MEDIA RELEASE
PLANNERS WELCOME REPORT ON ENHANCING OUR CITIES

The Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) welcomed the release today of the ADC Cities Report – Enhancing Liveability as a further contribution to the important debate that the community is engaged in over the future of our cities and the creation of a successful and sustainable nation.

PIA President, Neil Savery, said this report brings together a range of ideas from various stakeholders and highlights the critical importance of planning to the long term success of the nation.

“Good planning is essential in dealing with a range of issues including urban and regional growth, climate change, infrastructure coordination and population settlement”, Mr Savery said.

As was recently articulated at the Global Planners Network Congress in Montreal, Canada, there can be no sustainable development without sustainable urbanisation and no sustainable urbanisation without effective planning.

Mr Savery said that effective planning practice will help optimise the most productive and efficient use of land for the sensitive management of resources; the security of food and water; the environmental, social and economically sustainable development of human settlements; and the continuation of cultural connectivity to the landscape.

The Federal Government needs to continue to show collaborative leadership on this issue and pursue policies that will address five key planning priorities:

- Development of a population policy for sustainable growth and population distribution.
- Support for major strategic planning for cities and regions.
- Coordinated and integrated urban growth management that is essential for all Government funded infrastructure.
- Implementation of planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation (settlement patterns, food and water security, emergency management and critical infrastructure).
- Planning reform to improve efficiency and effectiveness of planning systems.

“A healthy vibrant nation now and into the future is something all Australians want and planners are well equipped to help achieve this,” Mr Savery said.

ENDS

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