

EMRC NOTES:

Smart Cities & Suburbs Perth Roundtable

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Hosted by City of Perth, Council House, 16 September 2016

Background

- On 29 April 2016, the Australian Government launched its Smart Cities Plan.
- The Smart Cities Plan includes the \$50 million competitive Smart Cities and Suburbs Program is expected to open funding rounds in early 2017 for local governments to collaborate and apply innovative technology-based approaches to improve the liveability of cities and their suburbs. The program aims to incentivise councils to open up their data and partner with communities, local business, not-for-profits and research institutes to create cutting-edge technology solutions to urban problems.
- Roundtables across Australia introduced the Smart Cities and Suburbs Program and encouraged input on how the Program can be designed to best meet local government and community needs.

Summary of Perth Roundtable Sessions

Introduction by Paula Svarcas, DPMC

- Smart Cities - <https://cities.dPMC.gov.au/> - Plan provided for comment – over 130 submissions received – report to be released shortly
- City Deals also launched - Government has committed to early deals for Townsville, Launceston and Western Sydney. The process for selecting future deals is yet to be announced.
- Innovative new infrastructure financing unit – government not an ‘ATM’ – finding financing alternatives
- Technology based solutions to urban problems – infrastructure and efficiency
- Looking for collaborations – government, private, research, etc.
- Key words: disruptive – innovative – transport – housing – jobs – green open spaces – urban design – urban rail – 30 minute city – data – measurement
- No mention of water

Presentation by Martin Mileham, CEO City of Perth

- City of Perth developed Smarter Planning Perth platform – Esri ArcGIS – shapefiles
- <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=e9ee9ee949c64e84aa62faa38bbd253f>
- Sharing platform for coordinated planning – data underpins everything - trial of new technology using project based data layers
- Will use to integrate into 3D modelling in the future – being developed by a gamer and the data guys – include fly through of the city – able to add proposed developments as part of planning process

Interactive polls for input into design of program

- Using online ‘poll everywhere’ app – smart phones and tablets – login & provide answers to questions in real time with table discussions - <https://www.polleverywhere.com/>
- Very little discussion regarding water, WSUD or smart technologies to improve water except for – “technology can be used to access stormwater runoff and injecting the water in underground aquifers before it is lost into the river and ocean systems” and brief mention that water availability was a challenge.
- Focus was on:
 - Data, data & knowledge sharing, platforms, fit for purpose data, open data, hackathons
 - Safety & security
 - Public transport infrastructure
 - Urban density & coordinated planning
 - Green spaces & urban design
 - Smart grid, energy & data
 - Community interaction and integration, especially with apps, wifi, open source data, etc.
 - Agency collaboration, information sharing & regional rather than local solutions
- Barriers to implementation included:
 - Competing priorities both internal & external (time, money, politics);
 - No willingness amongst LGAs to share; silos (local & state; interdepartmental);
 - Transformational change needed;
 - Justifying ROI (business case);
 - LG Act & regulatory barriers against commercial works;
 - Institutional and legacy systems (utilities; price & ownership of water, energy, streetlights).

- Support required to overcome barriers included:
 - Remove state government (!);
 - Collaborative imperative from Federal level;
 - Project support to broker collaboration and leverage additional funding;
 - LGA training to build capacity;
 - Shared business cases & avoiding duplication;
 - Government support to bring utilities up to date;
 - Data & sharing platforms;
 - Multi stage facilitated process to meet LGA budget processes such as EOI, workshop preferred ideas, then full submission;
 - Resources for LGAs including financing solutions meeting the “approved lender” requirements.

Presentation by Mark Dunne, Australian Smart Cities Association (ASCA)

- Investing in alliances over short term profit - community at the core of activities - supports collaboration at all levels – LGAs, ROCs, RDA, etc.
- Peak industry association for connected communities - <http://australiansmartcommunities.org.au/>
- Has access to research partners – CRCs, Living Labs, data hubs, platforms, etc.

Presentation by Allan Barger, Public Data Branch, DPMC

- Driving force for open data across Australia – looking to collect all open source public data into one place
- Data hosting over 20,000 data sets – tabular form - <http://data.gov.au/>
- Data for access and reuse – hackathons to find useful data to drive solutions to problems (e.g. GovHack)
- National mapping also available - <http://nationalmap.gov.au/> - spatial information - no hosting of data but provides layers of information hosted elsewhere - visualisation of existing data - citizens engaging with data - location based
- City dashboards in development? – open source – snapshot – urban indicators

Data 61 by CSIRO

- Data science unit – new – operating 6 months – set up to position Australia as a leader – lift & export – 1,100 staff (!) - <https://www.data61.csiro.au/> - data, analytics, sensing, gaps
- Used for open source platforms; asset management; advice & collaboration

Next steps for Smart Cities and Suburbs Program

- Design – program draft guidelines incorporating roundtable input will be released for comment later this year
- Where to next – need to decide on processes; timeframes for the funding rounds – looking to trial and pilot (including innovative delivery of program)
- Call for EOI early 2017 for projects to begin 2017/18 FY