



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities

Issue date: Thursday, 28 September 2017

Cities' prosperity anchored in regional success

Traditional, low density and car-orientated development in Australian cities and regional centres has given rise to a range of issues which inhibit economic growth and liveability.

The [Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) believes the development of nation's settlements needs to be set on a more sustainable trajectory and is inquiring into the potential for Australian Government action.

Committee Chair, [Mr John Alexander OAM MP](#), said the Committee will conduct roundtable discussions in Brisbane this Friday to identify a role for the Australian Government in driving sustainability, liveability and productivity gains in the nation's cities and regional centres.

"Although our inquiry has a split focus on cities and regional centres, we cannot consider these different types of settlements as separate or in competition," Mr Alexander said.

"The development of cities and regional centres is interdependent. We're looking at how the Australian Government can facilitate stronger transport, economic and social links between the two."

"Closer relationships between our cities and regional centres will support population rebalancing and improve liveability generally."

Roundtable participant, Tweed Heads Council echoed this sentiment. The Council said, "many regions are recognised as a resource-base for metropolitan economies, and equally for their natural and cultural heritage assets that serve as a source of creativity, wellbeing and respite for city-dwellers".

"Development programs can recognise and build on current and potential specialisation roles of regional areas, not to compete with, but to support the resourcing and value sharing of growing cities."

Public hearing details: 9.00 am – 2.30 pm, Friday, 29 September 2017, Speaker's Hall, lvl 4, Parliamentary Annexe, Alice Street, Brisbane

9.00 am:

Property Council Queensland

Floth Sustainable Building Consultants

Mr Warren Rowe, Planner in Residence, University of Queensland

[Professor Paul Burton, Director Cities Research Institute, Griffith University](#)

[Associate Professor Matthew Burke, Cities Research Institute, Griffith University](#)



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

10.50 am:

[Professor Marcus Foth, Urban Informatics, Design Lab, QUT](#)

[Dr Jaz Hee-jeong Choi, Urban Informatics, Design Lab, QUT](#)

[Smart Cities Council Australia New Zealand](#)

Mr Steve Kanowski, Partner, Deloitte Access Economics

1.10 pm:

[Tweed Heads Council](#)

[Southern Downs Regional Council](#)

1.50 pm:

Dr Andrea Sharam, RMIT University

Property Collectives

2.30 pm: *Close*

The hearing will be broadcast live at aph.gov.au/live

Further information on the inquiry, including the full [terms of reference](#), is available on the [Committee website](#).

Media enquiries:

Mr John Alexander OAM MP (Bennelong, NSW), Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

Brendan Roberts, media advisor (02) 9869 4288, john.alexander.mp@aph.gov.au

For background:

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

(02) 6277 2352

itc.reps@aph.gov.au

Interested members of the public may wish to track the inquiry via the Committee's [website](#).

Click on the blue 'Track Committee' button in the bottom right hand corner and use the forms to login to My Parliament or to register for a My Parliament account.