



CREATING PLACES FOR PEOPLE

AN URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL FOR AUSTRALIAN CITIES

'We need better cities for the people who live in them, for the people who work in them and for the people who depend on them'

— The Hon Anthony Albanese, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport

The value of good urban design

The quality of our neighbourhoods, towns and cities has a significant impact on our daily lives.

Good urban design makes a valuable contribution to our economy, our natural and built environments, and the liveability of our cities. It helps local businesses thrive. It attracts people to visit, live and work in a location. It considers the landscape, encourages biodiversity and incorporates natural ecosystems. It has an important influence on our physical and mental health. It provides opportunities for healthy lifestyles and community interaction.

High quality urban design becomes even more important as we increase the density of our cities and cater for a growing and changing population. It requires excellent planning, design and management, and a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach.

Creating Places for People does not take a one size fits all approach. Instead, it provides broad principles that take into account the unique characteristics of a location, and encourages excellence in the design and custodianship of urban places.

Collaboration

Creating Places for People is a collective commitment to best practice urban design in Australia, and is the result of two years collaboration.

The urban design protocol is championed by all three levels of government and the peak industry and community organisations who have contributed.

We believe that, collectively, the actions that we all take will make a significant difference to the quality of our neighbourhoods, suburbs and towns. We encourage others to embrace and adopt the urban design protocol.

Urban design in the national context

The urban design protocol will help to deliver on the agreement between each of the States and Territories and the Australian Government to undertake reforms in capital city planning systems 'to ensure Australian cities are globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable and socially inclusive and are well placed to meet future challenges and growth'. (COAG 2009)

The COAG review of capital city planning systems is due for release in early 2012. It will highlight differences between each of the capital cities when it comes to encouraging best practice urban design and architecture.

There are some excellent examples of planning and design mechanisms around the nation. The South Australian Integrated Design Commission demonstrates a strong systematic approach to design across the planning system. Similarly the New South Wales SEPP 65, which requires independent expert advice for the design of residential apartment buildings, encourages skills in urban design and assessment.

Many jurisdictions already have urban design guidelines and protocols in place. *Creating Places for People* creates a framework for national guidelines and tools, including *Healthy Spaces and Places – a national guide to designing places for healthy living*. This is the result of collaboration between the Australian Local Government Association, the National Heart Foundation of Australia, the Planning Institute of Australia, and the Department of Health and Ageing.

The Green Building Council of Australia and the Australian Green Infrastructure Council will also soon release sustainability rating tools for communities and infrastructure respectively.

Examples of urban design charters, guides and handbooks in Australia



