2050 (orange)

The states and territories also are using different time horizons for population and jobs growth – and even within states there is inconsistency on key inputs like population horizons and time frames.

At present, there are 11 different planning horizons for regional plans in Australia.

We cannot shape our national growth and development effectively if our regional plans have different end points.

LIVEABILITY: THE TIPPING POINT

NO CONSISTENT NATIONAL DIRECTION ON GROWTH

The different regional plans across Australia are not speaking to each other at a national scale, and nor can they when there is no clear vision for the future of Australia. The result is that infrastructure and service provision are not always tied to the demands of population growth and social change, resulting in significant community fatigue and frustration at the lack of alignment of integrated planning.

This is a symptom of a disconnect in the “line of sight” whereby plans for a place are influenced by the parameters set by the plans above them. At a global and national scale, plans should be influencers and identifiers of change so that regional strategic planning and infrastructure investment is effective. In Australia, there is no coherent guidance on how regional and local plans should respond to growth and emerging megatrends and the resulting impacts on our liveability. The line of sight necessary for good planning is obscured – and it needs to be addressed.

Although the Commonwealth is accountable for collecting most government revenue – and employment, finance and health statistics – it is not accountable for the success of “places”.

Australia is not planning effectively for megatrends or responding to the international agreements that the Commonwealth has entered into such as the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

State, territory and local governments are best equipped to deliver services and infrastructure on the ground.

However, their lack of financial independence and the nature of Commonwealth revenue disbursement limits their capacity to undertake comprehensive and long-term planning. This weakness is exacerbated by the absence of a planning framework that aligns all stakeholders with Australia’s larger strategic goals.

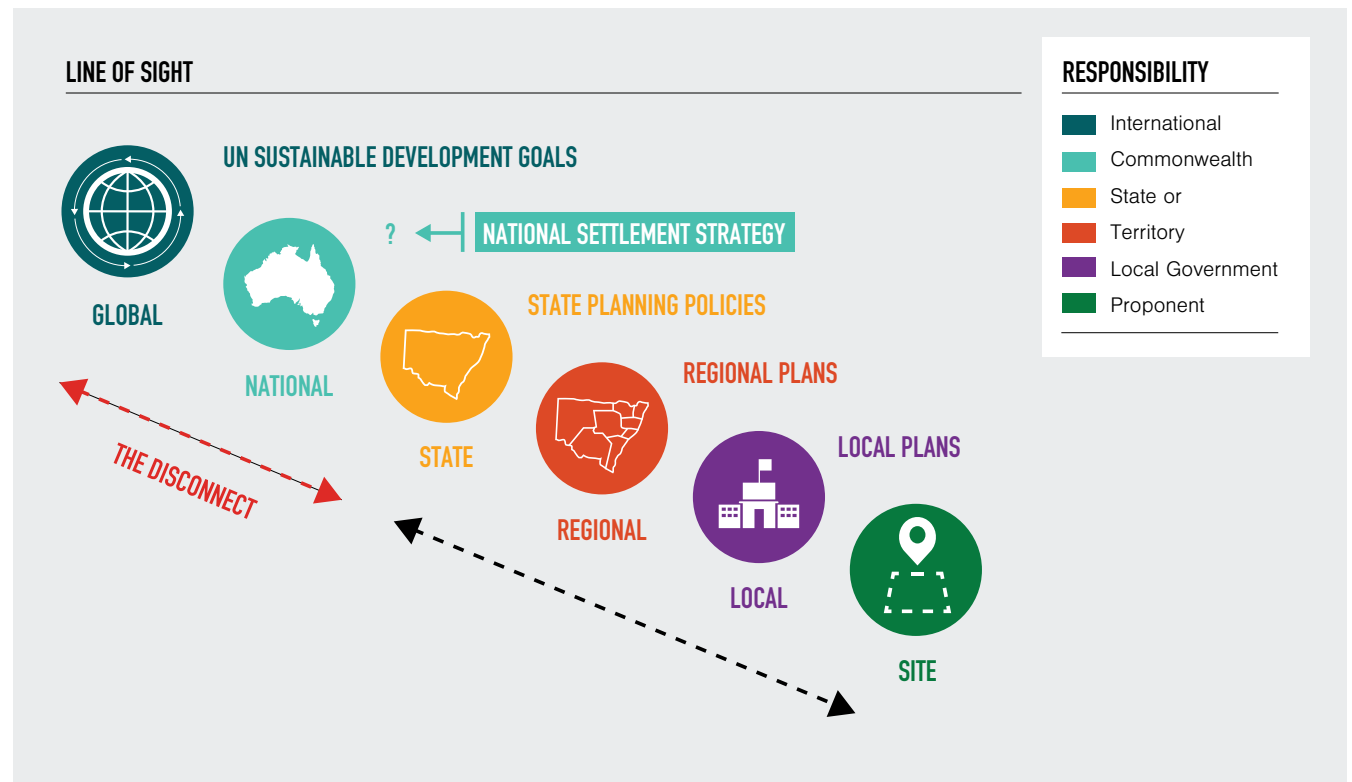


FIGURE 4: Line of sight highlighting the disconnect at a national level.

NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES BENEFIT COMPARABLE COUNTRIES

The attractiveness of cities as national or international centres of excellence in health, education, industry and technology has seen cities expand rapidly in size and population since the 1970s. More recently, the growth of the service economy has further fuelled urban concentration⁴.

To alleviate the housing stress, congestion, pollution, and social problems that now frequently distinguish large cities – and to achieve more balanced and sustainable spatial development – many countries have prepared and implemented national planning frameworks. National urban policies are also useful for implementing global agendas and agreements on sustainable development goals, climate change and disaster resilience strategies.

Historically, the Commonwealth has largely refrained from implementing explicit or integrated city policies, except to fund inter-city road and rail connections.

An international review prepared for the United Nations⁵ (with a contribution from RMIT University's Professor of Urban Policy, Jago Dodson MPIA) found that actively pursuing a national urban agenda to develop and implement a coherent set of policies on the challenges of growth and urbanisation was a common approach across most countries.

Indeed, Australia's limited engagement in national spatial planning makes it unusual compared to many other developed countries around the world.

Germany – which, like Australia, has a federated political structure – has a well-developed and highly integrated spatial planning system. Although its power over urban affairs is constitutionally limited, Germany's federal government cooperates closely with the states, districts, and municipalities to manage growth and improve equity through a national urban development policy. The national planning model is underpinned by principles of subsidiarity, strong civic engagement, and goals to improve urban design and build innovative cities.

South Korea's Comprehensive Nation Territorial Plan first implemented in 1972 (and now on its fourth revision), focussed almost entirely on economic development.

Later iterations, however, have concentrated on promoting regional growth, preserving natural environments, and promoting spatial equalisation. The latest national territorial plan promotes competitive economic bases in peripheral areas while managing economic and social problems.

Germany and Korea offer valuable lessons for Australia on how national spatial planning and policy-making can enhance economic development, tackle inequality, deliver better infrastructure, and create world-class places.



Germany and South Korea are exemplars in their use of national planning frameworks to deal with growth and urbanisation challenges.

LIVEABILITY: THE TIPPING POINT

WHO IS ACCOUNTABLE FOR MANAGING LONG-TERM GROWTH IN CITIES AND REGIONS?

Accountability for the strategic planning of places currently falls to state, territory and local governments. They also fund and deliver the widest range of infrastructure and services either directly or in partnership with the private sector and the Commonwealth.

Local government is a critical partner in regional planning – and a major player in the integrated planning, funding and delivery of local infrastructure, and the rezoning and assessment of development proposals.

The Commonwealth is not primarily accountable for the planning and performance of cities and regions as “places”. But it influences the conditions and environments of those places for the individuals using them.

It is imperative that a future model which involves all tiers of government be adopted in Australia. The creation of a National Settlement Strategy doesn't supersede or replace the role of state, territory and local governments – instead it gives them clarity, guidance and direction such that policy “line of sight” can be achieved.



“Councils see the issues first hand but don't have the powers to resolve them. We need leadership and partnership at both state and federal levels.”

– Australian Local Government Association President David O'Loughlin. *Fairfax Domain*, September 2018

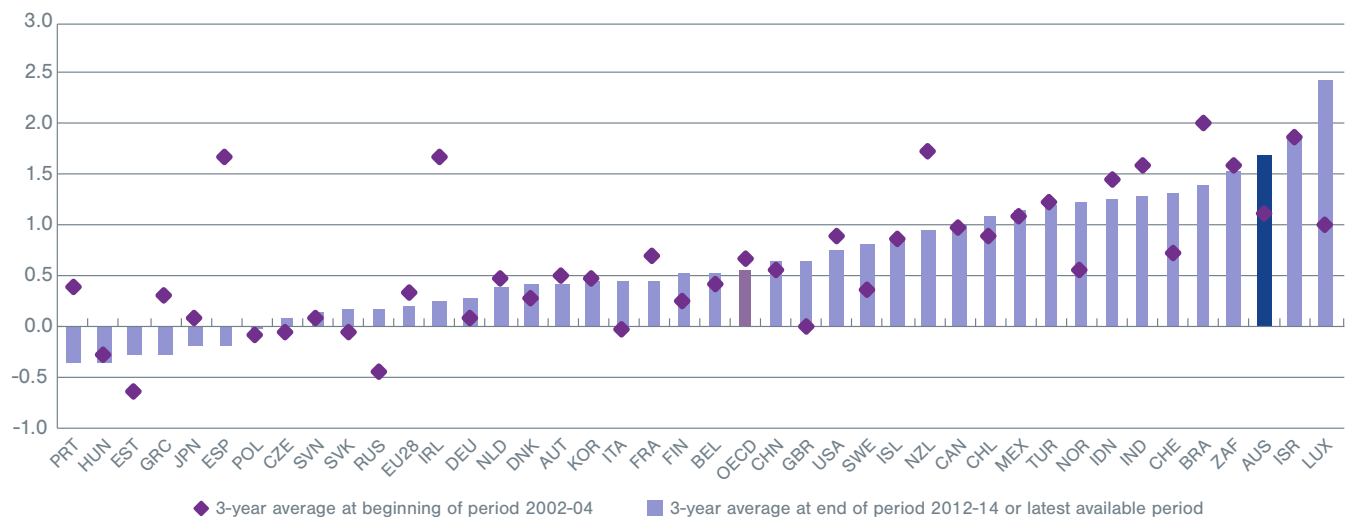


FIGURE 5: OECD Population Growth Rates



LIVEABILITY: THE TIPPING POINT





CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

“Our current level of migration is about right – but we cannot ignore the reality that communities are feeling growing pressures on local services and infrastructure.”

– NSW Premier
Gladys Berejiklian.
Speech, 3 May 2018



POPULATION

WHAT POPULATION ARE WE PLANNING FOR?

Australia's population reached 25 million in August 2018, some 24 years before the Australian Bureau of Statistics⁶ predicted (in 2000) this milestone would be reached.

With an average annual growth rate of 1.6 per cent, Australia has the third fastest growing population of any OECD country of more than 10 million people, well ahead of China, India, Indonesia and Brazil⁷.

Depending on natural fertility rates, net overseas migration, and death rates, Australia's population is expected to increase to between 36.8 million and 48.3 million by 2061⁸.

Whilst there is much debate on population growth and related immigration rates, one thing is clear – significant increases in education and health-related expenditure over the next 30-40 years will challenge our liveability like never before.

While immigration levels are a bone of contention in Australia, net overseas migration (NOM) has an important impact on the age distribution of our population. Migrants, on average, are younger than the resident population, thereby reducing the average age of the population and slowing the rate of population ageing.

NOM boosts the proportion of the population that is of working age and raises aggregate workforce participation, whilst increasing economic growth and improving Australia's ability to fund significant increases in education and health-related expenditure. A comprehensive National Settlement Strategy and associated national policies would enhance immigration's overwhelmingly positive contribution to Australia's future growth and development.

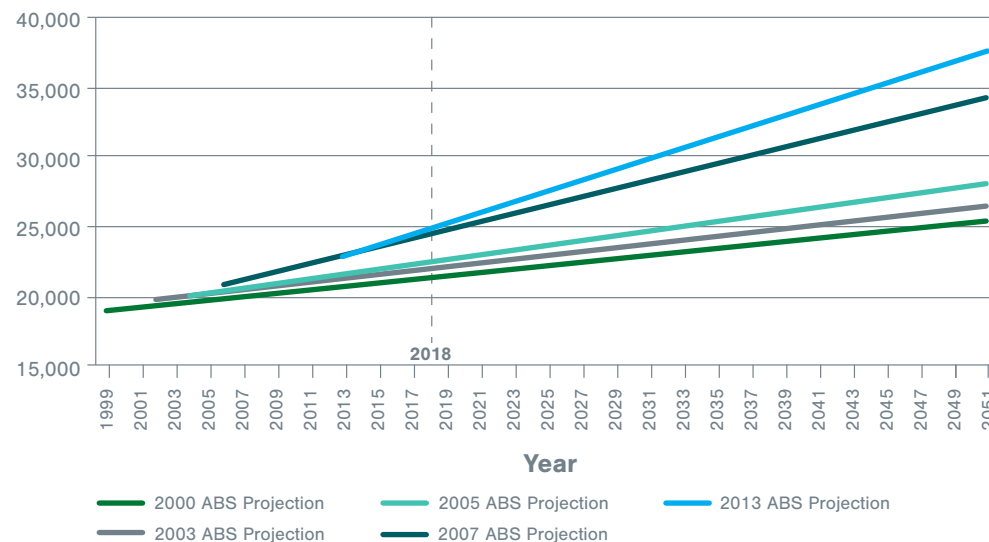


FIGURE 6: ABS population projections have regularly underestimated actual growth over the past 20 years.



WHERE WILL IT BE LOCATED?

In 2016-17, the combined population of Australia's "Greater Capital Cities" grew by 315,700 people (1.9 per cent), accounting for 81 per cent of the country's total population growth. Regional Australia grew at 0.9 per cent, adding 72,467 people in the same period. But many of our regions are experiencing population decline⁹. At this rate, Greater Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth will account for more than two-thirds of Australia's population by 2031¹⁰.

The populations of Greater Sydney and Greater Melbourne are each expected to top eight million around mid-century, close to Bangkok's current population of 8.2 million.

Large cities are key drivers of services, jobs and innovation – and while some small centres are linked to the growth of major cities, others grow or decline due to unique factors.

Many countries internationally have policies in place to reduce the dominance and growth of their biggest cities. The national governments of Britain and France are both trying to create large metropolitan areas in the regions as a counterweight to the dominance of London and Paris.

Efforts by the Commonwealth and states to entice people out of the bigger cities has been piecemeal and sporadic. The forces creating major urban concentrations are strong – and a clear understanding of how targeted decisions can address this trend for specific centres is vital to avoid unproductive investment.

It is important to ensure that any strategies to share the growth in our population do not exacerbate or worsen standards of liveability or widen social disadvantage.

“Get the planning wrong and you risk overwhelming existing infrastructure and services, reducing quality of life and planning an expensive game of catch-up for years to follow.”

– *The Courier Mail*,
Brisbane. Editorial,
June 8, 2018

WHAT WILL BE ITS CHARACTERISTICS?

Australians will continue to have one of the longest life expectancies in the world. By mid-century, life expectancy at birth is projected to be 95 years for men and 96 years for women. Often seen as the exception in the late 20th century, the number of centenarians is projected to be around 40,000¹¹.

Our population is expected to have double the number of people aged over 65 in 2055 compared to this decade¹².

While strong growth is also expected in younger age groups, this is dependent on fertility and overseas immigration factors. This impacts on our “dependency ratio” – the number of very young and old relative to those of working age.

Given current population projections, the total dependency ratio could reach around 60 per cent by 2046 and continue to rise¹³. This is around 10 per cent higher than the current ratio, and will have important implications for government revenue, community services and lifestyle.

By 2031, Millennials (also known as Gen Y, Gen Z and Gen Alpha) are expected to account for 66 per cent of the population – boosting demand for apartment living, communal and collaborative spaces, active urban lifestyles, and public transport.

There is no clear indication of when Australia’s overall population will stabilise, and at what size. Our population does not stabilise under the ABS’s current high fertility/low mortality/high immigration assumptions, however it could begin to plateau late this century under more modest growth-rate assumptions.

The sum of the population growth projections used in the 57 regional plans across Australia analysed by PIA is around 39 million. However, there is no visibility on how we are planning our regions beyond this, and little consistency in the planning horizon for our regions.

Without a coherent approach to accounting for the distribution of future growth, all jurisdictions will be disadvantaged when making resource allocation decisions and planning for basic enabling infrastructure.

The 2016 PIA report *Through the lens – Megatrends shaping our future* identifies in more detail the population and emerging megatrends that will need to be addressed to maintain our liveability and ensure that we are ready to meet the challenges of the 21st century.



CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

Key workers – such as teachers, nurses, ambulance officers, fire/emergency workers, and police – are increasingly being locked out of home ownership.

– The University of Sydney. Key Worker Housing Affordability in Sydney report, January 2018



HOUSING

Australia's total housing stock of just over 10 million dwellings¹⁴ is made up predominantly of separate or detached houses (71 per cent), and medium or high-density apartments (27 per cent).

In Greater Sydney, medium and higher-density dwellings represent around 44 per cent of stock, and in Greater Melbourne 33 per cent.

The number of single-person households in Australia is increasing due to societal changes and an ageing population. By 2036, they are projected to represent around one third of all households (around 3.4 million). Family households are projected to remain the most common household type in Australia (numbering around 8.8 million by 2036). However, a substantially increasing portion will contain more than one family.

The Australian market is broadly transitioning from a suburban family-oriented model to an urban lifestyle model. This requires new and different planning policy levers to account for increased residential mobility and new demands for urban amenity.

ARE WE CONSIDERING HOUSING DIVERSITY?

In the next two decades, 725,000 new homes will likely be needed in Greater Sydney to accommodate a growing and ageing population. Melbourne will need another 720,000 homes by 2031 according to official projections. South East Queensland is also projected to need 794,000 homes over the next 25 years.

The diversity of this future stock will need careful planning to ensure it is affordable and meets peoples' changing requirements.

Very few regional strategies explicitly target future housing diversity or take into account the necessity to deliver housing that is right and appropriate for different market segments. Some jurisdictions have policies that streamline approval pathways or offer design guidance to encourage diversity.

Although governments are introducing new initiatives to boost affordable housing supply, good planning will be needed to ensure new diverse housing stock is not situated farther away from employment, education and training opportunities.

Our housing stock will also need to be adaptable to peoples' changing lifetime requirements, particularly as our major cities turn more to medium and higher-density dwellings.

ARE WE SUPPLYING ENOUGH HOUSING?

Housing construction activity in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra is high by international standards. Apart from South Korea, Australia is now producing housing faster than any other OECD country at 8.2 completions per 1000 persons. In 2010, the rate was 6.8¹⁵.

IS SUPPLY THE SOLE DRIVER OF AFFORDABILITY?

Housing affordability challenges in Australia are the result of complex issues aligned to both housing demand and supply.

More recently, successive governments have sought to improve affordability by encouraging the supply of new housing. However, this approach has had limited success.

Housing demand in Australia is driven by a range of demographic factors, including our ageing population, immigration, and changing household structures. At the same time, Commonwealth government measures incentivising housing as an investment vehicle have placed consequential pressure on real estate prices, and hence affordability.

Recent Melbourne University research has found that close to 75 per cent of Australian households would be better off if taxation-incentivised housing ownership was removed¹⁶.

The study also found that the total cost to the Australian economy for negative gearing is around \$4 billion per annum¹⁷.

While investors continue to be pitted against aspiring home-owners, barriers to ownership will remain high, and lower-income families will struggle to meet their weekly housing costs.

DO OUR PLANNING TARGETS FOR HOUSING ALIGN WITH POPULATION?

Little reliable information exists on what future dwellings are needed in Australia. Fewer than half of the 57 regional plans surveyed and analysed by PIA had nominal planning targets for future housing needs.

Our state capital cities do have dwelling growth targets, but their time frames do not respond to any consistent national growth parameters. Future household size and occupancy rate assumptions also are not consistent across strategies or timeframes.

Projections¹⁸ that growth in households (50 per cent) will be faster than the growth in population (45 per cent) to 2036 have important implications for how we plan for the number, type and location of dwellings to meet changing needs. An increasing number of Australians are living in short-term, unsuitable or poorly located housing, all of which impacts on community welfare and economic productivity.



ARE WE UTILISING OUR HOUSING EFFECTIVELY?

The changing profile of our population, taxation settings, and the nature of our existing housing stock also contribute to our homes not being used efficiently¹⁹.

An analysis of census data by Fairfax Media has estimated that there are 100,000 under-used properties in NSW and Victoria²⁰ – states whose housing systems are particularly stressed. Whilst a large number of young families are experiencing overcrowding, many family homes occupied by empty-nesters have two or more empty bedrooms.

More than 80 per cent of the new apartments being built in Sydney have just one or two bedrooms²¹. A National Settlement Strategy will ensure that future housing targets also address peoples' housing requirements and aspirations.

CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

“Cities don’t work if new housing is too far from employment hubs, is environmentally unsustainable, destroys more amenity and value than it creates, or fails to foster social cohesion.”

– Martin Parkinson, Secretary, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Speech, 30 May 2018



JOBS

Some 12.6 million people, or 65.6 per cent of Australia’s population are employed. Of these, about 8.6 million are in full-time work. Around 4.0 million people are in part-time or casual employment – 32 per cent of the workforce. Around 720,000 people, or 5.4 per cent of the workforce, are unemployed²².

At the last census, more Australians worked in health care and social assistance than any other sector. Almost every service-oriented sector (notably education and training, administration and support services, hospitality and food services and professional, technical and scientific services) is showing growth.

Conversely, manufacturing’s contribution to total GDP is declining, while the agriculture sector is employing fewer permanent workers because of increased mechanisation and industrialisation.

Employment growth in Sydney, Melbourne and the other state capitals is concentrated in the inner-city areas. While this generates economic benefits, it also places strain on transport networks and living conditions. As more people choose to live close to high-quality employment opportunities, demand for housing in inner-city locations increases, placing pressure on property prices and housing affordability.

Like all advanced economies, Australia is embarking on the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The first three Industrial Revolutions – steam and water power, electricity and assembly lines, and computerisation – had profound repercussions, and the fourth will be no different.

The smart technologies and autonomous devices that are making their way into our homes and workplaces with increasing speed will disrupt all disciplines, industries, and economies.

To maximise the Fourth Industrial Revolution’s enormous potential – and to minimise possible risks – our future relationship with connected machines will need to be inclusive, fair and sustainable.

A considered approach to settlement in the 21st century will allow Australia to better harness the Internet of Things and the Internet of Systems, so boosting the liveability of our cities and regions and helping secure our future prosperity.



JOBS OF THE FUTURE



FIGURE 7: The 10 occupations the federal Department of Jobs and Small Business predicts will add the largest numbers of new jobs over the five years to May 2022.

WHAT WILL AUSTRALIA'S FUTURE JOBS LOOK LIKE AND WHERE WILL THEY BE LOCATED?

Globalisation has changed the nature and type of work performed in Australia, with manufacturing employment declining in significance and the services sector rising in prominence and importance. This is a global phenomenon that is a key factor in driving urbanisation²³.

While manufacturing jobs have been relatively dispersed, service jobs tend to cluster in larger cities and especially their inner suburbs. Service industries increasingly seek to cluster together to maximise productivity through increased networking opportunities, information-sharing and agglomeration benefits.

Education and training services now rank as Australia's second largest export after mining.

In value-added terms, services made up 34 per cent of all Australian exports to Asia in 2013 and supported an estimated 661,000 jobs²⁴.

The continuing rise of Asia's middle class – which numbers 500 million and is forecast to rise to an estimated 3.2 billion by 2030 – means that the services sector is likely to continue to grow strongly.

This trend – together with employers' growing preference for a more flexible workforce – will have increasing economic as well as spatial implications.

ARE WE PLANNING FOR FUTURE JOBS GROWTH?

Australia's workforce will need to at least double between now and the end of this century if jobs growth is to match expected population growth.

However, only 13 of 57 regional plans across Australia plan for explicit job growth targets for any point into the future. Even fewer of these plans consider the nature of future jobs and their implications for planning our cities and regions.

Faster telecommunications links, big data, quantum computing, improved and autonomous transport and freight networks, and greater logistics capability have the potential to spur employment growth in our regional centres. That will only occur, however, if the implications of changing technology are understood, embraced, and planned for accordingly.

CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

While [most] infrastructure service delivery falls under the responsibility of states and territories, there is a clear role and responsibility for the Australian Government to drive reform and continuous improvement.

– Infrastructure Australia.
Making Reform Happen
report, June 2018



INFRASTRUCTURE

Australia has an inconsistent record of effective, timely and economically justifiable national infrastructure investment, partly because funding is often tied to specific projects without being necessarily contingent on broader reform actions or policy outcomes.

Infrastructure Australia has highlighted the absence of a national population policy (and growth projections) as being particularly problematic for the effective and timely delivery of infrastructure.

In 2017-18 the World Economic Forum²⁵ ranked the quality of Australia's infrastructure 28 out of 137 countries. This is a noticeable drop from recent years, largely as a result of our performance with respect to communication infrastructure²⁶. The Australian Infrastructure Audit found that without action, Australia's productivity and quality of life will be put at risk²⁷.

PIA released an infrastructure and funding policy position in late 2017²⁸. The overarching finding of this position paper is that the achievement of place outcomes based on sound strategic planning should drive infrastructure planning and option appraisal.

Funding (including value capture) and delivery mechanisms should be consistent with meeting these outcomes. To achieve this, integrated land use and infrastructure planning is essential to ensure that community expectations for improvements to living conditions are met.

ARE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS TIED TO OUR PLANNING FOR GROWTH?

Most of the 57 regional plans across Australia show only partial integration of land use and infrastructure planning. Many regional plans lack either a transport or other infrastructure component – or, if they do, it is not linked to assumptions for long-term growth.

Where regional plans do integrate growth with future infrastructure, very few demonstrate more than a “partial” link between the outcomes sought and the funding measures necessary to achieve them.

While there are some examples of strong integration at a regional scale (for example, the South East Queensland and Greater Sydney plans), PIA's review highlights the low priority given to achieving the “place outcomes” needed to manage growth and change in specific cities and regions.

State infrastructure provision – whether in urban renewal or greenfield growth precincts – needs stronger coordination and more resources to provide better district or regional transport and utility network connections.

Australian governments are adopting an increasingly sophisticated approach to prioritising investments – and this is a welcome development. However, this planning does not generally respond to the outcomes sought for places that are set out in regional plans around the country.



HOW DO WE CURRENTLY PLAN AND PRIORITISE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE?

Our federation creates a challenge for funding “outcomes” linked to managing growth in specific places.

The Commonwealth is responsible for the collection and distribution of tax revenue to the states (and a grant component to local government). A proportion of these funds is contingent on specific performance requirements. However, other than “City Deals” – a very positive exception – these requirements typically do not relate to particular places.

State and territories fund and deliver the widest range of infrastructure. State agency capital investment plans are built up from a series of candidate projects addressing the strategic and economic criteria set out in that jurisdiction’s project appraisal guidelines. However, these “siloed” agencies seldom focus on achieving a holistic outcome for a place that is growing or changing.

Integrated infrastructure planning and funding for growth areas relies on shared goals, active collaboration and goodwill – it is not a routine process.

National and state infrastructure coordination bodies address this weakness in part, but a scan of priority lists shows that they do not always elevate projects that respond to growth needs identified in regional plans. Indeed, one of the first City Deals advanced in Australia in late 2016 covered Townsville which is the only area in Australia (other than parts of the Northern Territory) not covered by a regional plan.

WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES WOULD BE NEEDED FOR GROWTH?

The Australian Infrastructure Audit expects transport, ports, telecoms, gas pipelines and airport infrastructure resourcing will need to grow faster than GDP³⁰.

With more high-density living – and expectations for a better quality of life – social infrastructure requirements will rise accordingly. Our understanding of “infrastructure” is already broadening to include affordable housing, green infrastructure, and climate change adaptation measures.

In regional areas, access to cities and global markets will become more important – not only for products, but for tourism and other industries and services. While access to secure water and energy will remain vital, the range of liveability assets needed to sustain residents, employees and visitors in regional centres will become more important.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN

The infrastructure needed to raise national productivity and create more liveable cities and regions is contingent on strategic, integrated planning. Governments and planning agencies need to use the same data sets and talk to each other to ensure similar planning outcomes for neighbouring regions or precincts.

Despite good intentions, that is not always happening. Infrastructure decision-making is often siloed across all three tiers of government. The “line of sight” that is needed to ensure coordinated and effective outcomes at the national, state, region/local and precinct level is often obscured.

The development of City Deals and precinct-based infrastructure plans are steps in the right direction, but an overarching framework is needed to improve this process.

“Better functioning towns and cities would deliver a \$29 billion increase in GDP over the long-term.”

– The Productivity Commission.
Shifting the Dial report, 2017.

CITY AND COMMUNITY SHAPERS

There needs to be a recommitment to good strategic planning to guide and facilitate sustainable urban and regional development.

– Professor Barbara Norman MPIA (Life Fellow), former PIA National President



ENVIRONMENT

Australia's natural environment is unique, and represents one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. Australia is home to around one million of the world's 13.6 million species of plants, animals and micro-organisms.

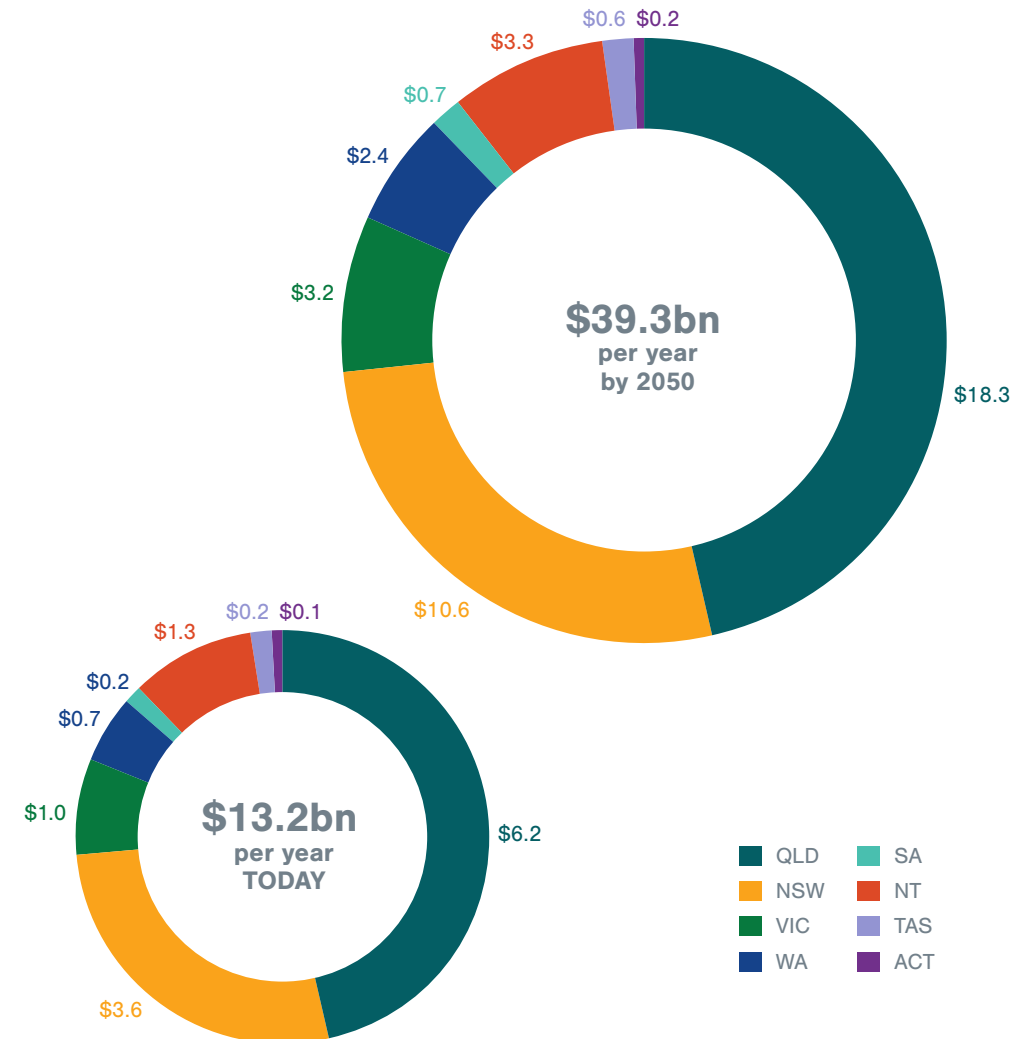
This is more than twice the number of species in Europe and North America combined. Australia is recognised as one of only 17 “mega-diverse” nations, with ecosystems of exceptional variety and uniqueness. This group of mega-diverse nations supports more than 70 per cent of the Earth's biological diversity³¹.

Unfortunately, Australia also has one of the highest animal extinction rates in the world. Thirty mammals, or around 10 per cent of our species, are thought to have become extinct since European settlement – one of the highest rates recorded globally³². At least 24 birds and seven frogs have disappeared in that time as well.

One hundred and six of Australia's animal species are listed as critically endangered, the result of habitat clearance, droughts and fire, the introduction of invasive species, and human-wildlife conflict.

The significance of our environment and its future preservation will be a primary consideration in the development of a future National Settlement Strategy.

TOTAL COST OF NATURAL DISASTERS (PER YEAR)



ARE WE STRENGTHENING OUR RESILIENCE?

Australia's cities, towns and regions are increasingly at risk from the adverse impacts of climate change – including heatwaves (and associated mortality), bushfires, drought, cyclones, flash flooding, and rising sea levels.

Our state capitals – where 85 per cent of Australians live – are on the coastal rim where storms and surge events are becoming more frequent and destructive.

More than nine million Australians have been affected by a natural disaster or extreme weather event over the past 30 years. In real terms, the total economic cost of natural disasters is forecast to grow by 3.4 per cent year, and to reach \$39 billion per year in real terms by 2050.

Cities are expanding into productive rural lands, and existing water supplies are becoming less reliable as climate change alters rainfall.

On top of our food and water security issues, the unsustainable use and management of natural resources and the march of invasive plants and animals is continuing to cause habitat loss and degradation.

Australia must make better use of its existing land resources to protect agricultural and mineral resources, water catchments, and culturally significant lands, whilst at the same time accommodating demands for future employment and housing.

A National Settlement Strategy will enable a set of nationally agreed parameters to inform planning approaches to matters such as sea-level rise, protection of high-quality productive rural land and sensitive natural environments.



Urban agriculture has an important role to play in enhancing urban amenity and food security.





WHERE TO FROM HERE?

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

PIA's call for a National Settlement Strategy has recently been endorsed by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities, entitled *Building Up and Moving Out* tabled on 17 September 2018.

Building Up and Moving Out made 37 recommendations responding to the terms of reference which addressed the federal government's role in the development of cities.

PIA's voice on this important milestone is louder than ever with more than 50 per cent of references in the final report attributed to PIA members. PIA now calls on all political parties to support the recommendations and move to immediate bipartisan adoption.

It is increasingly apparent – to planners and the community alike – that governments need to work with public, private, non-profit and community stakeholders to better address important economic, social, and environmental planning challenges.

A National Settlement Strategy will be the vehicle for achieving this coordinated and integrated approach.

It will provide the sense of purpose and vision Australia needs to deal with the challenges on its journey to 50 million – and it will ensure we go on creating productive, sustainable and liveable places through active engagement, design excellence, and collaborative leadership.

There are four key sequenced tasks in developing and executing a National Settlement Strategy:

1. Start the national conversation
2. Get the governance right
3. Develop the Strategy
4. Implementation

A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

The foundation for a National Settlement Strategy will be a broad national conversation on the future shape and character of Australia's cities and regions. This conversation will include – but not be limited to – the issue of Australia's relatively weak co-governance arrangements, its high investment in roads rather than public transport, and fragmented and incoherent planning policies, particularly around immigration.

It would accept that all tiers of government need to think beyond three or four-year political cycles and forge long-lasting agreements, deals and partnerships with each other. Importantly, it would accept that a roadmap towards a National Settlement Strategy should be informed at all times by civic engagement and leadership. A top-down public dialogue would, in all likelihood, fail to establish any mandate for change.

SIMPLE GOVERNANCE CHANGES

Good governance arrangements will allow governments at all levels to establish a coordinated approach and spatial framework at the regional and local level responding to the national vision.

PIA strongly supports the appointment of a federal Minister responsible for National Planning incorporating many of the portfolio elements reflected in recent ministerial appointments, including cities, infrastructure and population. The establishment of this portfolio would be supported in the short term by:

- A Ministerial Planning Council supported by the appointment of a National Chief Planner;

- Establishing a national planning framework recognising the role and jurisdiction of the Commonwealth, state and territory and local governments aligned to provide true “line of sight”;
- Securing an immediate national agreement on consistency across our regional plans regarding population projections, housing and employment projections and planning horizons; and
- Preparing a road map towards a National Settlement Strategy – including an audit of current policy impacting cities and regions.

This approach would enable governments to:

- Effectively use taxation, immigration, infrastructure and service delivery prioritisation and funding policy tools that are more responsive to the effect they have on places;
- Organise governance arrangements and leverage outcomes across all tiers of government (e.g. City Deals);
- Optimise private sector partnerships and investment opportunities for major infrastructure; and
- Contain the states' natural tendency to try to outbid each other to attract major infrastructure or employment projects (“competitive federalism”).

Such an approach would not require a change of jurisdictional roles in the federation – nor would it lead to that outcome. Rather, it would ensure that each jurisdiction could fulfill its planning for growth more effectively. It would enable joined-up planning and investment decisions that strengthen the ability of our cities and regions to cope with growth, compete globally, and become more liveable.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?



Council meeting at the City of Charles Sturt Council Chamber in Adelaide's western suburbs.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

“ We’ve had 200 years of accidental settlement in Australia. We’ve clung to the coast in our big cities, but they are fast becoming overcrowded and unaffordable. We now need an alternative plan. ”

– Professor Sue Holliday
MPIA (Fellow), former
PIA National President

A SHARED STRATEGY

A National Settlement Strategy should express the goals, hopes and aspirations our communities have for Australia informed by sound evidence based on research and not political ideologies.

The Commonwealth will need to take an active role and ensure it provides the level of resources to the Strategy’s ongoing development, implementation and evaluation – in partnership with other levels of government, the business sector, and the broader community. Success will require a line of sight on the overall outcomes being sought for more liveable places – such that each tier of government is not compromised in performing its role in managing growth.

The approaches other countries have taken to national urban planning – particularly those with governance models like Australia’s – offer scope for adaptation or replication.

Depending on the vision that emerges, it should include or provide:

- An expression of long-term growth and liveability outcomes – nationally and for states and regions;
- Outcomes of an audit of the spatial implications of Commonwealth policies impacting cities and regions (e.g. tax settings, infrastructure investment);
- Performance measurement of indicators that respond to a new vision for growth and the performance of places and communities with respect to health, wellbeing and liveability, breadth and depth of the labour market, education attainment, and physical and digital connectivity;

- Context for a national and internal migration debate and population policy;
- Thirty-year plus population, housing and job targets for priority implementation in the states and regions; and
- Clarification of institutional settings for managing growth in places – recognising Constitutional roles.

The plan will also respond to Australia’s international obligations, including but not limited, to:

- United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals;
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change; and
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

A National Settlement Strategy would also enable more spatially aware collective governmental engagement with cities and regions by offering:

- A shared national vision on growth – focussing on improving the liveability of cities and regions;
- A consistent basis for regional planning – including shared growth assumptions, timing and distributions;
- A spatial basis for integrating infrastructure and service delivery priorities;
- Opportunities to leverage investment and join up government and private initiatives; and
- Opportunities to review the impacts of Commonwealth tax and policy settings on our cities and regions.

With public confidence in government continuing to decline in Australia – as it is in other western liberal democracies – a National Settlement Strategy provides the potential to renew the social licence policy-makers need to tackle congestion, affordability and liveability issues.

It will also demonstrate clearly that in the face of growth and uncertainty, Australians can be confident that their ease of access to good public places, jobs and well-designed infrastructure and services will be improved over time. It will offer a national narrative to explain how we are responding to the megatrends that will shape our future.

DELIVERY

Ideally, the National Settlement Strategy would be developed and reviewed as an outcome of census reporting periods every five years, and would align to, and shape, Commonwealth Intergenerational Reports. The last Intergenerational Report was published in 2015, and with completion of recent census reports, Australia should target delivery of the first National Settlement Strategy in 2020.

An immediate commitment would, however, ensure that appropriate governance arrangements and a National Settlement Strategy Framework can be established with a focus on short-term wins.

PIA believes it is entirely feasible to improve current integrated regional planning processes in the short term by getting national agreement on consistency across our population, housing and employment projections, and planning horizons.

This will enable all tiers of government to align planning horizons over the long term and commit to strategies that will ensure the future of Australia for our children and grandchildren.

Ninety per cent of the 36 OECD member countries have some form of national urban policy in place, so developing a National Settlement Strategy would not make Australia an anomaly. Rather, we risk becoming an outlier nation by failing to act.

“ We need better coordination of policies and funding between the federal government – which controls immigration and taxation – and state and local government, which all have urban service responsibilities. ”

– Professor Jago Dodson MPIA, RMIT University.
The Conversation, April 20, 2016

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Such as the Economic Intelligence Unit's Liveability Ranking, Monocle's Quality of Life Survey and Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking.
- ² stats.oecd.org/index.aspx?DataSetCode=BLI
- ³ www.oecd.org/sdd/na/statisticalinsightswhatdoeshouseholddebtsay-aboutfinancialresilience.htm
- ⁴ Moretti. E. *The New Geography of Jobs* (2012). Mariner, New York.
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- ⁶ www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/3218.0 ABS 3218.0 - Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016-17
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- ²² www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6202.0
- ²³ Moretti. E. *The New Geography of Jobs* (2012). Mariner, New York.
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- ²⁶ Infrastructure Australia, *Australian Infrastructure Audit* (2015)
- ²⁷ Ibid
- ²⁸ www.planning.org.au/documents/item/8889
- ²⁹ minister.infrastructure.gov.au/pf/releases/2018/April/pf026_2018.aspx
- ³⁰ Infrastructure Australia, *Australian Infrastructure Audit, Our Infrastructure Challenges* report, Volume 1, April 2015, p6.
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Images: Shutterstock, Katherine Griffiths/Fairfax Syndication, Sam Rosewarne/Newspix, City of Charles Sturt Council, Kiama Municipal Council, and the West Australian Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

ROLE OF THE PLANNING PROFESSION

The Planning Institute of Australia works impartially with elected government officials, the community, and industry to help shape places and spaces.

Planning helps build more sustainable communities, facilitates economic development and connectivity, and improves the choices available for where and how people live, work and spend their leisure time.

Planning facilitates and guides decision-making and helps balance private, government and community interests for the future net benefit of all Australians.

Planning helps identify hazards and mitigate and reduce risk. It also identifies and protects environmental, social, cultural and heritage values.

Planners bring people together from government, industry and the community to investigate, debate and agree on common futures.

Australia needs a vision for its future which embodies our individual and collective goals, values and aspirations – and which extends beyond the forward estimates in government budgets.

We have the governance structures, the institutions and the civil society needed to articulate such a vision.

We now need to resolve to start the journey and realise that vision.



In 2018, Australia's population was approximately

25 MILLION PEOPLE.

It is expected that Australia will reach a population of **50 MILLION LATE IN THIS CENTURY.**



FUTURE GROWTH LOCATIONS

can be forecast using current trends, and may also be influenced by public policy, interstate migration, housing markets, infrastructure investment and access to employment.



Planning for future generations will need to consider not only population size,

but also its location and the provision of

INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSING AND SERVICES

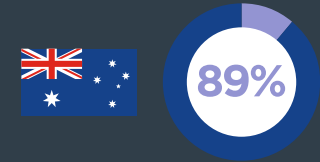
to support this population.



Australia's current population of 25 million people is distributed

PREDOMINANTLY IN COASTAL TOWNS AND CITIES

that are generally located in fertile areas of the country.



Australia is one of the most urbanised countries in the world.

In 2014,

90 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIANS

lived in urban areas, compared to 75.7 per cent in France, 80 per cent in Germany and 57 per cent in China.



The tendency towards urban migration places increasing

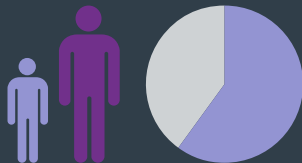
PRESSURE ON OUR CITIES

to shoulder the burden of growth, and therefore the planning required to

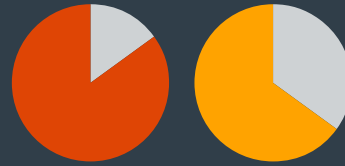
ACCOMMODATE THAT GROWTH.



Factors such as resilience to **CLIMATE CHANGE** will need to be considered in the **GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT** of new and existing settlements.



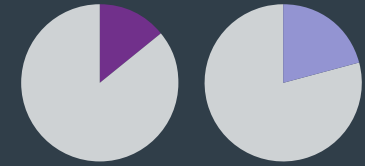
Current population projections indicate that a stabilisation in the child dependency ratio, coupled with a rise in the old-age dependency ratio, will return the **TOTAL DEPENDENCY RATIO TO 60 PER CENT** by 2046.



The majority of new immigrants to Australia settle in our major cities. In 2016, **83 PER CENT** of those born overseas lived in a major city, compared to **61 PER CENT** of locally born Australians.



A key issue for **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** is not so much the total population, but its **COMPOSITION**.



Ageing is becoming a major issue as Australia moves towards a population of 50 million. Australia's old-age dependency ratio has risen from **14 PER CENT** in 1962 to **22 PER CENT** in 2012. **23 PER CENT** in 2017.



Australia's population is **NOT AGEING AS QUICKLY** as some other parts of the world. This is partly due to overseas migration, which typically lowers the average age of the resident population.

Australia's trusted voice on Planning

