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### **The Tipping Point: A National Settlement Strategy for Australia**

The Tipping Point is a PIA initiative to advance a national debate on the future of Australia so that our way of life and current standards of living are maintained for future generations.

Analysis of all 57 regional plans across Australia suggests we are planning for a population of around 39 million sometime before mid-century. However, there is no relationship between these plans to guide how they will work together to achieve national growth objectives and policy, nor is there consistency in these plans with regard to the horizons that they establish for population, housing and employment targets. Furthermore, there is no nationally-consistent view on what Australia should look like over the next 50 years.

Strategic planning largely falls to state, territory and local governments despite the influence that federal government decision-making has on the growth and shape of every Australian

city. This imbalance fails to recognise the impact of federal policies and investments when planning for growth and development across Australia. As a result, federal government policy has become “spatially blind” and the federal government is influencing the shape of our cities and regions unintentionally.

To effectively address the scale of our growth and challenges, all levels of government need to agree on a consolidated spatial planning approach with clear lines of sight and responsibility. This is why PIA is championing a National Settlement Strategy. This is the only way we can have confidence that the liveability of our cities for future generations will be maintained.

The presentation will include a discussion of the drivers behind a National Settlement Strategy, a visual analysis of the trends between the 57 regional plans across Australia, and the merits and implications of a National Settlement Strategy. Rukshan will likely be joined by another member of PIA's National Settlement Strategy team.