Multi-level Governance Symposium

designing sustainable urban forms

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What has recent public consultation found

1. Sustainability in planning for human settlements is about
   - liveability
   - accessibility
   - prosperity
   - identity
   - environmental responsibility
   - accountability
What has recent public consultation found

2. Wants and expectations
   - greater accountability, transparency
   - honesty in communication and reporting
   - increased environmental responsibility
   - interagency coordination and holistic approach
   - extensive consultation and education
   - plan for and respond to climate change
   - sustainability needs strong leadership
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*What is inhibiting policy innovation and problem solving capacity*

3. **Governance structures**
   - planning has 3 ACT agencies with overlapping responsibilities reporting to 3 Ministers
     - disempowered decision making by executives
     - workforce confusion
     - multiple coordination tasks
     - lack of speed in action
     - disengagement by the public
What is inhibiting policy innovation and problem solving capacity

4. Authority to act
   power resides with political leader(s) with electoral imperatives
   – 4 year cycle timeframe & fear of backlash
   – control / manipulation of information
   – ‘leadership’ shown with grand actions
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What is inhibiting policy innovation and problem solving capacity

5. Understanding Australia’s cultural paradigm
   - lack of appreciation that air, water and land are finite resources
   - ‘new world’ attitude to development
   - embrace of free market & deregulation
   - ‘she’ll be right mate’
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How to get legitimacy and manage risk

6. Bring the populace on the journey with you
   – capture diversity of views (deep not wide)
   – manage expectations
   – understand the values
   – empower decision making for tradeoffs
How to get legitimacy and manage risk

7. Multi–level governance mechanisms to require / enforce
   – triple bottom line accounting and reporting
   – intergenerational equity
   – metabolic / systems approach
   – policy reflects community aspirations and values
   – policy upheld to protect public interest over private ‘rights’
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Issues requiring multi-level governance

A. Density
   – choice of housing
   – factoring in the costs of ‘sprawl’
   – understanding social and environmental values
   – servicing and infrastructure efficiencies
   – cost efficiencies (whole of life)
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Issues requiring multi-level governance

B. Transport

- behaviour change
- carrot or stick approach
- provision of alternatives
- funding for public transport
- integration of land use and transport planning
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*Issues requiring multi-level governance*

C. Water

- integration of interests and values
- IUWM – stormwater, water supplies, wastewater management - quality, quantity, price, funding
- responsibility for policy development?
- water trading impacts on urban water supplies
Issues requiring multi-level governance

D. Energy

- structure of energy supply industry – generators, transmission, distributors, retail.
- costing externalities
- policy development – funding driving projects driving policy? Emissions trading?
- Centralised vs distributed energy supplies
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Further Governance issues for infrastructure providers

– Co-operation between agencies and governments
– Sharing and understanding priorities and values
– Managing expectations and costs
– Are projects driving policy?
– Risk management – upwards not better.
Conclusions in planning for sustainable urban forms

Recent re-engagement by Federal Government in the planning for capital cities should be welcomed.

The broadening and intensification of interest by Governments and the community in urban form design requires strong and clearly defined Governance systems.

Decision making processes with these should be based on sound science and multi-criteria assessments – not upward delegation of risk management.