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Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications
and the Arts
c/- urbanpolicyinput@infrastructure.gov.au

4 July 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Calls for Submissions on the draft National Urban Policy 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission on the draft National Urban Policy 2024. Like you, we are committed to making Australia's urban environments more liveable, equitable, productive, sustainable and resilient. We applaud the Australian Government's commitment to improving our cities and urban areas, underpinned by Country and enabled by highest-quality urban design.

As a professional services firm working across Australia in the built and natural environments, GHD has practical on-ground experience in the design and implementation of city shaping activities that support positive urban outcomes. As part of our commitment to create lasting community benefit, we have established our Future Communities initiative which recently completed a significant research activity exploring intergenerational equity through an infrastructure lens.

Called "CROSSROADS" this research is founded on a global survey of over ten thousand people across 10 countries – Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, the Philippines, Chile, USA, Canada, UK, UAE and Qatar. Conducted by world leading market research company Ipsos, this research canvasses multigenerational perspectives across multiple geographies and combines GHD's technical insights from the delivery of fair and fit-for-purpose infrastructure. Through this placed-based lens, the data provides valuable perspectives on how fairness from one generation to the next can be promoted in the design and creation of our infrastructure.

The research shows the top three concerns facing Australians, across the four generational cohorts surveyed, are:

1. Transport challenges because of limited access to reliable and affordable public transport options and difficulty limiting private car use
2. Climate change and its related social and environmental impacts, and
3. Cost of living, particularly housing affordability.

This reinforces the draft National Urban Policy principles intended to guide decision-making for investments in, and policies for, urban development. In particular we note principle 5, the desire to create fair and inclusive development in order to build equitable communities across Australia.

The research findings provide valuable insight into the sentiments and desires of Australians to help guide the creation of fair and intergenerationally responsible environments. Exploration of the data tells us what Australian's feel are the most important issues facing them both across geographies and generational cohorts.

This data provides access to information that could support the prioritisation of strategic actions to achieve maximum beneficial impact where funds are limited. This would support the Australian Government in its investment decisions when working with State and Territory governments to:

- Enable the identification of priority policy areas for investment programs
- Prioritise development of governance forums and actionable implementation pathways across the identified priority policy areas.

The detailed outcomes of the research will be available in the full report which will be released globally on the 17th July 2024 and will be accessible from the website crossroads.ghd.com. A launch event will include a panel of global experts with intergenerational representation to explore the outcomes of the research. More information can be accessed here <https://info.ghd.com/CROSSROADS-APAC>

When released, the research will be presented as a series of dashboards to provide insight across age cohorts and geographies. We are able to explore any aspects of the data in more detail through a direct briefing, and further granular analysis of the data can also be undertaken to provide more placed-based insight.

Please contact Michelle Cramer, Future Communities Leader Australia or Adrian Piani, Market Leader – Federal Government if you would like to discuss CROSSROADS.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Cramer

Future Communities Leader Australia

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Adrian Piani

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