

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

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22 June 2016

RE: Smart Cities Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Smart Cities Plan prepared by the Australian Government. Link Place welcomes the Australian Government's participation and interest in the cities agenda. As stated in the Smart Cities Plan, 'Fundamentally, better cities policy starts with a commitment from all levels of government to work together to deliver common goals—including reforms that make our cities easier to invest in and do business.'

The Smart Cities Plan sets out three pillars or mechanisms: Smart Policy ('City Deals', policy and regulatory reform); Smart Investment (such as value capture, and treating infrastructure funding as a long term investment not a grant); and Smart Technology (transitioning to a service economy, use of technology for transport and infrastructure improvements).

This submission has three recommendations:

- 1 That the Australian Government applies the Smart Policy pillar of the Smart Cities Plan, to **review its own policies in relation to housing (negative gearing, capital gains, first home buyer grant) to ensure equity + affordability for communities across Australia.**
- 2 That the Australian Government will need to **build its own capabilities and capacity** to understand, negotiate, procure, and monitor the performance of the innovative mechanisms offered in the Smart Cities Plan (such as City Deals, value capture, etc) and ensure that best practice economic, social and environmental outcomes are achieved.
- 3 That the Australian Government **demonstrate the application of the Smart Cities Plan in its own sphere**, by working with its agencies such as Infrastructure Australia, and the Departments of Health, Infrastructure, Education, and Taxation, to ensure that a **whole-of-government approach is applied to the Smart Cities Plan.**

Regards,

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