Adelaide Futures Project

Towards a Sustainable Adelaide
- Time for Action

Geoff Anson
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Task 1:

Project Inception

- Task 1.1: Inception Meeting
- Task 1.2: Compile Information: existing frameworks etc

Task 2:

Identifying Emerging Issues

- Task 2.1: 'All Ears Listening'- Face to Face interviews
- Task 2.2: 'Moving Forward Together'

Task 3:

Prepare Futures

- Task 3.1: Confirm Themes and Policy objectives
- Task 3.2: Evaluate Scenarios and trends
- Task 3.3: Prepare 'Futures Papers'

Task 4:

Finalisation

- Task 4.1: 'Confirming the way forward' workshop
- Task 4.2: FINAL REPORT
The big challenges

- Environmental sustainability
- Planning for population growth
- Developing a robust economy
- Increasing sustainable transport
- Infrastructure investment and management
- Governance
- Flexibility and robustness
- Shared vision
Consequences of inaction

- Fail intergenerational responsibility
- Structural challenges will overwhelm tactical actions
- Inability to take regional/metropolitan response
- Local government reactive and not proactive
- Risk of gaps in meeting community needs
- Difficult to respond to new challenges
Local government’s role

• Visioning
• Advocacy
• Helping communities and businesses
• Leadership by example
  – Council practices
  – Incentives and disincentives
  – Planning frameworks
  – Skills development
• Coordinating local action with regional and metropolitan action
Sustainability framework for Adelaide

- Connections
  - Issues, policies and geography

- Complex issues and complex responses
  - City vision and plan
  - Integrated thinking
  - Stewardship of resources

- Collaborative planning
  - Actions at the local, regional and metropolitan level
  - Resources, thinking
Why act now?

Business-as-usual will lead to a widening gap between desired and actual outcomes for Adelaide in 2030.

Deferring action will require more radical change over a shorter period of time in future years.

Steady progress allows incremental change and adaptation over time.

Business-as-usual will lead to a widening gap between desired and actual outcomes.
Starting the journey

• Four issues papers
  – Connecting people and places
  – Housing the future population
  – Sustainable use of urban water resources
  – Developing a robust economy

• Other issues eg. ageing, environmental footprint
Overview of papers

• Period of major decisions
• Focus on sustainability
  – Issues are linked
  – Mostly complementary but some tensions
• Relevant across Adelaide
  – responses will vary
• Local government has a large role to play
• Likely to engage all levels of government
• Change achievable within 5 years
Paper 1
‘Connecting People and Places’

Prepared by
Geoff Anson, George Giannakodakis
MLGG issues and themes

• Urban form & transport decisions fundamentally linked
• Traffic congestion threatens our high level of accessibility
• Transport energy use is unsustainable
• More effective and equitable access is required to social, economic opportunities and services
• Transport plays a key role in our economy
• Transport decisions have an impact on the health and well being of users and non-users
Journey to Work
(a source of AM peak congestion)

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Journey to Work. Trips by Public Transport
Risks of not proceeding

- Accessibility to a range of opportunities will decrease - this access will hit the disadvantaged the hardest
- Congestion levels will increase and affect economic productivity – affect the environment and reduce the liveability of the city
- Energy use will increase and the city will be more exposed to oil shortages
- The current transport system and thought behind is well entrenched so delaying action compromises our desired future.
Recommended MLGG Actions

1. Shape Adelaide’s transport debate
   - Action 1: Establish an Adelaide Transport Forum

2. Identify metropolitan and regional transport directions and priorities
   - Action 2: Develop regional integrated transport and land use plans
   - Action 3: Develop local government skills in strategic planning (transport) and analysis

3. Local government to lead by example.
   - Action 4: Develop local government sustainable travel initiative
   - Action 5: Develop local government accessible transport initiatives
Paper 2
‘Housing our Future Population’

Prepared by
George Giannakodakis
MLGG issues and themes
‘Housing our Future Population’

• Decisions on population growth, urban development, social and physical infrastructure are fundamentally linked
• Land and housing affordability – lack of support for urban and social infrastructure
• Challenge of maintaining character and built form with urban consolidation/regeneration.
• Housing needs to retain our skilled workers, serve ageing population, immigrant workforce.
Key indicators


Age Sex Structure Population SA 2006, 2021 & 2036
(2 million by 2050 scenario)

Risks of not proceeding

- Growing miss-match between employment/economic hubs and affordable housing.
- Growing gap in community expectations for services and actual delivery.
- Lack of clear understanding about the impacts of state policy decisions.
- Ad-hoc or unclear growth or master-plan strategies.
- Councils unclear about long term asset management versus new infrastructure commitments.
- Social dislocation of groups in need.
Recommended MLGG Actions

1. Shape Adelaide’s urban development debate
   - Action 1: Develop a co-operative local and state government urban growth strategy based on robust information and agreed system capacity including regional growth considerations
   - Action 2: Develop regional strategic plans for housing and growth that reflect a changing workforce and population
Recommended MLGG Actions

2. Identify strategic metropolitan initiatives and priorities
   • Action 3: Develop agreed state/local government infrastructure funding guidelines for social and physical infrastructure
   • Action 4: Identify urban regeneration areas and develop agreed guidelines for sensitive infill areas
   • Action 5: Develop joint policies to preserve affordable housing in metropolitan Adelaide
Recommended MLGG Actions

3. Promote local government leadership in policy planning and education
   • Action 6. Plan and educate for Transit Oriented Development (TODS) and high density at the local level
   • Action 7: Develop an overall master-planning approach to better use significant infrastructure and development sites
Paper 3
‘Sustainable use of Urban Water Resources’

Prepared by
Peter Droege
Issues and themes
‘Sustainable use of urban water’

- Climate change as local and global force – risk of droughts yet there are flooding threats: urban, riverine and marine

A lifestyle challenge: embodied water and consumption - direct household consumption across SA is only 20% of total household water – some 60% are embodied in food and the acquisition of other goods and services
Issues and themes

• A systems challenge: failing infrastructure models
  • SA is well served by water recycling programs BUT rainwater is not systematically captured for reuse
  • Competing demands on shrinking and uncertain water resources

• A regulatory challenge: the state of management and control
  • Most initiatives focus on large user and supply side solutions (Desalination)
A challenge of vision: embracing the paradigm shift

- Community to accept freshwater as a scarce resource
- Need for positive lifestyle changes in consumption and household behaviour
- Water can be locally harvested – residential
- Decentralisation of demand and supply mgt
- Merge consumption and provision – “pro-sumption” (holders of priced and tradeable water rights)
- Stronger role of sub-regional catchment/council mgt
Recommended MLGG Actions

• **Action 1:** Embrace the Adelaide Water District on the road to the Climate Region - connective practice based on shared data and nurturing more autonomous, sub-regional water district

• **Action 2:** Learn from successes - can learn from important successes at home – e.g. wetland management, and translate these into region-wide and integrated planning and development practice.
Recommended MLGG Actions

• **Action 3:** Strengthen links to other policy areas

• **Action 4:** Expand the action radius for MLGG and Local Government - move from isolated projects to a deep and broad integration of efforts

• **Action 5:** Learn from abroad: Good initiatives internationally - Germany and Canada
Paper 4
‘Developing a robust economy’

Prepared by
Graham Larcombe
Issues and themes
‘Developing a robust economy’

- **Adelaide size and innovation** - Lacking the size and location of many larger cities, Adelaide has had to:
  - continually innovate, or
  - basically work harder to capture new economic opportunities
Key considerations

• The global economy and local government’s role - A paradox of the global economy is that it reinforces the importance of local “place”

• The global economy and de-industrialisation of Adelaide – slower rate of growth – does it matter?

• Adelaide needs good jobs to promote social cohesion through provision of incomes and skill opportunities for household
Share of economic growth
2001-2006 (%)
Recommended MLGG Actions

• **Action 1: Adelaide Economic Development Forum** - MLGG mechanism to advance an economic development agenda for metro

• **Action 2: Global links project** - MLGG should look at how recent arrivals encouraged to stay in Adelaide

• **Action 3: Council economic development capabilities** - MLGG encourage sharing these skills/joint economic research.
Recommended MLGG Actions

• **Action 4: Adelaide industry cluster project** - MLGG to collaborate in supporting local industry networks and clusters.

• **Action 5: Innovation and learning plans** - encouraged to prepare local /regional plans - analysis the economic impacts of local innovation and learning.

• **Action 6: Supporting the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors** – MLGG to use as a voice to input national debates.
Spatial/ Structural Outcome

• Broad organising principles are emerging
• Planning and decision-making should take an integrated and regional view of the city rather than focussing on individual sites and local responses
• This section brings together some initial thinking on some of the spatial elements of a future Adelaide
Urban regeneration/ social needs

Integrated transport/land use planning
Turning Adelaide Futures into action

• MLGG workshops to begin building consensus
• Developing specific projects
• Collaborative actions