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MEDIA RELEASE

House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities

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

Issue date: Monday, 5 February 2018

Tree change key to big city life

A national population policy is needed to guide the distribution of settlement and focus government investment in infrastructure, according to Engineers Australia.

[Engineers Australia](#) is scheduled to appear before a [House Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport and Cities](#) public hearing in Canberra tomorrow.

The public hearing is part of the Committee's inquiry into the Australian Government's role in the development of cities.

Engineers Australia believes that Australia's current policy is, in effect, one of a comparatively high immigration intake largely disconnected from land use planning, infrastructure planning and development.

"In our view, the substance of the Committee's inquiry cannot be achieved without the information contained in a comprehensive national population policy", Engineers Australia submitted.

"The absence of this information means that land use and infrastructure planning will continue to be driven by a catch-up approach, a situation not conducive to productivity growth and improvements in community well-being. Migration policies are important to the composition and skill levels of the population, but are not substitutes for population policies."

Committee Chair, Mr Andrew Wallace MP, said the Committee considers strategic decentralisation a key component of Australia's future.

"Regional centres are well positioned to absorb some of the nation's forecast population growth," Mr Wallace MP said.

"It may be that the implementation of a national population policy is part of the equation when it comes to encouraging residents to settle outside of the capital cities."

"The Committee is looking forward to discussing how a national population policy might inform and complement regional infrastructure and economic development plans."

Public hearing details: 5.00 pm – 6.30 pm, Tuesday, 6 February 2018, Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

5.00 pm: Engineers Australia

6.30 pm: *Close*

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



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

Media enquiries:

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For background:

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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.