



AUSTRALIAN CITIES PLACES FOR PEOPLE



COUNCIL OF CAPITAL CITY LORD MAYORS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
City economies	5
Protecting people and places	9
Providing the right infrastructure and transport	10
Homes for everyone	12
Conclusion	14

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SYDNEY

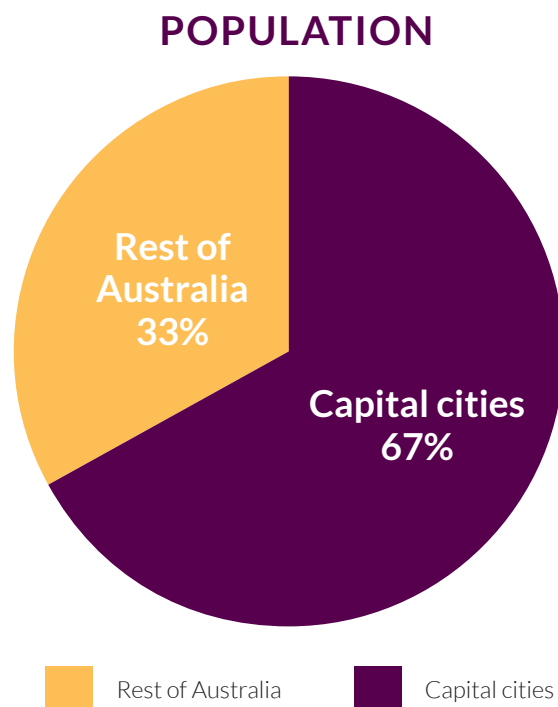


INTRODUCTION

AUSTRALIAN CITIES

In our rapidly changing world, cities are more important than ever before. Cities are where people and organisations come together, where investments are made, where new ideas are formed, where jobs are created and where lives are lived. In one of the most urbanised countries in the world, Australia's capital cities are home to:

- 16.6 million people - more than two thirds of our population.
- 8.7 million workers in our capital cities (69% of Australia's workforce), producing 70% of our GDP – which accounts for almost one thousand two hundred billion dollars of economic activity during 2016-17.
- It is expected that some 15 million more people will be living in our capital cities by the second half of this century. During the last decade capital cities grew by 2.9 million people – marking 77% of Australia's total population growth.
- Australia's projected population is expected to reach 41.5m by 2061



The pressures and changing needs that result from a growing population, and the impacts of a changing climate and an evolving global economy, will challenge our cities like never before. The risk is that, if left unchecked, our quality of life will drop and our city economies will become less productive.

To keep our cities among the world's most liveable we must adapt quickly to the new challenges and pressures that face us. Local, state and federal governments need to work together, with businesses, educational institutions, community organisations and city residents to ensure the long-term prosperity, liveability and sustainability of our cities, to support the choice people make to live in Australia's cities.

Australia's capital city Lord Mayors are committed to advancing the shared interests of our great cities. Now is the time for all levels of government to seize the opportunities and put in place the actions that will shape Australia in the years and decades ahead.

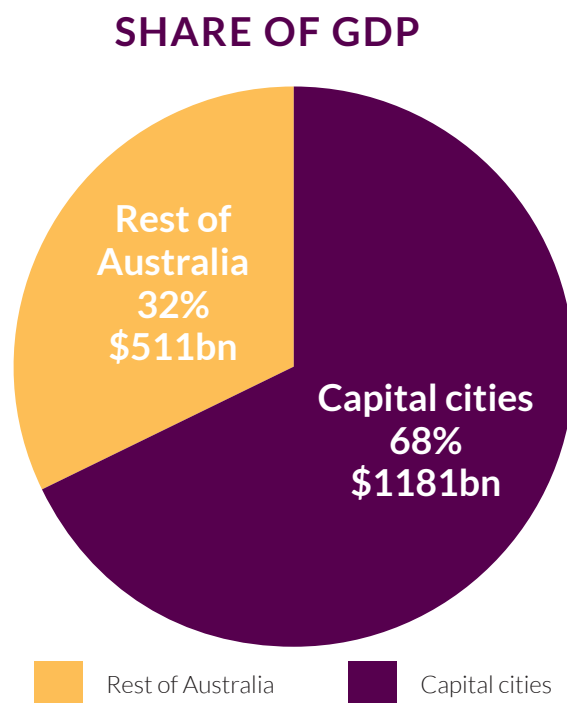
ADELAIDE



CITY ECONOMIES

Strong city economies are crucial to a strong national economy. Our cities are where Australia's future jobs are being created, and investments are being made. Jobs in health, education, advanced manufacturing and professional service sectors continue to grow in cities. Capital cities support Australia's economy:

- 70% of GDP – 73% of GDP growth since 2000-01
- 68% of 2.2 million Australian businesses
- 69% of employed labour force – 8.7 million people work in our cities
- 78% of large corporations and 67% of small to medium enterprises reside in our cities



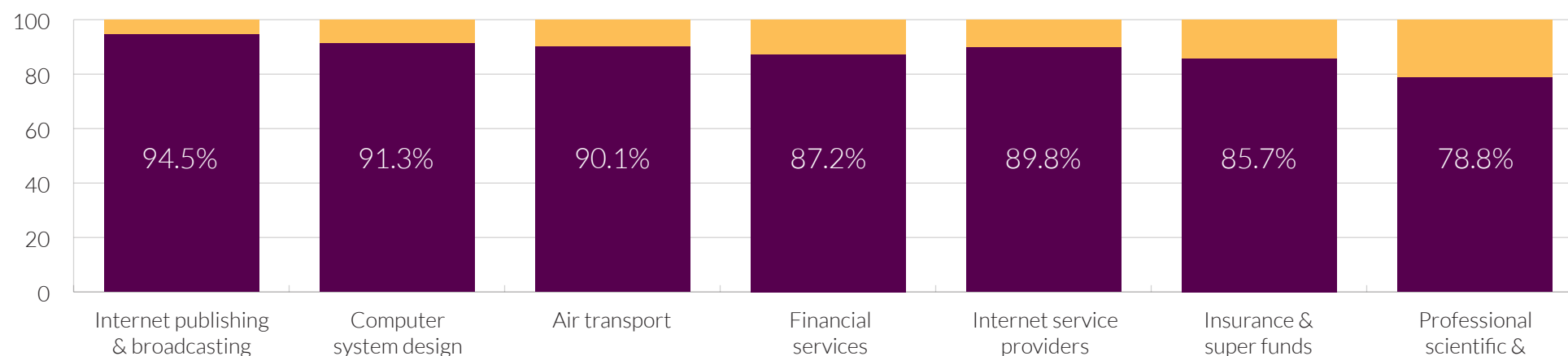
During the year to May 2018, employment in cities grew by more than 220,000 people. In the last ten years, 78% of Australian employment growth took place in cities (1.5 million people) and 73% in the last twenty years (3 million people).

People choose to live in cities, decisions are taken based on opportunity and lifestyle choices, and services that are available to support them, that may include: job and small business opportunities; a sense of belonging to vibrant communities; adequate infrastructure and mobility options; services that support health, wellbeing and perceptions of safety; as well as families' own support networks available from extended networks of family and friends.

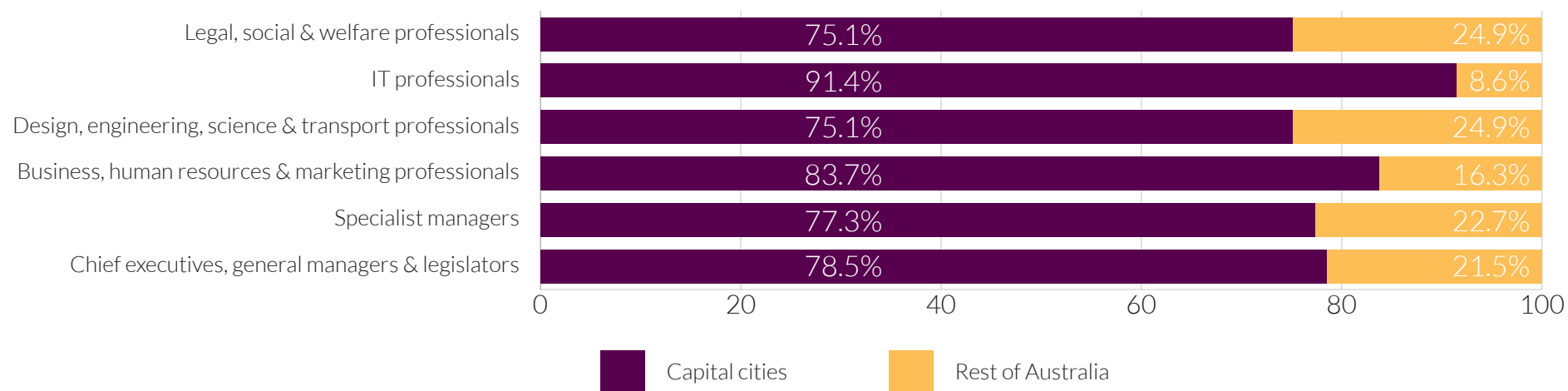
People choose to live in cities and the choices that people make must be supported by integrated long-term planning and investment in our cities.

'Knowledge sector' jobs drive city economies and the vast majority of these new jobs are based in our capital cities. Cities are also our country's educational hubs – capital cities host the majority of our universities, including the 'group of 8' institutions and 81% of all tertiary and university students studying in our capital cities. 82% of all patent applications in 2015 were derived from businesses and individuals in cities.

HIGH-VALUE INDUSTRIES 2016



HIGH-SKILLED OCCUPATIONS 2016



To make the most of the opportunities provided by our changing circumstances, all levels of government along with the many private and public-sector stakeholders need to create the environment where businesses and other important institutions can thrive. Vitally, this includes investing more in the infrastructure that cities need to support growing populations to help people in our cities to continue to thrive.



DARWIN

MELBOURNE



PROTECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES

More than ever before, our cities are vulnerable to acute and chronic shocks. The impacts of climate change, extreme weather, financial disruptions and security threats mean that a key challenge facing our cities is how well people, governments and infrastructure can respond to and recover from the impact of these events. Cities are the frontline for national resilience.

In 2015 the Australian Business Roundtable for Disaster Resilience and Safer Communities calculated the cost of natural disasters to Australia at \$9 billion per year. The Roundtable estimate this cost will rise to \$33 billion per year by 2050 - without including the impacts of climate change.

Reducing these costs and unlocking the value of turning disruptions into opportunities is a priority for global cities.

By working together, all levels of Australian government can ensure that Australia's cities are strong and resilient, offering a quality of life that city residents today and our future generations can enjoy.

The perception of city safety is paramount to attracting investment and tourism. City economies, and therefore that of the nation, relies on maintaining levels of perceived safety for people.

- Capital cities are Australia's Gateways to the world with over 7.0 million international visitors in 2017
- These international visitors stayed over 200 million visitor nights in the capital cities – 78% of all visitor nights spent in Australia.
- This visitor-night share was even higher for business visitors (82%), and for those visiting Australia for education reasons (89%).
- Visitors to capital cities spent a total of \$23.4 billion or 81% of total visitor spending in Australia – our largest services export.

Resilient cities are able to be achieved if consideration is given to building resilient cities across policy and program development and infrastructure investment. The following work is needed to integrate a city resilience approach across Government:

- Develop a cities-based national vulnerability profile to guide policy and practice;
- Build redundancy into Australian cities' transport, communications and energy systems;
- Develop resilience criteria in Australian Government infrastructure funding.

PROVIDING THE RIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

Our capital city infrastructure is stretched as populations grow and more people and businesses vie to use our public transport systems and roads to get around and transport goods. People face longer travel times between homes and work, education and services – and these delays lose our city economies value, time and money.

It is estimated that the cost of urban congestion to the Australian economy was almost \$14 billion in 2011, and forecast to increase to more than \$53 billion by around 2030.

It is a very long time since most of our capital cities were established, planned and built. We need to think about what needs to change to ensure Australia's capital cities are equipped for a very different future. Significant investment in key pieces of transport infrastructure across the country will not only boost local city economies in each location, helping business activity and employment growth, but bring economic benefits to the whole country.

Council of Capital City Lord Mayors believes that:

- Infrastructure expenditure should prioritise public transport, and active travel and local mobility that supports economic development, environmental sustainability and reduced congestion.
- Infrastructure decisions are based on the priority lists developed by Infrastructure Australia
- Coordination between the Australian Government and state and territory governments should be improved in the development of infrastructure priorities and possible impacts on cities including impacts on infrastructure.



HOBART

HOMES FOR EVERYONE

The CCCLM believes that it is a fundamental right of every Australian to live in a home that is safe, secure and affordable. Homelessness is an issue that affects all capital cities, and as the level of government closest to their communities, local government is often called on to support their communities experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Australia needs a sufficient supply of affordable and social housing to help address the cycle of homelessness, together with integrated support services and help for people to access it. These support services include help for the unemployed via Newstart and Youth Allowance, and disability ageing, mental health and family support.

A National Housing and Homelessness strategy is needed for Australia, that will:

- Present a long-term plan (of at least 10 years)
- Address housing and homelessness policies and programs across the housing continuum and involve all levels of government
- Be integrated with broader services
- Focus on prevention and early intervention and see specialist housing and homelessness services as services of last resort

- Be adequately funded to reflect the significant number of people who are homeless and the flow on effects from other policies across the housing spectrum that impact on this
- Focus on at risk groups, including older women, people with disabilities, people who are recently released from prison, young people leaving care and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



BRISBANE

CONCLUSION AUSTRALIAN CITIES

To remain successful, Australia's cities need all levels of government working together to ensure that our cities remain prosperous, safe and liveable for those that live, work and visit them.

Strong cities are crucial to a strong national economy. As well as being the engine rooms of the economy, cities are the frontline of Australia's congestion and population crises. National issues of housing affordability, immigration, homelessness, social inclusion/ cohesion and resilience are played out in our cities. The easy cry of "our cities are full" is simplistic and will drive ineffective Government responses.

We need a strategic approach to population that attends to the differing needs and priorities of Australia's regions and cities. Australia's regional communities are an important part of Australia and they deserve public policy which is evidence-driven and effective. Decentralisation of our cities is decimation of our economies.

In addition, appropriate levels of funding need to be allocated to the key areas of infrastructure and public transport, true housing affordability, services for those most vulnerable members of our communities and strategies to ensure a thriving city economy that enables continued support of the national economy.

The CCCLM stands ready to work with the Federal and State Governments to ensure the sustainable growth of our cities and support the prosperity of all Australia.



CANBERRA

PERTH





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