



Response to the COAG Reform Council’s report: *Review of capital city strategic planning systems*

On 13 April 2012, COAG considered the COAG Reform Council’s (CRC) report *Review of capital city strategic planning systems* and agreed that continued intergovernmental collaboration, including further work on cities, be taken forward by the Standing Council on Transport and Infrastructure (SCOTI).

At its meeting on 18 May, SCOTI noted the findings of the CRC’s report and provides the following response to the report’s recommendations.

Recommendation	SCOTI Response
<p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council notes that all governments have put significant work into this project and responded to it in a constructive and collaborative way, and recommends that COAG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue with intergovernmental collaboration on the strategic planning of Australian capital cities—working together, sharing information and expertise, and supporting ongoing research on cities. 	<p>SCOTI agrees to continue with intergovernmental collaboration on the strategic planning of cities, consistent with its terms of reference.</p> <p>Additionally, SCOTI agrees that further intergovernmental cooperation will focus on managing the intersection of Commonwealth, State, Territory and local government policies that impact on cities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note that none of the capital city strategic planning systems were found to be wholly consistent with the agreed criteria—but a number of governments have put real effort into improving their systems over the course of this process.</p> <p>COAG should encourage governments to continue to focus their efforts on <i>improved integration</i>—complementary and consistent planning and delivery across relevant parts of government, especially transport, economic development and land use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integration <i>within</i> governments, including the Commonwealth as well as State and Territory, and local governments • integration <i>between</i> governments, based on continued collaboration. 	<p>SCOTI notes that no capital city strategic planning systems were found to be wholly consistent with the national criteria, but that a number of governments made significant efforts to improve their systems.</p> <p>SCOTI agrees that all governments will continue to focus on improving integration, including <i>within</i> and <i>between</i> governments, based on continued collaboration.</p>

<p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note that the agreed criteria for capital city strategic planning systems are necessary but not sufficient to deliver on its objective of globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable and socially inclusive cities that are well placed to meet future challenges and growth.</p> <p>COAG should focus continuous improvement efforts on <i>outcomes in cities</i>, including through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collaboration by governments to improve information and data about Australian cities • a commitment to evidence-based policy interventions in cities • clear frameworks for measuring progress and monitoring implementation of strategic planning in cities. 	<p>SCOTI notes that the report provides a ‘snapshot in time’ assessment against the agreed national criteria and is not an assessment of the performance of a city. Additionally, the agreed criteria for capital city strategic planning systems are necessary but not sufficient to deliver COAG’s objective of ‘globally competitive, productive, sustainable, liveable and socially inclusive cities that are well placed to meet future challenges and growth’.</p> <p>Accordingly, SCOTI agrees to focus continuous improvement efforts on outcomes in cities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that all governments commit to ongoing engagement with communities, business and all stakeholders in setting, implementing and reviewing long-term plans for capital cities.</p>	<p>SCOTI agrees that all governments commit to ongoing engagement with stakeholders in the development, implementation and review of long term plans for capital cities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG encourage governments to actively consider ways to improve the effectiveness of the frameworks for investment and innovation in capital cities, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhancing the understanding of the urban and land economics of capital cities • considering the cumulative impact of the planning, regulatory and taxation arrangements that apply to housing, jobs and infrastructure in capital cities. 	<p>SCOTI agrees that all governments will actively consider ways to improve the effectiveness of the frameworks for investment and innovation in capital cities.</p>
<p>Recommendation 6</p> <p>The COAG Reform Council recommends that COAG note the best practice highlights of consistency against the agreed criteria.</p>	<p>SCOTI notes the best practice highlights of consistency against the agreed criteria.</p>