

Submissions for the *Australia 2020* Summit

The Rudd Government will convene an *Australia 2020* Summit at Parliament House on 19-20 April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future.

The Summit will bring together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the long term challenges confronting Australia's future.

Every Australian has the opportunity to make a submission to the Summit in one of the ten critical areas of discussion:

1. The productivity agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation
2. The future of the Australian economy
3. Population, sustainability, climate change and water
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
6. Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. Options for the future of Indigenous Australia
8. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design
9. The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

The productivity agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Ensure that digital technologies are harnessed to improve consumer services, business productivity and the delivery of government services.
- b. Best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. Attract and retain the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- d. Ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Develop and position Canberra as a global city for education, culture and the languages.
- Provide the infrastructure to attract and retain students and teachers to Canberra.
- Implement a ‘life long learning philosophy’ by creating learning opportunities throughout the lifespan.
- Redesign the notion of ‘school’ by developing new teaching and organisational models that create pathways and options for students and to enable education in the ACT will be delivered in a range of settings.
- Strengthen the teaching profession to ensure teachers are valued and rewarded and education and learning is valued.
- Provide the opportunity for every student to achieve a post-school qualification by 2020.
- Close the gaps between industry and education providers and utilise the knowledge and skills of industry professionals to teach students and build capability in teachers.
- Develop a single, national and transparent needs-based approach to government funding and schools. Current, disconnected arrangements create inequity in the learning experience of students across the country.

Proposed Way Forward

- Implement an agreed national formula for resource allocation regarding education and training that takes account of the differing, specific needs of individual school communities. For example, the number of children with disabilities, indigenous and non-English speaking backgrounds, socio-economic status, and geographical location of the school population should have a bearing on resource allocation.
- Create a Taskforce to map current capacity and to identify opportunities and pathways to best utilise Canberra’s vast array of offerings (our institutes, cultural organisations and research bodies).
- Develop and implement strategies, including appropriate remuneration that reflects their true value, that not only attract teachers to Canberra, but retain them in the profession and in the jurisdiction.
- Redesign and reconceptualise schooling and learning in the ACT; design a Learning Hub to enable student and community learners to access learning using a variety of methods (including exploring the notion of virtual schools) and utilising the technology available.
- Create a ‘life-long learning’ culture and fund that will enable everyone to access an 18 month period of training to re-skill and revitalise. The fund could be contributed to by individuals, employers, industry, and government. Create the structures (flexible facilities and delivery) and policy to support this.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

The future of the Australian economy

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine ways to:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How we boost public and private investment in economic infrastructure
- e. Foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Position and market Canberra as a “City for the Asia Pacific” and the “Hub of Innovation”.
- Create Infrastructure ACT, including a transport hub around the airport and links to major cities via a very fast train.
- Source access to efficient broadband.
- Radically reconceptualise housing and planning to enhance affordability which will assist Canberra to attract and retain skills and talent.
- Refocus the Public sector on risk and outcomes rather than process.
- Retain competitive tension between IT infrastructure providers and aim to provide high speed broadband to everyone in the ACT at low cost.
- Investigate the concept of a city with “unlimited data”, that is, access to broadband through an internet service provider that does not charge extra for uploads and downloads. This will encourage companies to start-up or relocate to Canberra, bringing with them their families, skills and potential.
- Develop Canberra as the political centre and information/innovation hub of the Asia-Pacific region (similar to Geneva in Europe).

Proposed Way Forward

- Reorganise the borders of states and territories to comprise a population of approximately 1 million per region and create “super regions” for more effective governance and planning.
- Mandate or provide tax incentives to encourage a proportion of superannuation be allocated to venture capital.
- Enhance connections between the major cities and Canberra by building a Sydney-Canberra-Melbourne very high speed rail system.
- Commission a feasibility study to determine the impact of the creation of a city with “unlimited data”.
- Reduce HECS fees for students acquiring the skills and knowledge required for the future.
- Provide Tax concessions for initiatives involving research and development aimed at innovation.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Population, sustainability, climate change and water

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
- b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
- c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
- d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Define what is meant by the term “sustainability” and create a shared, national understanding its meaning
- Make sustainability a consideration underpinning all decisions, for example, economic and policy decisions, permits, and decisions made by industry.
- Create a mix of living styles and design the city around public transport and ‘walkability’.
- Implement a Bio-Regional Planning and Implementation plan to provide connections with other states and territories.
- Set and achieve a target higher than carbon neutrality.
- Move to best practice building that is congruent with principles of sustainability.
- Increase community awareness and understanding of sustainability issues.
- Build community and government partnerships to develop social as well as technological solutions to issues.
- Produce more food locally.

Proposed Way Forward

- Adopt a vision of Canberra as the most sustainable city in Australia. Develop the ACT as ‘model’ for the rest of the country and world; challenge and support citizens to be sustainable.
- Develop a new Building Code underpinned by principles of sustainable construction and living and match or exceed benchmarks set in leading countries such as Germany.
- Increase public transport participation rate from the current 7% to 50% by making the use of private vehicles an ‘unattractive’ option.
- Ensure all key decision making criteria for governments, the community and industry is based on principles of sustainability.
- Develop a National Bio-Regional planning process in a transparent manner with COAG as coordinating body.
- Reassess the configuration of ministerial arrangements, boundaries and governance of the ACT.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we invest to help prevent chronic and acute health problems
- b. How we plan to ensure all Australians continue to have access to the very best of modern medical technology including pharmaceuticals
- c. How we meet the emerging regulatory challenges of modern medical technology
- d. The use of electronic infrastructure to facilitate efficient and effective patient care
- e. Strategies to preserve Australia's internationally unique blend of public and private health services
- f. How Australia best plans for the future demands on our medical workforce.

Ideas and areas for Action

- Develop a National Statement for Health to underpin an ACT/NSW/Commonwealth approach to funding and regional delivery.
- Implement a framework for 'One-Stop Shop clinics' ie multi-disciplinary, multi-professional clinics with new service delivery models that are evidence-based and accessible to all in the community.
- Support the health of children from pre-conception through early childhood by implementing a prevention agenda.
- Pioneer the e-Health Record in Canberra to facilitate information sharing between professionals which will enhance client/patient outcomes.

Proposed Way Forward

- Leverage the relatively small population to create Canberra as a regional pilot site for improved health governance and service delivery models.
- Create a central coordinating body to develop and monitor an evidence-based, "Wellness Footprint" to evaluate, measure and resource providers across services and portfolios.
- Implement a single national health system with a consolidated funding source that includes hospitals, community health, primary health and aged care.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we provide practical support to families to combine the tasks of work, raising children and caring for ageing parents
- b. How we make a long term difference on homelessness
- c. How we better harness the goodwill and commitment of the Australian community through voluntary and community organisations and philanthropic endeavour
- d. How we build social capital within and between communities, particularly those that are cut off from the economic mainstream.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Develop a Human Rights Framework to underpin policy and eliminate barriers imposed by inflexible structures, including the use of inclusive, non-labelling language
- Increase access to support and develop linkages into the community for isolated and disadvantaged groups. Broaden the view on what constitutes disadvantage, acknowledging that some families, individuals and men, (including single fathers), are often isolated.
- Strengthen active citizenship so that regardless of perspective (business, government, local neighbourhood, workplace, schools etc) people will act on their sense of social responsibility and connectedness to others in the community. Create an expectation that everyone will participate, support and ‘be there’ for those that need it most.
- Build community leadership and a sense of shared responsibility by creating a sound, collaborative relationship between the government and community that is underpinned by trust.
- Improve information flow across sectors and to individuals by utilising a range of modes and methods to ensure groups and individuals are not excluded. Increase community inclusion by providing access to IT for disadvantaged individuals and groups.
- Invest in public infrastructure and support the development of interpersonal skills and resilience to enhance the health of the community.
- Provide support for individual choices and recognise individual strengths and integrate into policy, service delivery and the everyday treatment of people.

Proposed Way Forward

- Develop local community ‘Hubs’ to create links between people and to enable individuals and families to obtain information and practical advice on issues such as health, environment, and sustainability.
- Invest in local infrastructure (such as transport and e-technology), social services, health and education to enable social inclusion
- Develop national benchmarks to ensure that all sectors are treated fairly and equitably and base resource allocation on evidence-based data regarding community needs.
- Commence a Decade of Community by 2010 to enhance community participation and active citizenship. Strategies could include community education, building an ally in the media, fostering relationships with businesses that can sponsor programs and re-engaging people that have “fallen out of citizenship” (the isolated, homeless).
- Develop a new purchasing services model by providing funding to the community to administer on its own behalf.
- Form a full sister city relationship between Canberra and a remote aboriginal community to enable mutual learning and to share health, education and other assets.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Options for the future of indigenous Australia

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we forge a new partnership with between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia to overcome disadvantage and provide practical pathways to the future
- b. The role of targeted programs and interventions such as the Northern Territory Intervention and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials in achieving change in remote communities
- c. How we might promote economic development in remote Australia to provide Indigenous community members with the opportunity to be economically independent
- d. Improving access to mainstream programs by Indigenous Australians
- e. Promoting and preserving Indigenous culture, languages and traditions.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Building on the National Apology, develop a National Treaty and associated partnerships with indigenous-led initiatives.
- Establish a well funded and adequately resourced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (ATSI) Representative Body.
- Set and develop strategies and targets for 2020 regarding housing, health, education and justice.
- Build leadership capability in the indigenous community to ensure there is not just one dominant voice or leader.
- Build a strong ATSI workforce by implementing ATSI liaison officers, developing local solutions to local problems (community ownership), and funding traineeships particularly in the community sector.

Proposed Way Forward

- A National Treaty for Indigenous people.
- Community support for the ACT elected body to deliver on their portfolio.
- An Education strategy that recognises good education has an impact on every aspect of the community.
- A workforce strategy specific to the needs of ATSI people, including recognition of a cultural protocol that assists people to creatively manage work and training requirements with family and community responsibilities.
- A framework for Federal funding that differentiates between states and jurisdictions to facilitate self determination and fit for purpose programs and initiatives.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Future directions for Australia's principal arts bodies
- b. Future directions for the ABC, SBS, Australia Television and Radio Australia
- c. How best to develop a globally innovative and competitive film industry
- d. How to encourage participation in emerging global industries such as game design, the internet 2.0, graphics-rich applications and animation
- e. How we build on the creative sector's potential as a major Australian export industry.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Reinforce Canberra's place as the national capital a place of '*hot science and cool design*' through the strengthening of national institutions and the relocation of other cultural bodies such as the Australia Council.
- Make Canberra easily accessible by providing affordable transport to enable better interaction between artists and art communities.
- Bridge the ACT/national divide by increasing collaboration between local and national institutions and between sectors and levels of government.
- Convene the 3rd inaugural International Creative Industries Festival in Canberra by 2020.
- Position Canberra to be "badged" as a UNESCO city of arts, culture and design.
- Build Canberra's reputation as a 'boutique arts city' and 'arts incubator' that is accessible, cohesive, and offers a good quality of life.
- Integrate art into all areas, including planning (culturally interesting and beautiful places to live and work), business (linking commerce and art), and education.
- Support young and emerging artists with living allowances and subsidised arts spaces and facilities so that artists will be able to make a living in Canberra.

Proposed Way Forward

- Create Canberra as a centre to "experiment with strategies of national arts integration", for example:
- Implement a nationally unified infrastructure for planning, developing and financing arts activities
- Define arts funding as a percentage of GDP
- Establish an arts practitioner in every workplace
- Conduct a series of events to celebrate "Creative Australia" on the centenary of the establishment of the National Capital.
- Position Canberra as the "National Capital for the Arts", beginning with the relocation of the Australia Council.
- Provide a 'National Passport for the Arts' to children to encourage their access to the arts and other cultural events.
- Implement tax incentives to encourage creative venture capital, aiming to increase future venture capital 220% by 2020 and develop a suite of financial incentives to enable the incorporation of art into buildings, design and planning projects.

SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia best protects its national security interests in the face of an increasingly complex threat spectrum, including terrorism, bio-security and other threats to human security – as well as the adequacy of existing institutional arrangements for dealing with the threat spectrum into the future
- b. How Australia should maximise its cooperation with its long-standing ally the United States
- c. How Australia engages with China and India in the coming decades as both play an increasingly important economic and political role
- d. How Australia can make the greatest contribution both within and outside the framework of the United Nations in addressing the challenge of extreme poverty
- e. The long-term adequacy of Australia's existing foreign language capabilities to meet increasingly complex challenges presented by the globalisation.

Ideas and Areas for Action

- Implement a nationally consistent approach to safety, including road safety (quality of roads, cars, and drivers), workplace safety and the impact of new technology.
- Increase the community's role in crime management.
- Actively build respect and inclusion for vulnerable groups to increase connectedness among citizens and an increase in community pride.
- Manage the perception of what constitutes real 'danger' in the community by influencing the impact of media coverage of incidents and events.
- Manage security risks that may accompany the increase in migrant workers due to the National skills shortage.

Proposed Way Forward

- Provide increased support for parents and families.
- Develop national regulatory framework (agreed with jurisdictions) and nationally consistent laws, regarding OH&S, road safety and crime.
- Develop a clear and shared notion of 'inclusion' to ensure some groups are not labelled or excluded.
- Create a national, Canberra based research centre on community safety with a focus on developing an evidence base.
- Research alternative sentencing options for perpetrators of crime rather than continuing to rely on usual methods.
- Refocus interventions and policy on prevention and early intervention (social inclusion) rather than punishment and "band-aid" solutions.
- Ensure Rehabilitation and systems of support are available for perpetrators on return to the community after incarceration.
- Educate the community regarding actual and potential security risks.