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What really happened at Rio+20, and what now for Australia?
Outline of talk

- ICLEI global forum Belo Horizonte
- RIO+20 – government and NGO’s
- World Urban Forum – Naples
- The *urban century* – OECD/UN/ICLEI/C40
- Opportunities for Australia
Community engagement and education in sustainable development

ICLEI World Congress leading to RIO+20
RIO+20 Agenda- focus on cities

- A recognition that this is the urban century
- Australian focus on the marine environment
- Major theme by many nations was urbanization.
‘We recognize that if they are well planned and developed including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies’ (R134)

- Commitment to an international process to develop sustainable development goals
- Australian Prime Minister Gillard to co chair process
City leaders collaborate on urban futures
United support for green growth

- UN leader Ban Ki-moon
- OECD policy direction
- Premier of China
- Mayor of New York City
- ICLEI

Ban Ki-moon Head of UN and Joan Clos head of UN-Habitat, RIO+20
This is the ‘urban’ century

- UN-Habitat stress two actions
  - National urban policy
  - Properly planned city extensions

- Managing urbanization will be the competitive advantage of the 21st century

- Increasing attacks on planning
  - Tea party, UK, recent signs in Australia

*Nature* 441, 815 (15 June 2006)
Governance and urban planning are the ‘hub’

1. Productivity
2. Infrastructure
3. Quality of Life
4. Equity and social inclusion
5. Environmental sustainability

A deliberate broadening of the concept of economic growth

(State of the World Cities 2012/2013 Sept 2012)
Highly urbanized nation

Significant challenges with climate change

Innovation in sustainable built environments

A more regional approach

Increasing interest in healthy cities
What for Australia?

- Positive steps with a national urban policy, price on carbon, some innovative local action on adaptation

- Investment required in public transport, open space and urban design at the local level

- International interest in innovative regional responses to sustainable development (Regional Australia, CURF)

- Concern with recent unwinding of urban and environment policy at the sub national/state level.
Conclusions

- International agenda adopts sustainable cities and integrated urban planning

- Requires a bi-partisan approach to sustainable cities and long term green infrastructure investment

- Need to provide integrated urban planning to implement sustainable development

- An Australian Sustainable Development Commission for long term progress (Parliamentary report 2005)
Any questions?