

I agree with the principles outlined in Appendix A of the draft National Urban Policy. These principles provide a strong foundation for guiding urban development in Australia towards more sustainable, equitable, and liveable outcomes. They emphasise the importance of collaboration, place-making, evidence-based decision-making, and a focus on social, environmental, and economic well-being.

To see these principles in action, I envision the following:

1. City planning and governance must be collaborative and adaptive:
 - Regular forums and workshops that bring together all levels of government, industry, academia, and community representatives to discuss urban challenges, share best practices, and develop shared visions and strategies for urban development.
 - The establishment of joint planning committees and task forces that work across jurisdictional boundaries to coordinate land use, infrastructure, and service delivery in cities and suburbs.
 - The use of adaptive planning approaches that allow for flexibility and responsiveness to changing needs and circumstances, supported by regular monitoring and evaluation.
2. Purposeful place-making increases wellbeing and connection:
 - The integration of place-making principles and strategies into all levels of urban planning and design, from regional plans to local streetscape improvements.
 - The prioritisation of community engagement and participation in place-making processes, to ensure that urban spaces reflect the needs, values, and aspirations of local residents.
 - The allocation of funding and resources for place-making initiatives that enhance social interaction, cultural expression, and sense of belonging in cities and suburbs.
3. Urban development should actively improve social, environmental and economic outcomes:
 - The incorporation of social, environmental, and economic impact assessments into all major urban development projects and decisions, to ensure that they contribute to the well-being of communities and the sustainability of urban systems.
 - The use of incentives, regulations, and partnerships to encourage urban development that delivers social and affordable housing, green infrastructure, renewable energy, and other community benefits.
 - The development of local and regional economic development strategies that leverage the unique assets and opportunities of cities and suburbs, and that promote inclusive growth and job creation.
4. Improving the evidence base will underpin urban innovation:
 - The creation of urban observatories and research partnerships that collect, analyse, and share data on key urban indicators, trends, and best practices.

- The use of data analytics, visualisation, and scenario planning tools to inform urban decision-making and to engage communities in exploring alternative futures.
 - The support for urban experimentation and innovation through pilot projects, living labs, and other collaborative platforms that test and scale new solutions to urban challenges.
5. Fair and inclusive development builds equitable communities:
- The application of equity and inclusion criteria to all urban planning, policy, and investment decisions, to ensure that the benefits and costs of urban development are fairly distributed.
 - The engagement of diverse communities, including marginalised and vulnerable groups, in urban planning and decision-making processes, through targeted outreach, capacity building, and empowerment strategies.
 - The prioritisation of investments in affordable housing, public transit, education, health care, and other essential services and infrastructure in underserved urban areas.
6. Fostering innovation and creativity hubs enhance diversity and broadens opportunities:
- The designation and development of innovation districts and creative precincts in cities and suburbs, that co-locate research institutions, businesses, and cultural organisations to drive collaboration and entrepreneurship.
 - The support for arts, culture, and creativity as key drivers of urban vitality, social cohesion, and economic development, through funding, facilities, and programming.
 - The cultivation of a diverse and skilled workforce through education, training, and talent attraction strategies that meet the needs of growing and evolving urban economies.

By putting these principles into action, Australian cities and suburbs can become more liveable, equitable, productive, sustainable, and resilient places that enhance the quality of life for all residents. The principles provide a shared vision and a set of guideposts for urban development that can align the efforts of government, industry, and communities towards common goals, while also allowing for local adaptation and innovation.

In addition to these comments and suggestions, I would like to emphasise a few key points:

1. The importance of ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the implementation and outcomes of the National Urban Policy. Regular progress reports, based on clear indicators and metrics, can help to ensure accountability, celebrate successes, and identify areas for improvement. This reporting should be transparent and accessible to the public.
2. The need for adequate and sustained funding to support the implementation of the National Urban Policy. Many of the objectives and actions outlined in the policy will

require significant investments in infrastructure, services, and capacity building. The Australian Government should work with state, territory, and local governments, as well as private and community sector partners, to identify and allocate the necessary resources.

3. The opportunity to leverage the National Urban Policy to promote Australia's leadership and expertise in sustainable urban development on the global stage. By showcasing the innovative approaches and best practices emerging from the implementation of the policy, Australia can contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, and position itself as a key player in the global urban agenda.
4. The potential to use the National Urban Policy as a platform for public education and engagement on urban issues. By communicating the vision, goals, and actions of the policy in clear and compelling ways, the Australian Government can build broader public understanding and support for sustainable urban development, and empower communities to participate in shaping the future of their cities and suburbs.
5. The importance of recognising and celebrating the diversity of Australia's cities and suburbs, and the need for tailored approaches that respond to local contexts and challenges. While the National Urban Policy provides a high-level framework, it should be flexible enough to accommodate the unique needs and aspirations of different urban areas, from large metropolitan regions to smaller regional centres and rural towns.

In conclusion, the draft National Urban Policy represents a significant step forward in advancing sustainable, equitable, and liveable urban development in Australia. By refining and implementing the policy through a collaborative and inclusive process, the Australian Government can help to create cities and suburbs that are better places to live, work, and play for all Australians, now and into the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue and look forward to seeing how the National Urban Policy evolves and is implemented in the coming years. Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or if I can provide any additional information to support this process.