Submissions for the *Australia 2020* Summit

The Rudd Government will convene an *Australia 2020* Summit at Parliament House on 19-20 April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation’s future.

The Summit will bring together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the long term challenges confronting Australia’s future.

Every Australian has the opportunity to make a submission to the Summit in one of the ten critical areas of discussion:

1. Future directions for the Australian economy – including education, skills, training, science and innovation as part of the nation’s productivity agenda
2. Economic infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities
3. Population, sustainability, climate change, and water
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
6. Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. Options for the future of indigenous Australia
8. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design
9. The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia’s future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

**Submissions**

Contributing a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit is a way for all Australians to be involved in bringing the best ideas forward to address Australia’s long term challenges.

All submissions will be made publicly available on this website and will be presented to the *Australia 2020* Summit participants to stimulate discussion and ideas about addressing our future challenges.

Individuals, schools, groups, and organisations are invited to make submissions.

Written submissions are limited to 500 words per topic and should focus on one of the ten identified areas. You may contribute a submission in one or more policy areas.

Submissions will be collected by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is acting as a secretariat for the *Australia 2020* Summit.
All submissions require a ‘name for publication’. This can be an individual, group or organisation. In addition to this, each submission is required to include a contact person, their name and details. These contact details will not be published.

Your submission can play an important role in our national discussion about our future and facing Australia’s long term future challenges.

**What do I have to do to contribute a submission?**

If you would like to contribute a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit in Canberra on 19-20 April 2008, complete this form and return it to the address below no later than 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008.


Before completing the form please read all the information provided on this page to assist in completing your submission.

All submissions require a ‘name for publication’. This can be an individual, group or organisation. Your name will appear with your submission when they are published online.

You will also be required to include contact details – your name, address, email address and a contact phone number. These details are collected in case we need to contact you in the lead up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. Your details will only be used for this purpose and will not be published.

If you are making a submission as a group, please include the details of a contact person for your group.

**Completing the form**

The form requires you to complete your personal details and a ‘name for publication’. This may be your name or your group’s name.

You will then be able to complete a submission for one or more of the topic areas.

Each submission may be up to 500 words per topic to ensure that delegates are able to consider each of the submissions. If just one in every 1000 Australians comments on just one of the ten topic areas, each delegate may have to read more than one million words in the lead up to the Summit. Keeping your contribution concise will ensure that all submissions receive the attention and consideration they deserve.

For this reason attachments, publications, photos and images may not be included in your submission, though you may make reference to any of these you consider useful, including by providing references to further material.

**Editorial guidelines**

Submissions will be published subject to editorial control that restricts any offensive material or material inappropriate for publication being made public.
If you are hand writing your nomination, please be sure your writing is clear and legible to ensure your submission is able to be considered.

**Contacts**

Any enquiries regarding the Summit should be directed to:

_Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat_
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Toll free number: **1800 703 599** (during business hours Eastern Standard Time)

**Privacy and confidentiality**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is committed to the protection of your privacy in accordance with the Federal Privacy Commissioner's Guidelines for Federal and ACT Government World Wide Websites. These guidelines outline the requirements for transparent collection, appropriate and ethical use and secure storage of personal information.

The information you provide to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the 2020 Summit submission form will be used for the purposes of the 2020 Summit only.

Only your 'name for publication' and your submission will be provided to delegates for consideration in their deliberations of 19-20 April 2008, and in this way may be incorporated into the Summit Outcomes.
Nominations must be received by 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

**Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat**
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
1 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Please Note: fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory

# denotes information that will be made publicly available

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SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

**Future Directions for the Australian Economy - Education, skills, training, innovation and productivity**

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth

b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains

c. How we take advantage of Australia’s proximity to the fast growing economies in the world

d. How Australia attracts and retains the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers

e. How we ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system

f. How we foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

Parramatta is the economic, cultural and social heart of the larger Sydney region and its continuing competitiveness is vital to the region as a whole. The NSW Government estimates that the Parramatta CBD will host up to 100,000 jobs by 2051. Successful economic development models are built around true partnerships between government, business, local and major institutions. With this knowledge in mind, *Parramatta Economic Development Partnerships* was formed to give impetus to the development of Parramatta’s economy. This partnership is unique in that it positions the City as the leader in supporting and nurturing innovation including the areas of:

- **Sustainability.** Put Parramatta at the forefront of developing programs that combine beneficial impacts on business practices, the environment and the broader community.

- **Supporting Innovation.** Make Parramatta an attractive destination for creative and innovative industries through initiatives that support, nurture and attract intellectual capital to the area.

- **Build strong partnerships** with industry, government and other business-focused organisations to leverage intellectual knowledge and the joint resourcing of projects.

It is recommended that the Federal government support and expand on successful models such as this to drive economic growth in line with broader social and environmental goals.

To achieve this, the current and projected skills shortages need to be addressed on numerous levels. The increase in the number of people working is a key factor in this local area. For example in Parramatta despite the increase in the number of people employed and the decrease in unemployment the labour force participation rate for males has been declining in those under 45 years of age. It appears that in the Parramatta LGA this is due to the increase in the number of new migrants who are not as yet work-ready. By providing **tailored training** to meet this groups specific needs this would benefit not only the local businesses but also the broader community. There are other segments of the community that would benefit from **targeted assistance to enter/re-enter the work force** including women returning to work and other groups under represented in the labour force.

Other areas for examination include supporting the development of appropriate curricula and creation of an accreditation framework for **social enterprise training** and education nationally, both within mainstream institutions and through non-traditional channels; aggressively promote social enterprise as a valid and meaningful career choice, particularly amongst young people; fund award and recognition programs for **social innovations developed by social entrepreneurs** and their associated enterprises. For any future initiatives to be successful, they will require a dual focus on large scale projects and solutions and on local responses to local needs, which can best be delivered through local government.
### Economic Infrastructure, the digital economy and the future of our cities

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine ways to:

| a. Boost public and private investment in economic infrastructure |
| b. Improve planning and coordination of infrastructure investment across different levels of government and the public and private sectors (including maximising the most efficient future design of our cities) |
| c. Ensure that digital technologies are harnessed to improve consumer services, business productivity and the delivery of government services. |

As urban development and population increases across Australia it is critical that investment in community infrastructure is required, most noticeably in Parramatta, public and alternative transport. The Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics (BTRE) has estimated that the cost of congestion in major cities is $12.8 billion per year and the cost of the health effects of motor vehicle pollution is $2.6 billion per year. This does not include the significant global warming challenges Australia faces. While Parramatta City Council is undertaking numerous innovative public transport initiatives (such as a free shuttle bus), it is requested that the Federal government review their contribution and involvement in urban public transport infrastructure rather than principally leaving it as a State government responsibility.

Some areas where it is considered further investigation is worthwhile include:

- **Expansion of the successful AusLink program** to include funding provision for walking, cycling and public transport rather than solely general road transport. While funding has been provided to roads (such as the Blackspot program) investment could be redirected to an expanded AusLink style capital works promoting walking, cycling and public transport. These could be funded by relocating road program funding however it is suggested that a proportion of fuel exercise duty, in the region it is collected is hypothecated to the programs. This provides equity and public confidence with taxation and spending.

- **Establishment of a national walking and cycle infrastructure program** to provide alternatives and less reliance on private car for short trips. This may in turn reduce the need and or reliance for Federal road program expenditure.

- **Establishment of a bus priority funding program** to supplement the NSW Ministry of Transport’s (MoT) budget to deliver significant bus priority measures. The MoT’s program focuses on delivering bus priority without impacting on existing traffic flows. This results in many schemes being rejected because general traffic capacity needs to be reduced to accommodate bus priority. The Federal program criteria should focus on bus journey improvement to ensure more people rather than vehicles travel more reliably on the road network.

- **Establishment of a bus stop infrastructure funding program** for local Councils to assist with the huge task to bring them up to standard and within the time frame as set out in the Federal DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) guidelines.

- **Funding a multi-modal study for the Parramatta to Epping corridor** in lieu of NSW Government decision to defer a heavy rail link. This should include the benefits of a heavy link rail line to the Central Coast building better regional links for Western Sydney.

- **Review of the Fringe Benefit Tax system for company cars** to reduce excessive mileage. The current policy supports and encourages unnecessary car trips, this in turn generates additional urban congestion and greenhouse gas emissions which impacts on economic growth.

- **Review funding to assist state capitals in forming regional transport authorities** to coordinate public transport and the strategic road network to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods. The regional transport authorities could form a National Council to further the goals of integrating transport in urban areas for the benefit of the nation.
Population, sustainability, climate change and water

The Australia 2020 Summit will examine:

a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

The 2007 World Energy Outlook (IEA) concluded that “if governments around the world stick with current policies the world’s energy needs would be well over 50% higher in 2030 than today. The challenge for all countries is to put in motion a transition to a more secure, lower-carbon energy system, without undermining economic and social development”.

Many of the policies available to alleviate energy insecurity can also help to mitigate local pollution and climate change, and vice-versa. Local Government have been a leader in working with the community to address Climate Change, for example Parramatta City Council going beyond 5 stars under the Climate Protection Program. While individual Councils can play a role, there is a growing recognition of the urgency of this problem and strong leadership at the Federal level is required including:

1. the setting of aggressive and clear interim targets for GHG emissions
2. implementation of a national emission trading scheme
3. mandatory development controls relating to new development

The recently released McKinsey report (2008) on costs associated with delivering greenhouse gas reduction concludes that a total of 60 Mt of carbon-reduction opportunities can be found in the building sector all at low or negative cost. Parramatta City Council is a leader in the introduction of sustainable design controls for new development. However, for the opportunities highlighted in the McKinsey report to be realised a national policy and associated mandatory codes and standards is required.

The current proposal for a National emission trading scheme is strongly supported. However, for this to move beyond rhetoric and talk it is important that action is undertaken, even if there is still some uncertainty as to the approach or precise methodology of the scheme. An action learning approach is required if we are to begin to achieve the reductions necessary.

While the introduction of a carbon market is needed, it is unlikely that this alone will be able to transform how we power and fuel the economy and it is doubtful that alternative technologies will come on line unless dedicated funds are allocated to get new technologies over the hump and into the economies of scale where they can compete. To overcome this a climate fund of additional resources should be established to support these technologies.

One area where the Federal Government could directly modify behaviour and investment is through modification of the public subsidies to fossil fuels, agricultural chemicals, forestry, water supply and other unsustainable practices. Despite being a third of the greenhouse problem and being the sector that is growing fastest, transport fuel is not part of the main policy thrust at present. A policy process must be put in place to address this area. An example of this is the conflicting FBT rules which encourage employees to drive further in order to reduce their FBT liability. Such concession encourages the use of cars for commuting and is contrary to Councils goals to promote public transport and restrain urban traffic congestion. Such reductions could achieve simultaneous benefits to the environment, the economy and society as a whole.
SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population

The Australia 2020 Summit will examine:

a. How we invest to help prevent chronic and acute health problems
b. How we plan to ensure all Australians continue to have access to the very best of modern medical technology including pharmaceuticals
c. How we meet the emerging regulatory challenges of modern medical technology
d. The use of electronic infrastructure to facilitate efficient and effective patient care
e. Strategies to preserve Australia’s internationally unique blend of public and private health services
f. How Australia best plans for the future demands on our medical workforce.

Parramatta City requires investment in health education and literacy as a preventative measure to reduce long term health care costs. Health promotion in the present will prevent long term acute and chronic care costs.

The health system in NSW has a bias on clinical care. Investment in health promotion and prevention strategies are required to reduce lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, alcohol and tobacco related illnesses in the long term. Introduction of exercise as an official prescription to combat disease in addition to drug therapy should be introduced. Holistic GP model of care should be explored to prevent escalation of illness. Introduction of health impact assessments on large developments and new precincts is a proactive preventative measure to ensure that health promotion opportunities are built in.

A further key area is the need for investment and collaboration in service delivery models designed to support home based care to maintain independence and avoid acute or chronic care settings as much as possible. In particular improved carer and medical support for people who are aging, have disabilities or chronic illnesses is required. The level of community, financial and family stress experience by people in this category subsidises the health budget to a significant level.

Even in an area that houses one of the largest medical precincts in Australia (Westmead) there is very limited access to public dental health services for the spectrum of the population. The lack of oral health services has particular impact on those in the community of a low socio-economic status and those who experience extreme disadvantage such as the homeless. A key health need for the residents of Parramatta which requires investment and addressing in any long-term health strategy is that of universal dental and oral care. In particular, dental care needs to be reinstated as part of publicly funded health services.

Another key area which requires a National response is improved nutritional education or reduction of the marketing of fast food, particularly at children. This can be translated into practical action such as increased access to a regular supply of fresh food at reasonable prices, possibly through the introduction of locally based fresh food coops.

There are a number of communities in the city of Parramatta that specifically require and will benefit from a long-term health strategy. These include urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities experiencing chronic health problems and disadvantage and newly arrived migrants from third world and war-torn countries.

Mental health requires a broader approach and treatment needs to be cognisant of the fact that many people with mental health self medicate and have secondary substance abuse issues. The focus on drug therapy needs to be expanded and extended to incorporate a higher level and more intensive community support and therapy that applies principles of ‘calming environments’. The lack of ‘in care’ options and supported accommodation requires addressing.
**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

**Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion**

The Australia 2020 Summit will examine:

a. How we provide practical support to families to combine the tasks of work, raising children and caring for ageing parents

b. How we make a long term difference on homelessness

c. How we better harness the goodwill and commitment of the Australian community through voluntary and community organisations and philanthropic endeavour

d. How we build social capital within and between communities, particularly those that are cut off from the economic mainstream.

Parramatta is uniquely situated and is progressive in innovative service delivery and partnerships. Parramatta is currently modelling and developing service delivery through investigating the use of community hubs, developing and supporting social enterprise development and has shifted to a community capacity building approach to address community wellbeing and social inclusion.

The NSW State Government has targeted Parramatta with significant dwelling and employment increases. As the Parramatta population grows and ages it will require the provision of high quality, affordable community services including childcare and out of hours school care, aged care services, respite, non-institutionalised disability services and settlement services. Therefore planning community and human services to meet the needs of new residents and workers in Parramatta is crucial. Local Government can provide the consultative link with the community in this partnership informing needs, issues and developing innovative models of service delivery. To achieve this Councils such as Parramatta require pilot funding and support to develop evidence based models of service delivery into the future.

Homelessness is a key issue in Parramatta. To make a real long term benefit to this issue greater effort is required on a Case work approach to homelessness to address the complex and multiple issues in a holistic manner (eg through support for mental health, housing – crisis and long term, substance abuse, living skills, employment readiness; reintegration support).

Affordable housing programs have the potential to achieve significant social benefits beyond housing. It is important in enhancing the capacity of families to care for each other while minimising family stress. Affordable housing is a key issue to reduction of travel to work and to caring responsibilities and needs to be available to moderate income households and not restricted to low income households. Intergenerational family units also contribute significantly to community cohesion and links. Where families cant support each other ‘aging in place’ programs will require expansion to ensure their health and safety.

Greater investment into evidence based research and funding to address the key drivers of the decline in volunteers is required.

Building community capacity in Parramatta requires working closely with communities to identify needs, strengths and linkages at the community level. This also needs to move beyond traditional community organisations into other areas such as corporate organisations. These need to be designed to be attractive to people who are not predisposed to attending community organisations. Networking opportunities for home-based small business need to be considered.

Local Government requires funding and partnerships with the other tiers of government to test innovative models of community engagement to identify and then address community issues. Local Government is in a unique position to undertake this work as it has strong partnerships with the community, the community sector and business. Through these partnerships and by linking the different sectors Council can build effective services where they are most needed and capitalise on strong communities where they thrive in or outside the mainstream.
### SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

#### Options for the future of indigenous Australia

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we forge a new partnership with between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia to overcome disadvantage and provide practical pathways to the future

- b. The role of targeted programs and interventions such as the Northern Territory Intervention and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials in achieving change in remote communities

- c. How we might promote economic development in remote Australia to provide Indigenous community members with the opportunity to be economically independent

- d. Improving access to mainstream programs by Indigenous Australians

- e. Promoting and preserving Indigenous culture, languages and traditions.

Parramatta has a strong Indigenous heritage and history and a significant Indigenous population. It is necessary that Indigenous-specific services are located in and service Parramatta’s Indigenous population. There is a priority to work from the ground up with Indigenous communities in providing for basic needs and services as the move toward partnership takes place. An Aboriginal Health Service is an optimum starting point. While their has been in recent times a focus on rural Aboriginal populations and their need, it is vitally important that urban Aboriginal populations also receive focus and development. It is often the case that local Aboriginal populations move between an urban and rural base.

The partnerships which require development are between the Indigenous community and most importantly the three levels of government which will provide funding and resources for the service delivery. Local government is in a good position to broker these partnerships through its grass roots consultation with the local Indigenous community.

Improving Indigenous access to mainstream services requires mainstream services to develop appropriate levels of cultural competence in respect to Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders. This in some cases will require education, training and upskilling of service providers. It will also require work with Indigenous communities in introducing them to the available services and how the services have the necessary skills to meet their needs. In many cases services will need to be specifically designed and delivered by Indigenous communities.

The promotion and preservation of Indigenous culture, languages and tradition is an undertaking that again needs to be done in partnership with local Indigenous communities and service providers, particularly the NSW education system.

Reconciliation is essential to the health of the Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities.
SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- Future directions for Australia’s principal arts bodies
- Future directions for the ABC, SBS, Australia Television and Radio Australia
- How best to develop a globally innovative and competitive film industry
- How to encourage participation in emerging global industries such as game design, the internet 2.0, graphics-rich applications and animation
- How we build on the creative sector’s potential as a major Australian export industry.

The Summit presents a unique opportunity to re-examine the future structure of Australia’s principal arts bodies (including the Australia Council) and their funding programs to realign their delivery with that demonstrated by local government authorities Australia wide in recent years.

It is essential that the federal government forge stronger partnerships with local government to not only ensure the implementation of the federal government’s broader vision of shaping the nation’s future, but also to contextualise the appropriate allocation of cultural funding to identified priorities that will help achieve shared and defined cultural goals over the next 12 years.

Parramatta has taken a lead role in many of the above areas and continues to focus holistically on multiple deliverables across social and cultural objectives. For example Parramatta has developed low cost, flexible cultural production areas. The new Parramatta Artists Studios are a good and successful working model of an creative incubator that has particular strengths in equipping arts and cultural business “in a start up process” to build the diversification of business activity and employment opportunities for artists and creative people in region.

Another particular focus has been Council’s recent investments with arts & new media. Council has actively partner local arts organisations to develop a unique centre and outreach program that attempts to engender local artists and communities’ participation, provide access for those who typically lack access to digital arts and new media technologies, act as both a hub and also outreach to Western Sydney and be a centre for innovation and excellence in new media arts practices.

One high priority project that sets out to cement Parramatta’s new media focus is the development of the proposed “New Generation Centre and Gallery” set for completion in 2012. The scale, location and breadth of this project as a venue that specialises in the presentation and delivery of arts and new media makes this a rare and valuable opportunity for the federal government to invest in.

It is important that the federal government take a lead role and carriage through partnering with local government to strategically invest in cities such as Parramatta where continued growth will remain high and actively support the creative vision of these cities through:

- Significantly partnering in key city improvements such as the development of major new cultural infrastructure
- Encouraging and supporting programs that deliver on the growth of cultural industries as a new industry sector including sub-sectors such as cultural tourism, content providers, arts supplier & support industries
- Developing appropriate programs that assist in creating economic stability through the diversification of employment and economic opportunity particularly through creative industries
- Supporting a ‘living city’ concept by assisting to encourage mixed use development that put forward the inclusion of creative production and artists workspaces within city CBD environments, and funding programs that support place activation programs creating opportunities to animate the cities in terms of both the look and feel of the place, and people’s experiences of it.
- Supporting the work of artists and creative industries in innovation and the imaginative uses of information and communication technologies.
The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens

The Australia 2020 Summit will examine:

- How best to implement an effective an agenda of open government which best balances the legitimate requirements of the media and the confidentiality requirements of cabinet government in the Westminster system
- How best to engaged the community in government decision making
- What forms of Federation reform are appropriate for the future to maximise outcomes for the economy and the community
- How to ensure the future viability of local government operations and infrastructure provision.

In November 2003, the report “Rates & Taxes: A Fair Share for Responsible Local Government” was tabled in Federal Parliament. The report highlighted the significant roles and growing responsibilities of local government in Australia, at a time of reducing financial base. Local governments collectively receive around 3% of national tax revenues through the collection of rates. With a steady decline in funding from the State and Federal Government, this is resulting in significant challenges for Local Government to meet growing responsibilities and community expectations.

In order to address the funding gap between current and required revenue, greater formal and funding recognition of Local Government is required.

Local government has no national constitutional recognition in Australia although it provides a significant and increasing proportion of the essential infrastructure and services to all local and regional communities at an annual expenditure of over $20 billion. The absence of any constitutional recognition means that local government does not have as secure a legal position as the other two tiers of government. **It is recommended that the delegates review the Australian Constitution to recognise the roles and responsibilities of local government and appropriate funding arrangements for local government in Australia.**

Parramatta City Council engages its communities through a number of methods. Council manages a Resident Panel (with 2000 active members), convenes Community Advisory Committees and deliberately engages residents and business through a place based model. Council has a significant profile in the community resulting from community consultation efforts and is endeavouring to further engage and build the democratic capacity of its community through civic engagement projects.

It is the responsibility of all tiers of government to connect with the community to ensure a representative voice is heard and that real community is influencing decision making. **There are unique opportunities for the Federal government to work collaboratively with Local government who are best positioned to engage with their communities.** This will require new thought and innovation. Through using new technologies government will be able to reach groups which are traditionally under-represented in the civics and governance arena.

To improve the understanding of our communities a grass roots **Local Government information system incorporating population and service performance measures needs to be implemented.** Through a consistent community consultation process information can be collected at the local level and distributed upwards to State and Federal levels providing for effective comparison of information whilst allowing for predictive analysis to be completed. Hence a better planning model can be sustained through the three tiers by collecting information locally. **Federal and State Government need to adopt formal partnerships with Local Government** to develop these consultative models further, building on the vast amount of work already undertaken by local governments nationally.