



Invest in urban infrastructure to boost Australia's economy and build wellbeing

The Lord Mayors of Australia's capital cities are calling on Federal politicians to commit to ongoing investment in urban infrastructure to build the nation's competitiveness and improve the wellbeing of all Australians.

Releasing new landmark research by the Allen Consulting Group, commissioned by the CCCLM "*Nation Building Projects for Australia's Capital Cities: Securing our cities' future*", CCCLM Chair and Lord Mayor of Brisbane Graham Quirk called on Australia's federal leaders to invest in city infrastructure.

"Australia's economic competitiveness is tied to the strength of our cities, which in turn is tied to the quality of our infrastructure; and today's research confirms that money invested in urban infrastructure is money well spent," said Lord Mayor Quirk.

The research involves an analysis of urban infrastructure projects identified by the Lord Mayors as important to Australia's capital cities, assessing the economic impact from the construction and operation of specific projects ranging from improved urban transport (road, passenger and light rail, and active travel) to precinct renewal.

"The research shows that collectively, once operational the projects identified by Lord Mayors are estimated to deliver an annualised and ongoing \$1.81 billion boost to our cities Gross Regional Product," said Lord Mayor Quirk.

"For each and every year that these projects operate, our economy would be better off by \$1.81 billion. After 20 years, the operation of these projects would have boosted our economy by as much as \$25.2 billion, more than outweighing the \$5.44 billion collective upfront cost of construction.

"As Lord Mayors of Australia's capital cities, we want to remind Federal politicians of the importance of investment in urban infrastructure. We acknowledge that Federal investment in urban infrastructure has ramped up significantly in recent years; the projects and benefits we've identified are indicative of what could be achieved through continued Federal investment in cities.

"With capital cities our international gateway, home to almost 15 million Australians and responsible for generating 64 per cent of Australia's GDP, securing a strong economic future for our cities should be front and centre of this year's Federal election.

"We are looking to our Federal leaders to commit to invest in a wide range of urban infrastructure as the backbone of their economic policy."

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Nation Building Projects for Australia's Capital Cities: Securing our cities' future can be accessed at - <http://www.lordmayors.org/>

The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors membership consists of the ACT Government, Adelaide City Council, Brisbane City Council, City of Darwin, Hobart City Council, City of Melbourne, City of Perth and City of Sydney.