



Informing
better decisions



ADC Forum (Founded as the Australian Davos Connection) is a not-for-profit leadership organisation founded in 1996 by the Australian members and participants of the World Economic Forum.

Media Release
29 November 2015

Cities Summit convenes as growth pressures mount

International experts from London, San Francisco, and Ottawa are joining leading national experts and politicians at a major summit in Melbourne tomorrow and Tuesday to address the serious challenges facing Australian cities as they undergo continued rapid growth.

The Creating Healthy Cities Summit, convened at the initiative of the ADC Forum, aims to build consensus towards a new strategic vision for successful growth of Australian cities.

“Our cities are among the most liveable in the world. This gives Australia an enormous advantage in the global competition to attract the talent we need to drive a modern, innovative economy,” ADC Forum Chief Executive Anton Roux said today.

“However, the reality is our liveability ratings are based on a limited snapshot of city life, in particular areas, and mask some very serious challenges facing Australian cities. These challenges include housing which is becoming increasingly unaffordable for many, transport infrastructure which is under pressure, air quality and green space concerns, and growing city-linked health issues such as obesity and diabetes.

“With population growing faster than in almost any other developed country, we need to develop the capacity of our cities in a way that anticipates and manages growth,” Mr Roux said.

“This means building cross-sectoral consensus on a strategy which unites the diverse interests in city development – governments, planners, developers, architects, businesses, and communities – behind a shared vision.

“It must be a vision that not only promotes economic development and enables productivity, but which also places human-centred design at its heart. A successful and globally competitive city needs to provide not only opportunity, but quality of life for the citizens who live there. They are, after all, the ultimate consumers and constituents of our city planning decisions.

“We have the opportunity now to create a vision, and develop the knowledge base and institutional capacity to implement it. We can guide successful growth of our existing cities, and develop a strategic blueprint for development of new, internationally competitive metropolises to unlock the economic potential of our north.

“If we do this right, we can not only preserve, but actually improve liveability for all our cities’ citizens. But we need to act. The ABS predicts population will double within about 40 years. In the context of timeframes for developing social, economic, and institutional infrastructure, we don’t have much time,” Mr Roux said.

ENDS

ACN 085 852 848
ABN 65 085 852 848
PO Box 18058
Collins Street East VIC 8003
Australia
Tel: +61 3 8689 2300
Fax: +61 3 9650 4641
Email: adcforum@adcforum.org
Web: www.adcforum.org

Founder

Michael Roux

Board of Directors

Prof. John Stanley – Co-Chair

James Roche – Co-Chair

Advisory Council

Terrence Campbell AO – Chair

The Hon Richard Alston AO

Dr Michael Andrew

Adm. Chris Barrie AC RAN
(Retd)

Revd. Tim Costello AO

Prof. Edward Byrne AC

Prof. Allan Fels AO

Greig Gailey

Charles Goode AC

Brian Jamieson

Maj Gen The Hon Michael
Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC
(Retd)

Graham Kraehe AO

Dr Simon Longstaff AO

Hugh Morgan AC

Jeanne Pratt AC

Catherine Walter AM

Richard Warburton AO

Note: Summit details and media attendance

Media are invited to attend and cover the summit, by requesting media accreditation for the event by email to adcforum@adcforum.org.

Creating Healthy Cities Summit details are as follows:

When: 30 November-1 December 2015
Where: RACV City Club
501 Bourke St Melbourne

International keynote speakers include:

- Richard de Cani, MD: Planning, Transport for London
- Prof Robert Cervero, Chair of Urban Studies, University of California, Berkeley
- Howard Duncan, Executive Head, Metropolis Project, Ottawa

Australian speakers include:

- Hon Paul Fletcher, Federal Minister for Territories, Local Government and Major Projects
- Hon Anthony Albanese, Shadow Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport
- Hon Richard Wynne, Victorian State Minister for Planning
- Hon David Davis, Victorian State Shadow Minister for Planning
- Rt Hon Robert Doyle, Lord Mayor of Melbourne
- Philip Davies, CEO, Infrastructure Australia
- Jim Betts, CEO, Infrastructure NSW
- Peter Brain, Executive Director, National Institute of Economic and Industry Research
- Rohan Mead, CEO, Australian Unity
- Prof Jago Dodson, RMIT University
- Prof Michael Buxton, RMIT University
- Jerril Rechter, CEO, VicHealth
- Prof Mark Stevenson, University of Melbourne
- Prof Billie Giles-Corti, University of Melbourne
- Prof John Stanley, University of Sydney
- Prof Roz Hansen, Chair, Plan Melbourne Refresh Ministerial Advisory Committee
- Meredith Sussex, Chair, Fisherman's Bend Ministerial Advisory Committee
- Rhett Simonds, CEO, Simonds Consolidated

For further information or to arrange comment please contact:

Luke McMahon
Director of Communications
0431 743 151

About ADC Forum

ADC Forum is an independent, cross-sectoral Australian think-tank, bringing to bear strategic expertise in an open, dynamic development architecture to expand and improve our world through insights and practical solutions, opening opportunities and renewing fields of human endeavour.

By developing capacity for business, government, universities and civil society to jointly contribute to building a resilient global system, ADC Forum will be integral to shaping our shared future in the Asian Century.