

## Response to National Urban Policy Draft

To whom it may concern,

Having read the draft policy, I would like to comment on the scope of the document.

I believe that the principles, goals, and virtues proposed are suitable, however the proposed solutions to these challenges have been artificially constrained due to a key, unwritten assumption which underwrites the entire policy.

Each component of the policy is written so as to improve existing city infrastructure. What this policy does not consider is the merits and methods of fostering *new* population centers in a sustainable and long-term mindset. Perpetual growth of Australia's limited, 5 major cities cannot continue forever and remain truly equitable. Whilst optimisations are possible, you cannot have just five locations where large-scale and international business is forced to operate for an entire country, and still retain affordability and equitability for the whole population of that location.

I would propose that a revision of this policy also seeks to develop new and existing population centers to contest these 5 major cities. I see key methods of achieving this to be a new focus on long-term planning of key infrastructure with the mind of servicing areas earmarked for long-term growth (water, transport etc.). Significant business incentives for basing large, white collar operations in these areas could also be considered, including attractive tax concessions for large businesses (and their staff) to be based at these locations.

I believe a large number of the equity challenges which this draft policy aims to overcome are made worse by constraining solutions to optimising the existing cities we have. By expanding the solution space to foster new growth areas with forward planning, Australia can provide more opportunities for workers to live and work without holding back their career aspirations. The more opportunities that exist for Australians to pursue career growth, particularly in white collar business areas, the more Australia (and its GDP) will benefit, in return.

I hope this letter provides an additional perspective worth consideration for the policy.

Kind regards,

James