THE VALUE OF PLANNING

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THE ROLE OF PLANNING

Planning is the way decisions are made on the use of our land, resources and investment in infrastructure to provide the best results over the long term.

Planning delivers quality places that grow wealth, an jobs and strengthen urban and regional communities.

Planning enables economic growth to be achieved alongside environmental goals and the aspirations of the community.

PLANNING BUILDS ‘PUBLIC VALUE’ AND EMPOWERS THE COMMUNITY

Good planning creates value by:

- setting out the desired outcomes for a place;
- strengthening the legitimacy and support behind actions; and
- enabling industry, the community and government to channel growth effectively.

Planning enables communities to be heard – and to confer their authority in contested decisions – so that even those who disagree with a decision can still support the fair basis on which it was made.

Planning also works to share the benefits of growth and investment fairly across cities and regions.

Good planning provides a predictable basis for investment in housing, employment and other beneficial uses which reflect community values for a place.
PLANNING SUPPORTS THE MARKET AND BOOSTS PRODUCTIVITY

Planning has a key public interest role in preventing land market failure leading to wider community costs. Planners analyse how the benefits of an incentive or regulation outweigh its costs – across economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Planning assists the property market by improving the way we share and allocate the use of land by promoting competition and reducing negative external effects. Good planning can generate spill-over benefits which can strengthen economic output and improve social and environmental quality.

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PLANNING FOR GREAT PLACES AND STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strategic planning influences the way policies and development interact to transform our cities and towns to:

- make jobs clusters and housing accessible – lifting productivity by agglomeration;
- ensure infrastructure delivery is timely and servicing costs are not prohibitive;
- protect the environment and increase the value of our natural resources;
- promote economic growth in regions supporting key industries and centres;
- maintain quality of life as areas grow and intensify, providing an amenity dividend.

PLANNERS ADD VALUE IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Planning involves collaboration among government and private professionals to achieve a public benefit, in ways that:

- envision the future, define goals and set out the means to achieve them;
- engage the community and industry and balance competing interests;
- coordinate multi-disciplinary teams to achieve cohesive results for a place; and
- understand, measure and respond to how policy influences communities and places.

The different contributions of planners in the property industry, government and consulting include:

PRIVATE LAND OWNERS, DEVELOPERS AND DESIGNERS
Take or inform financial risks to enable new housing, commercial and industrial growth

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNERS/ENGINEERS AND PLANNER/ECONOMISTS
Identify costs and benefits, formulate business cases, integrate land use and infrastructure sequencing, funding and delivery decisions.

STRATEGIC PLANNERS
Anticipate the nature of change and determine the capacity of land to accommodate growth with optimum economic performance, having the public interest as the highest priority.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT PLANNERS
Maintain public trust in the way rights to use land are fairly allocated via the planning system.

PLANNING SYSTEM REFORM AND POLICY PLANNERS
Set the standard for the performance of future development by designing decision-making pathways that reduce costs and deliver community benefits.

PLANNING RESEARCHERS
Contribute the evidence base to support policy and land use decisions.

LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT POLITICIANS
Communicate a strategic vision and broker the trade-offs necessary to deliver consistent decisions on land use / resource allocation supported by evidence and aligned with strategy.
Planning is a much broader activity than the narrow regulatory role often ascribed to it by economists and politicians.

“Planning helps to create the kinds of places where people want to live, work, relax and invest. Planning is about improving the economy and productivity of our cities and regions – by making places function better in the face of growth and change.”

– Professor David Adams

PIA: AUSTRALIA’S TRUSTED VOICE IN PLANNING

PIA proudly promotes the value of planning to government, the private sector and the community at large. Our policy statements offer insights across the breadth of planning industry issues. Our website, planning.org.au, includes an expanded paper on the value of planning as an economic tool with examples and evidence that form the basis of this summary.

We are improving planning industry competencies and professional course standards for PIA membership. Our Registered Planner qualification sets a new industry benchmark for proficiency and professional development.

GROWTH CHALLENGES AND MEGATRENDS

Australia is growing faster than any other large OECD nation with a population over 10M. Australia’s population is expected to reach 40M people – and Sydney and Melbourne 8M before 2050.

A much higher proportion of older people will be represented in our community. In an expanding knowledge economy, jobs are likely to be increasingly concentrated in our major cities. These megatrends pose challenges wherever congestion, density conflicts, social inequities and infrastructure provision are crucial issues.

The nine megatrends explored here are:

1. Increased urbanisation
2. Health and ageing
3. Resource dependency
4. Biodiversity
5. Climate change and disaster resilience
6. Global connectedness
7. Infrastructure
8. Smart settlements and new technology
9. Collaborative consumption and social change