



MEDIA RELEASE

PLANNERS – ADDRESSING ‘WICKED PROBLEMS’

World Town Planning Day – Monday 8 November 2010

EMBARGOED UNTIL MIDNIGHT 7 NOVEMBER 2010

Today is World Town Planning Day, which celebrates the enormous contribution that urban and regional planners make to the community through the creation of better places for people to live, work and play.

President of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA), Mr Neil Savery, said “planners play a crucial role in building sustainable communities for the future and, with the population of Australia predicted to reach around 36 million by 2050, this role is becoming increasingly more important”.

He said planners are also helping to tackle the more immediate problems that people face in their everyday lives like traffic congestion, housing affordability and access to local services.

75 per cent of Australia’s population lives in cities of more than 100,000 people and, as these cities grow in size and population, planners are working to ensure that they continue to be attractive places in which to live.

The benefits of good planning for the community can include:

- safer neighbourhoods,
- shorter travel times to work,
- more sensitive urban development that respects the environment,
- better land use,
- affordable housing choices,
- access to quality local services,
- interesting and lively parks and public spaces,
- improved access to jobs, education and recreation opportunities.

Planners are highly skilled professionals that work across all tiers of government, business, academia and the community. With specialist university qualifications, planners are trained to understand all the elements that make up our cities, towns and regions and are constantly managing change in our complex built, rural and natural environment.

“The community is currently engaged in a range of difficult debates arising out of what are now collectively being referred to as ‘wicked problems’ such as climate change, peak oil, the global financial crisis, environmental degradation, food and water security, population growth and demographic change. World Town Planning Day is a timely reminder that planners are well equipped to help Australia address these pressing issues” Mr Savery said.

ENDS

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Attachment: Planning Fact Sheet - Celebrating Planners Creating Sustainable Communities

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