LIVEABLE COMMUNITIES

PIA’s 10 point plan for Commonwealth engagement in sustainable cities and regions

1. Commonwealth to commit to an additional $10 billion in untied funding to the States and Territories over 10 years.

2. Funding flow to the States and Territories to be contingent upon their signing up to a COAG sponsored “Australian Sustainable Development Charter”, and their adoption of policy initiatives to meet the targets set out in the Charter.

3. Relevant policies will include regional and urban plans and strategies; resource pricing and property right regulation; improved systems for infrastructure co-ordination; better development assessment systems; new arrangements for funding infrastructure, affordable housing and environmental rehabilitation/conservation; and marketing and education campaigns.

4. Further funds would flow to the States and Territories as they meet self nominated milestones linked to the Australian Sustainable Development Charter.

5. The Australian Sustainable Development Charter would contain up to a dozen national targets reflecting a triple bottom line approach. The targets could cover greenhouse gas emissions per capita, growth in energy consumption per capita, water consumption per capita, levels of housing stress, levels of urban road congestion costs etc.

6. The targets would be agreed via COAG.

7. States and Territories would be free to address all or part of the national targets. Their maximum payments would be pro-rata adjusted depending on the scope of their response to the Australian Sustainable Development Charter.

8. The adequacy of a jurisdiction’s response to the national targets, and the adequacy of progress towards nominated milestones, would be assessed by an independent Sustainable Development Commission, which would report directly to the Australian Parliament (not the Government of the day). Pending the Commission’s findings, full or part funding would flow to the jurisdictions in question.

9. The Sustainable Development Commission would conduct its enquiries through public hearings.

10. The $10 billion over 10 years commitment made by the Commonwealth would be paid for from the productivity dividend from more efficient and sustainable cities.