

ITEM 3.1. CITIES BACK ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA**FILE NO: S051491****MINUTE BY THE LORD MAYOR**To Council:

Last month, I travelled to Canberra with other Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) from Adelaide, Brisbane, Darwin, Hobart and Melbourne to meet the Prime Minister, Opposition Leader and other key Federal representatives.

Australia's capital cities account for 64 per cent of the nation's GDP, house over two-thirds of Australia's workforce, have supplied 1.5 million people with new jobs in the past decade, educate 80 per cent of all tertiary students in the country and are forecast to house another 10 million Australians by 2056 – 72 per cent of all future population growth.

Australia's Council of Capital City Lord Mayors say: *"Get it right for the cities, and you'll get it right for the nation."*

Unfortunately, other levels of government have been slow to recognise the growing importance of Australian cities and the previous Federal Government's Major Cities Unit was shamefully abolished by the Abbott Government.

But we now have a Prime Minister who understands what can be achieved when cities are made national priorities and who supports innovative industries and public transport.

We also have a Cities Minister, Jamie Briggs, who wants to work with state and local government to deliver long term plans for our cities and to identify key infrastructure projects.

While in Canberra, I joined other CCCLM Mayors to launch "Cities Matter" - an online platform to encourage the Federal Government to work with us to ensure long term planning and bipartisan support for the projects our cities need to keep growing in a sustainable way.

Tackling congestion and affordable housing were key themes at the launch.

Cities Minister Jamie Briggs spoke about the challenges of attracting global talent to our cities and keeping them there. He also spoke about the importance of having good quality housing close to jobs.

John Daley, CEO of the Grattan Institute, confirmed that Australia's economy is increasingly dominated by services produced in cities. He said while more jobs are concentrated in city centres, new housing is mostly being built at the edge.

He warned that if many people can't get to the high productivity jobs – located in and towards the city centre – then this would drag on economic growth. He said longer commutes result in:

- higher living costs of thousands of dollars a year;
- pressure on family life; and
- lower well-being.

Congestion, affordable housing and climate change were also issues raised in meetings the CCCLM held with the Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Minister for Cities and the Built Environment Jamie Briggs, Minister for the Environment Greg Hunt, Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects Paul Fletcher, Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Shadow Minister for Cities Anthony Albanese, Shadow Minister for the Environment Mark Butler, Leader of the Greens Richard Di Natale, Greens Senators Scott Ludlam and Lee Rhiannon, and Members of the Parliamentary Friendship Group for Better Cities Andrew Giles and Adam Bandt.

The City of Sydney is vital to the NSW and Australian economy. Our city government area generates around \$108 billion in economic activity and contributes eight per cent of Australia's GDP and 22 per cent of the economy of NSW.

Sydney, like other capital cities, faces a range of challenges which require urgent action from all levels of government – supporting tech start-ups, building infrastructure, increasing affordable housing and addressing climate change.

I welcome the renewed focus on cities by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull and the appointment of Jamie Briggs as the Minister for Cities and the Built Environment and look forward to working with them on the critical issues facing our city.

RECOMMENDATION

It is resolved that Council note the meetings between the CCCLM and the Federal Parliament and welcome the Government's renewed focus on cities.

COUNCILLOR CLOVER MOORE

Lord Mayor