

THE TURNBULL COALITION TEAM

CCHQ 2016



28 June 2016

Ms Shahana McKenzie
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
GPO Box 1646, Canberra, ACT 2601
Via email: Shahana.mckenzie@aila.org.au

Dear Ms McKenzie,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. On behalf of the Coalition Members of Parliament and candidates I am pleased to respond to your proposals.

Australia's future depends on how well we can continue to grow and shape our economy.

Only the Liberal and National Parties have an **economic plan** to do that and ensure Australia's future.

We have a clear plan to transition the economy from the mining and investment boom to a stronger and more diverse economy.

The key elements of our national economic plan for jobs and growth are:

- An Innovation and Science program bringing Australian ideas to market. This means greater investment and more jobs and opportunities for our young people;
- A New Defence Industry plan that will secure an advanced defence manufacturing industry in Australia. This will create thousands of new hi-tech, higher paying jobs;
- Export Trade Deals that will generate more than 19,000 new export opportunities. These will create many more jobs for our urban and regional families;
- New Tax Incentives, which will include tax cuts for more small businesses. More than two million businesses can benefit, to deliver more growth and jobs; and
- A Strong New Economy with more than 200,000 jobs expected to be created

Our national economic plan and management is already paying dividends. Last year our economy continued to grow creating almost 300,000 new jobs, many of them in small business.

We cannot put economic growth and the jobs that come with it at risk with a return to Labor and their debt and deficits, high taxing, big spending ideas.

Only a Liberal and National Party Government can protect Australia's future.

Once announced, our policies will be available at www.liberal.org.au and www.nationals.org.au.

Thank you for communicating the Coalition's commitments to your members.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Nutt', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tony Nutt
National Campaign Director

COALITION RESPONSE TO PROPOSALS BY THE AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

The Coalition's Plan for Smart Cities

Liveable, accessible and clean, green cities are essential economic assets. This is because in the knowledge economy people are our greatest resource, and smart cities put people first.

An ad hoc approach to the development of cities is no longer sufficient - with three levels of government failing to coordinate policy and investment. In the new economy, our cities must collaborate to compete and grow.

The Coalition prioritises smart policy, smart investment and smart technology in cities to secure the prosperity and a high standard of living for all Australians. This means more affordable housing, new jobs closer to homes, better transport and more liveable, sustainable cities.

This policy and investment framework is outlined in the Coalition's *Smart Cities Plan*.

We have established an Assistant Minister for Cities supported by a dedicated Cities Division in the Prime Minister's portfolio, reflecting the central focus of the Prime Minister on cities and the need for strong coordination across government.

Our record \$50 billion investment in infrastructure includes over \$4 billion on major public transport projects like the Melbourne Metro, Sydney Metro, Perth's Forrestfield airport rail link, Adelaide's Flinders rail Link, Capital Metro in ACT, Parramatta Light Rail and the Gold Coast Light Rail, making our cities more accessible, sustainable and addressing congestion.

We have made our first down payment to build Western Sydney Airport and make it rail ready – providing \$115 million for this work on top of our contribution to critical road upgrades in the \$3.6 billion Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan.

To support the *Smart Cities Plan*, we have announced \$50 million to accelerate planning and development on major urban transport projects and the establishment of an Innovative Financing Unit to broker commercial deals so that we can deliver more transformative infrastructure for our growing cities, sooner.

City Deals are at the heart of the Coalition's plan for cities. City Deals will make our cities more liveable through better coordination, integrated planning and targeted infrastructure investment. Under our City Deals, all three levels of government will work together to develop a vision for cities and agree on the goals, actions and investments required to ensure these outcomes are delivered. These can include new jobs and housing, but also carbon neutral goals, high quality green space and urban design. These targets and action plans are fundamentally aimed at improving the liveability of cities and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Townsville is the first city in Australia to be recognised in a 'City Deal' under the Turnbull Government's Smart Cities Plan. Throughout the campaign we have also announced City Deals for Western Sydney and Launceston. These are just the start.

Sustainable, green cities are more liveable cities. The Coalition will establish a \$50 million competitive Smart Cities Program for local governments to promote collaboration, use of technology and better citizen engagement to improve the liveability of cities and their suburbs. The Coalition will also establish an investment fund for clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency technology in cities through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

The Federal Government support the creation of a National Living Cities Fund

Our City Deals provide the Coalition's framework for targeted investment, across all three levels of government and business, to improve the liveability of cities. We will leverage our infrastructure investment, regulatory and policy settings towards better urban outcomes, including long-term-growth, jobs, accessibility, sustainability, greening targets and high quality urban design.

Each government will be accountable to the actions and investments to achieve the goals of a city deal. This means the Commonwealth can more effectively target our infrastructure investments, role and responsibilities under a City Deal respective to those of state and local governments, rather than replicating their jurisdictions. In this way we can maximise outcomes from government budgets and the Commonwealth infrastructure spend.

Our cities are at the frontline of action on climate change, being major users of energy and producers of emissions. The impacts of a changing climate are also keenly felt within our major urban areas, many of which are located on coastal regions and vulnerable to rising sea-levels, storm surges, high temperature events and urban heat islands exacerbated by poor urban design and the built environment.

The Coalition will establish an investment fund for clean energy, renewable energy and energy efficiency technology in cities through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. The Cities Investment Fund will leverage capital to accelerate the deployment of cutting-edge projects, such as precinct-scale renewable energy plants and installations, next-generation transport management systems, waste-to-energy, green buildings and retrofit of social and affordable housing.

State and local governments, not-for-profits and the private sector are able to apply for financing for projects that demonstrate value for money and earn a financial return for taxpayers. In this way, we will create a sustainable pool of funding with an annual investment target of up to \$100 million each year.

These investments will drive new jobs and enterprise and reduce greenhouse emissions, while making our cities more resilient, liveable and putting downward pressure on energy costs.

Other Coalition initiatives that impact green space and infrastructure and the urban environment include:

20 million trees program

The Coalition's 20 million trees program is delivering environmental benefits in urban areas and around major cities. In addition to the planting of trees, the program includes activities that contribute to threatened ecological communities and threatened species habitat in urban settings; expands on or improves existing networks of native vegetation in urban parks, reserves, bushland remnants, tree-lined creeks, river systems and coastlines; and benefits urban biodiversity.

The Coalition is working to develop decade by decade goals out to 2050 for increased overall tree coverage, and investigating opportunities to provide rooftops with green cover to improve both amenity and operational efficiency.

Green Army

The Green Army is a hands-on, practical environmental action program that supports local communities to undertake environment and heritage conservation projects across Australia. The

Coalition Government has allocated more than \$360 million for the Green Army program over four years from 1 July 2015 to support 500 projects each year.

Some of the projects have involved rehabilitation of urban waterways, and the planting of urban vegetation to support local fauna and enhance residents' quality of life.

Efforts to re-establish green areas across the west of Melbourne demonstrate the joint efforts of the 20 Million Trees program and the Green Army. 'Lead West', a partnership of local Councils, major businesses and organisations located in west Melbourne, will plant one million trees as part of this initiative, while seven Green Army teams will work to improve the extent and condition of vegetation across this area.

National Clean Air Agreement

The National Clean Air Agreement was established by the Coalition Government with the States and Territories in December 2015. The Agreement will drive actions to reduce air pollution and improve air quality to ensure Australians continue to enjoy clean air into the future.

The Agreement includes specific priority actions to pursue, such as standards for new non-road spark ignition engines and equipment, measures to reduce air pollution from wood heaters and stronger monitoring of particle pollution.

The Agreement also provides a framework for the ongoing management of emissions and air quality, recognising the ongoing impact of urbanisation and population growth. Separately, a review will identify low cost emissions reductions opportunities, including measures to improve the fuel efficiency of cars and other light vehicles.

Clean Air and Urban Landscapes Hub

The Coalition has allocated around \$9 million to the Clean Air and Urban Landscapes hub over six years to focus on collaborative, practical and applied research that informs on-ground action.

The Coalition is supporting research into clean air, urban landscapes and climate change to deliver hands-on tools and information to support green and liveable cities that attract people to live and work.

Emissions Reduction Fund

The Coalition's Emissions Reduction Fund provides opportunities for Australian businesses and local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and earn carbon credits by adopting smarter practices. These include upgrading public and commercial lighting, reducing the energy use of buildings and improving the efficiency of commercial vehicle fleets.

Driving innovation in our building stock, including new materials, green roofs and walls, modular construction and solar energy with battery storage is also important.

The Federal Government drive a change in accountancy, business case preparation and feasibility process standards to enable living infrastructure to be considered an Asset Class (or equivalent)

The Federal Government use the leverage of Infrastructure funding to mandate compliance with best practice tools

The Coalition has reformed Infrastructure Australia to increase its independence, with a CEO reporting to a Board. We tasked Infrastructure Australia with undertaking Australia's first national infrastructure audit and developing a new Infrastructure Priority List that reflects the challenges and opportunities outlined in the audit. The Coalition has now committed funding to five out of six ready-to-proceed projects independently identified by IA on their List.

IA have also reformed their project assessment framework. ALIA is encouraged to submit your proposal for living infrastructure as an Asset Class to IA for consideration.

The Coalition has also established a new framework for assessing infrastructure proposals under our Smart City Plan. The Coalition considers our investments in major urban transport projects as not just delivering travel time benefits, but broader liveability outcomes for communities.

We have allocated \$50 million towards project planning to improve and accelerate the development of quality business cases for major urban projects that consider broader objectives including urban planning, high quality design and public domain.

The Coalition will select projects based on their capacity to meet identified national priorities and deliver the greatest benefit to the Australian community and economy. Transport proposals will be assessed against the extent to which they align with integrated transport and land use planning strategies, including urban renewal and housing supply. Overall quality of life and urban policy outcomes will be a key consideration alongside their use of technology solutions – including green technologies - to optimise this infrastructure.

Where the Coalition invests in a major infrastructure project it will reserve the right to set conditions, to ensure these outcomes are delivered. Government will continue to work with state and territory jurisdictions to ensure these principles are put into practice when developing, prioritising and delivering Commonwealth funded infrastructure. The project assessment framework can be found online here: <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/whatis/innovativefinancing.aspx>

The Coalition has provided funding for major projects that are accredited under the Infrastructure Sustainability (IS) Rating Scheme. This includes Sydney Metro and Gateway WA that recently achieved the second highest IS rating for a completed infrastructure construction project in Australia. We are exploring the application of IS to the new Western Sydney Airport, along with Green Star accreditation for the proposed Australian Embassy in Washington.

The Federal Government support Local Government to deliver Living Infrastructure outcomes through the creation of a Local Government Green Infrastructure Package

The Federal Government invest in pilot programs to drive innovation and community engagement in green infrastructure

The Coalition is helping local councils deliver vital services and local infrastructure, investing \$3.2 billion for local road improvements, between 2014–15 and 2018–19, in addition to the

Government's annual Financial Assistance Grants for Local Governments, worth \$2.3 billion in 2015-16. Our Smart Cities Plan will continue to build on this significant investment in our cities.

City Deals provide a new vehicle for collaborating with Local Government and communities that will improve our cities – both regional and metropolitan. These will be exemplars in community engagement, as we recognise it is essential that Australians are engaged in identifying local goals for their cities and how to deliver on these.

In addition, the Coalition will establish a \$50 million competitive Smart Cities Program for local governments to apply innovative technology-based approaches to improve the liveability of cities and their suburbs.

Councils are at the forefront of service delivery and place-making, and are increasingly required to meet rising expectations of service on restricted budgets. Rapid development in technology and innovations in business processes are transforming the way cities function and enabling better services and infrastructure that are citizen-centric.

Opening up council data and information, business processes and technologies to third parties creates a platform for the identification of urban problems and contestable approaches to their solutions.

We want to pilot ideas that are made possible by new and emerging technologies or solutions to complex long-standing urban issues that only emerge when technology is applied.

We will incentivise councils to open up their data and collaborate with communities, local business, not-for-profits and research institutes to create cutting edge technology solutions to urban problems and improvements.

Projects can be planning, infrastructure or service initiatives and must demonstrate partnerships, open data, use of technology and make measurable improvements to people's quality of life. Examples of projects that can potentially be considered for funding include:

- minor traffic rearrangements and public domain improvements informed by user data toward pedestrian safety and amenity. This can include work to inform and implement 30-minute cities that incorporate active transport options.
- targeted urban greening using radar analysis of local climate, urban heat islands and hot spots.
- digital rendering of above-ground and underground built and green environments to reduce processing time in planning and development assessments and improve the quality of decision-making.
- digital customer interfaces including those that allow people to identify service or infrastructure improvements (ie. potholes, footpath obstructions, shade trees).

The ideas are endless. The program will target initiatives that are scalable and transferrable with potential for broader roll out.