



8 July 2009

MEDIA ALERT

Is Australia getting its urban sustainability policy right?

This Friday Curtin University of Technology's Professor Peter Newman and Parsons Brinckerhoff's (PB) Brian McMahon will address the Australian Government's urban sustainability policy agenda.

At a PB breakfast event in Canberra, Professor Newman said there was a growing global consensus on what is needed to address the issues of climate change and peak oil.

"Appropriate urban sustainability policies will help Australia compete in the emerging green, global, economy.

"New infrastructure and a strong carbon trading scheme will encourage creative people to design and deliver sustainable cities.

"But policies to help the states do better planning will still be needed," said Professor Newman.

PB Principal Planning Consultant Brian McMahon, recently returned from a tour of transit-oriented development (TOD) sites in the United States and Europe, said Australia can learn from overseas planning experiences.

"In Australia, TOD design often involves breaking all the statutory planning rules.

"What we need are new frameworks that allow these vibrant communities to evolve and benefit our economy and lifestyle" said Mr McMahon.

Professor Newman and Brian McMahon are available for interview in Canberra.

WHEN: 7.30 to 9.00am FRIDAY 10 JULY

WHERE: Hotel Realm, 18 National Ct, Barton ACT

CONTACT: Elaine Hill on 0458-434-077 or email e1hill@pb.com.au

Professor Peter Newman

Peter Newman is Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia and Director of the Curtin University Sustainability Policy (CUSP) Institute. He is the author of *Sustainability and Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence* (1999), *Cities as Sustainable Ecosystems* (2008) and the new book *Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change* (2008). Professor Newman is internationally recognised as one of the world's leaders in sustainability. He is a member of the Board of Infrastructure Australia, which is delivering infrastructure through the Building Australia Fund to Australian cities and regions using a new sustainability based approach.

Brian McMahon

Brian McMahon is a Principal Planning Consultant with Parsons Brinckerhoff based in Perth, WA. He specialises in the integration of land use and transportation planning with extensive experience with communities and non-government organisations in developing and implementing strategies for smart growth and sustainable transportation. He is particularly experienced in the leadership of Transit Oriented and Pedestrian Oriented Developments. Mr McMahon's focus is on developing creative solutions to the planning issues surrounding community development and transportation in new urban centres.

Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)

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