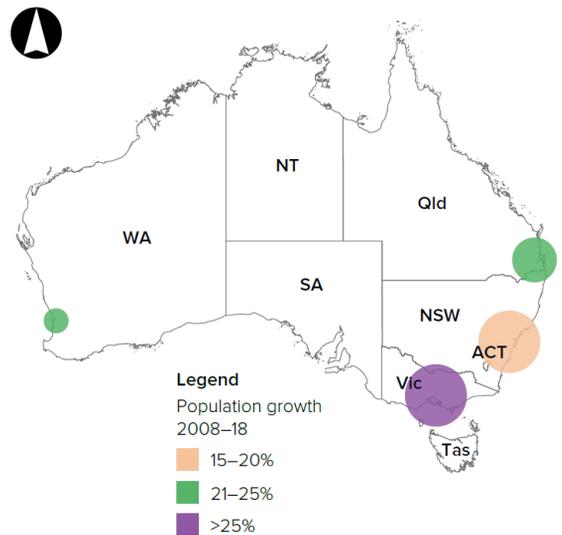


Fast-growing cities

Australian Infrastructure Audit

Australia's fast-growing cities have developed as dynamic economic powerhouses in the 21st century

- Our fast-growing cities are: **Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth**
- They are regional and global hubs for businesses, and have high population growth.
- Fast-growing cities provide high quality of life, more services and better health outcomes – but often at a higher cost.
- Success has attracted millions, drawn by the prospects of employment and opportunities to improve their wellbeing.
- The pace of growth has put many legacy infrastructure networks under strain.
- Infrastructure networks were designed decades ago and were not designed to support cities of today's scale.
- Since the 2015 Audit, congestion on our roads and crowding on public transport has worsened.
- The provision of housing and supporting infrastructure has encroached on industrial land, productive land and natural habitats.



59%

of Australians live in these cities

Key Industries

- Professional services
- Finance
- Tourism



Better functioning cities and towns could deliver a
\$29 billion increase
in GDP in the long term

Between 2008 and 2018

71.6%

of population growth occurred in our fast-growing cities

Infrastructure in our fast-growing cities



Infrastructure for users: Some infrastructure sectors are struggling to keep pace with growth.



Industry efficiency, capacity and capability: The scale of construction has created a heated, stretched market and impacting effective competition.



Passenger transport: Transport demand is increasing, and well-designed public transport networks will be crucial to reducing future road congestion.



Freight transport: Rising levels of urban congestion create bottlenecks and delays in our urban supply chain, resulting in increasing costs as our cities grow.



Social infrastructure: Demand for school infrastructure, health and aged care services is increasing. Arts and cultural infrastructure is high quality and accessible. Green, blue and recreation infrastructure is highly valued, but often overused. Social housing and justice infrastructure are under demand pressure.



Energy: Home solar and storage can help users to save costs and control energy use, but government policies are uncoordinated, meaning predominantly middle to higher income users are best placed to benefit.



Telecommunications: Access to high quality services with good, with continued nbn rollout and planned 5G upgrades. However, the cost of services is perceived as high for some groups.



Water: Urban water will play an increasingly important role in supporting liveability in fast-growing cities as they grow.

Principle challenges and opportunities

Challenge: Rapid growth in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth has brought many benefits, but has also put legacy infrastructure under increasing strain. Without action, infrastructure constraints will add to economic, social and environmental costs, eroding the productivity of these cities and reducing quality of life for residents.

Challenge: Urban travel patterns are becoming increasingly complex, driven by economic, social, demographic and technological changes. There is a risk of growing divergence between the way our networks are planned and designed, and the needs of customers. Failure to cater for changing patterns of travel could contribute to growing congestion in our fast-growing cities.

Challenge: A limited number of new waste facilities and landfill sites have been approved and residential development is encroaching on existing sites.

Opportunity: The delivery of new and upgraded major health infrastructure in cities provides the opportunity to co-locate these assets with other services, such as other health services and education.