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Making Our Cities More Liveable and Sustainable - a new paradigm needed

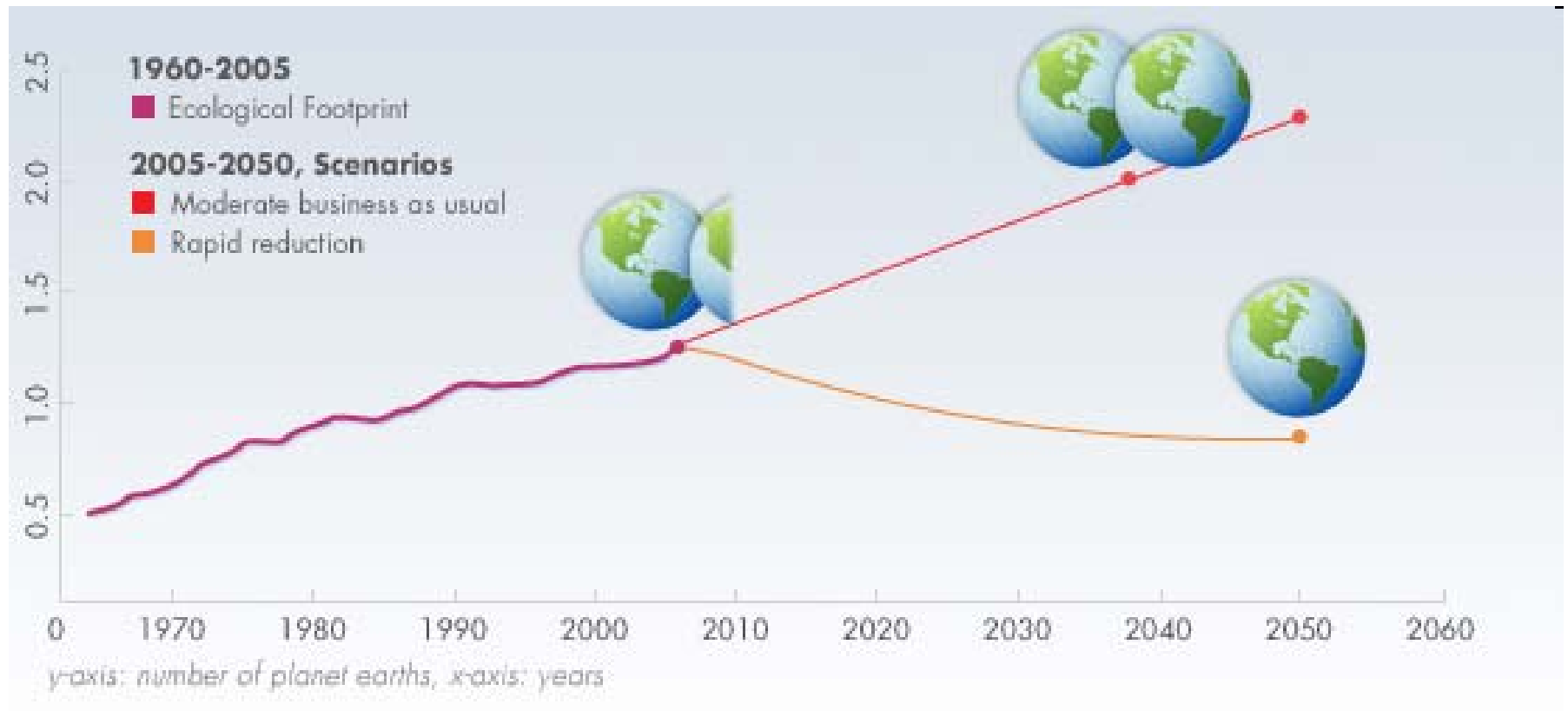
*By Monica Richter
Sustainable Australia Program Manager*





12/08/2010

The planet's eco footprint



Source:

http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world_footprint/

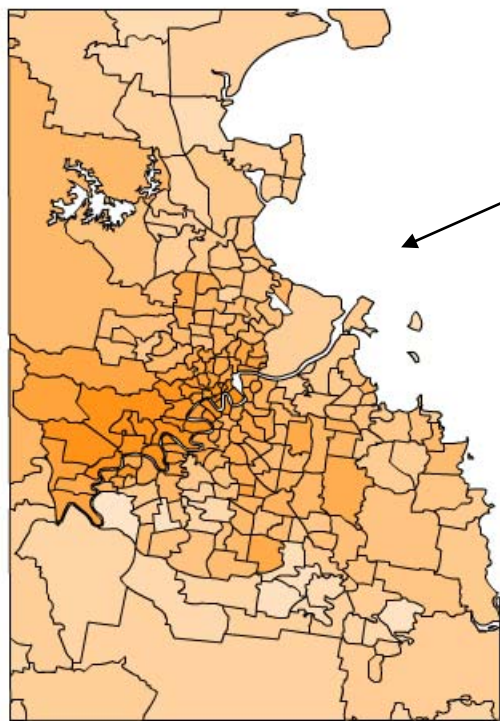
ECO-FOOTPRINT IN BRISBANE



The eco-footprint is a measure of the total amount of land required to supply all the resources a person's lifestyle demands. Australians have the fourth highest eco-footprint in the world. An average Australian has an eco-footprint of about 6.4 hectares. That's about the size of 9 rugby league football fields.

The largest eco-footprints occur in the inner city households and those along the Brisbane river (over eight hectares per capita annually). High levels of consumption in St Lucia, Newstead and Fortitude Valley result in some of the highest environmental impacts. Overall, Brisbane's eco-footprint is about 3% larger than the state's per capita average and 4% larger than the national average.

HOW DO I RATE?



- FAQ**
- ▶ How does what I buy impact on the environment? [View answer](#)
 - ▶ Which products have the most impact? [View answer](#)
 - ▶ Who has the most impact? [View answer](#)
 - ▶ What can I do about it? [View answer](#)
 - ▶ What's the science behind the Consumption Atlas? [View answer](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

Fix it
Help repair the environment by repairing worn or broken items when possible, instead of just replacing them.

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Hectares per person per year:
<4.9 **9.0>**

◀ South East Queensland ▶



Brisbane's eco-footprint about 3% larger than the state's and 4% larger than the national average.



No more hot air -
climate action now!



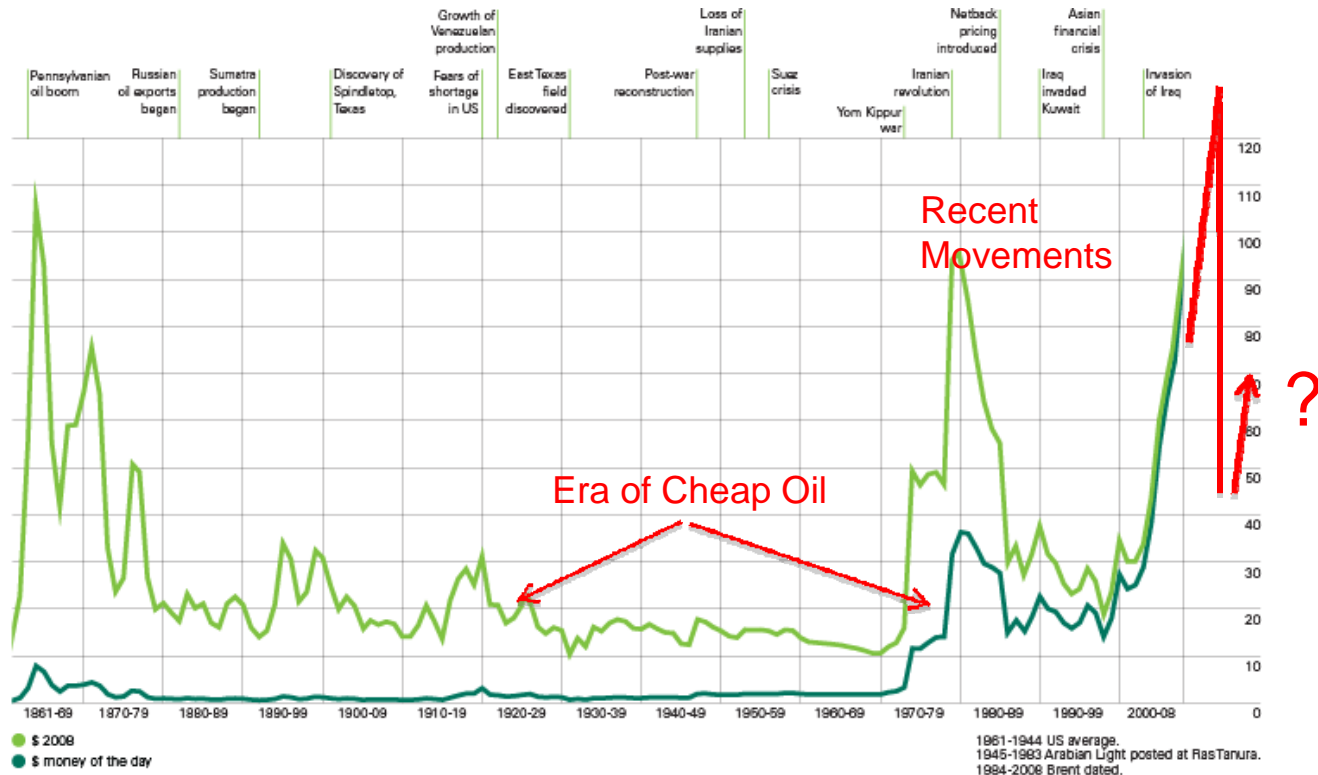
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Long Term Oil Prices

Crude oil prices 1861 - 2008

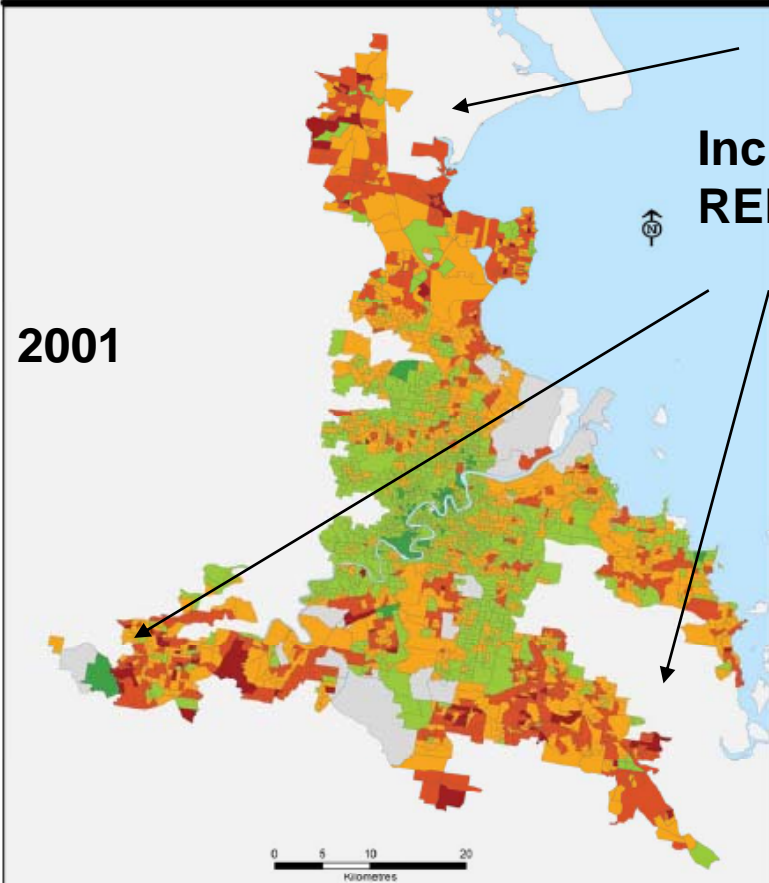
US dollar per barrel

World events



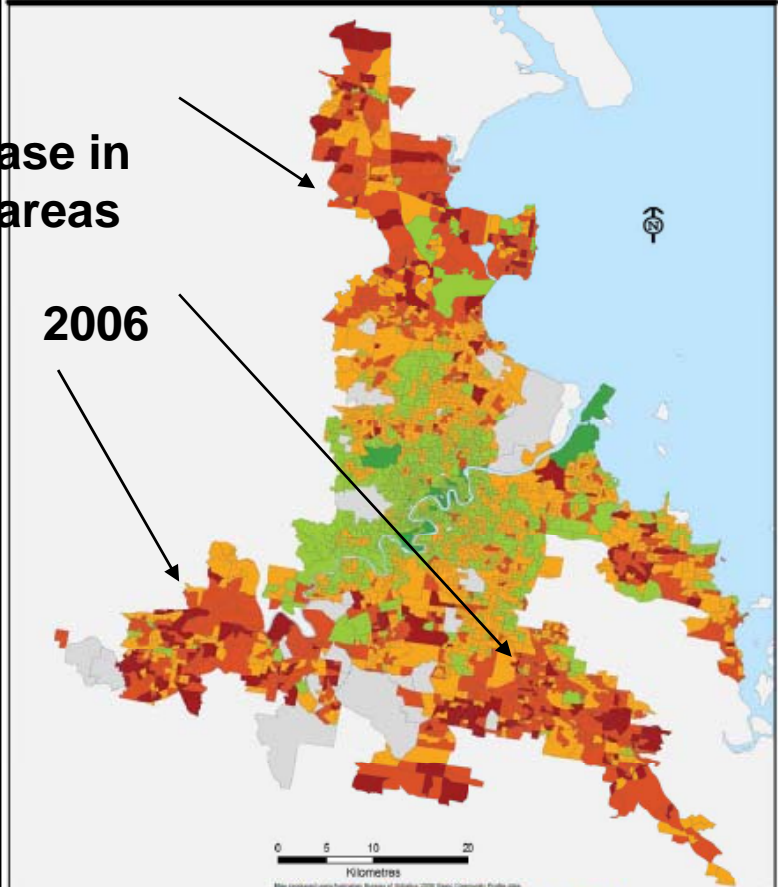
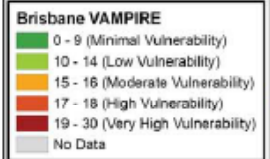
Thanks to Ian Dunlop

Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2009

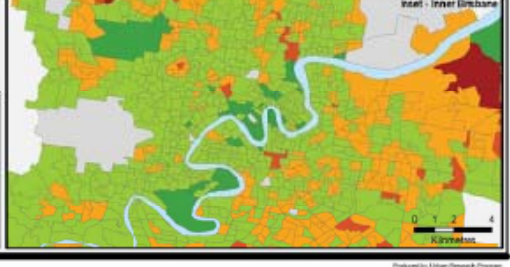
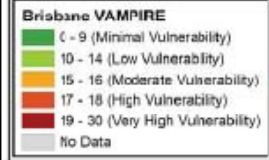


2001

Increase in RED areas



2006

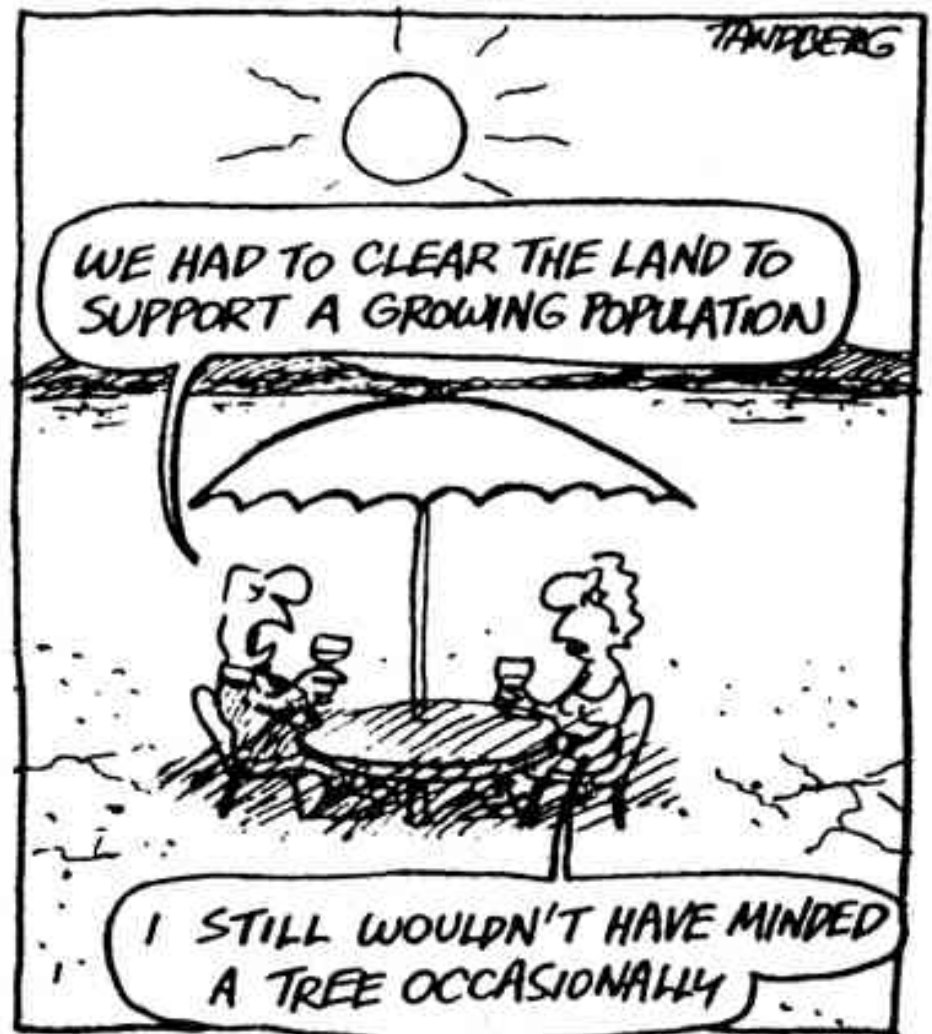




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Environmental Challenges

Increasing population will make it harder for us to reduce our environmental impacts in our cities



WHAT?!!
YOU WANT A
FRIDGE
AS WELL AS
A RADIO?!



A GREENHOUSE NIGHTMARE...

Sustainable Cities Index

Ranking Australia's 20 largest cities in 2010



Sustainable Cities Index

■ Australia's 20 largest cities

Adelaide

Bendigo

Canberra-Queanbeyan

Gold Coast-Tweed

Melbourne

Sunshine Coast

Townsville

Albury-Wodonga

Brisbane

Hobart

Newcastle

Sydney

Wollongong

Ballarat

Cairns

Geelong

Launceston

Perth

Toowoomba

■ 15 different indicators

Environment: Air Quality Ecological Footprint
Green Building Water Biodiversity

Quality of Life: Health Density
Subjective Wellbeing Transport
Employment

Resilience: Climate Change Public Participation
Education Household Repayments
Food Production

■ Most sustainable city in 2010: **Darwin**



1	Darwin	11	Toowoomba
2	Sunshine Coast	12	Sydney
3	Brisbane	13	Launceston
4	Townsville	=1 4	Adelaide
5	Canberra-Queanbeyan	=1 4	Ballarat
6	Hobart	15	Albury-Wodonga
7	Melbourne	16	Wollongong
8	Gold Coast-Tweed	17	Newcastle
9	Cairns	18	Geelong
10	Bendigo	19	Perth

■ Distribution of cities

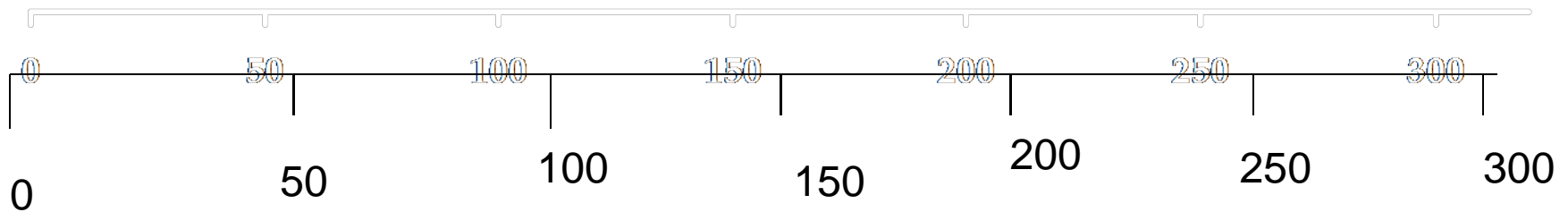
Ideal City (1st in all 15 indicators)



The 20 cities in 2010 (Darwin to Perth)



Worse potential city – last in all 15 indicators



■ Observation of the results

- No city is exceptional
- ‘Capital city advantage’ for some
- Consistent messages:
 - High energy and water consumption
 - Poor infrastructure investment
- Regional cities – lower employment and lower education
- ALL CITIES CAN IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE

National Agenda for a Sustainable Australia

- 1. Lead the transition to a clean economy and sustainable Australia
- 2. Take effective climate change action now
- 3. Transform our cities to be world leaders in efficiency and liveability





What is ACF asking for?

1. Cut energy and water waste
in our homes and workplaces
2. Deliver world class public and active transport systems

3. Work with all levels of government for rapid progress towards green precincts and healthy carbon neutral cities
4. Clean up Australia's vehicle fleet and make road user charges reflect true cost of motoring



Changes in **cultural habits**...

- Going green – now a social and economic issue being good corporate citizen
- Other measures of wellbeing
- Downshifting and transition town phenomenon
- Relocalisation



What are world business leaders doing?

In 2050, around 9 billion people live well, and within the limits of the planet



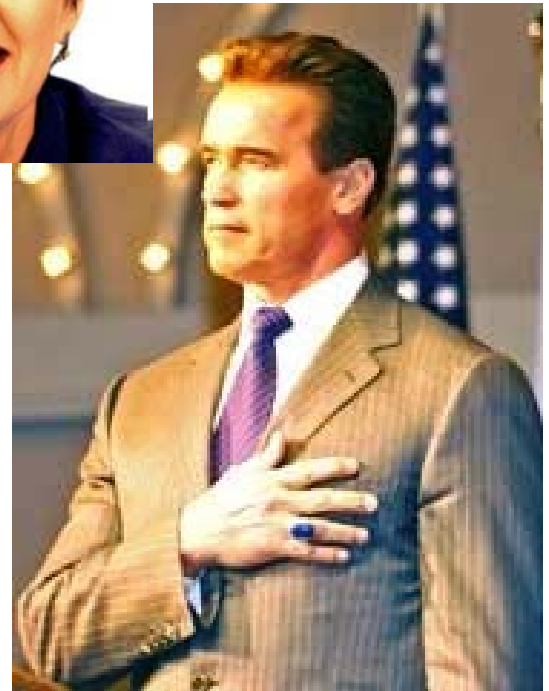
Entering the ecological age

- **Peter Head's Brunel Lectures**
- **“The engineer's role” 2009 paper**
- **Jeremy Rifkin – the Empathic Civilisation and EU 5 pillars**



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Leadership required





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Future is in our hands



18/04/2010



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We are in this together



- www.acfonline.org.au/sustainablecities