

# Urban planners say smaller is better

Audio and transcript file source:

<http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2010/s3045652.htm>

Timothy McDonald reported this story on Friday, October 22, 2010 12:47:00

**Listen to the recording and answer the questions below:**

1. According to Australia's leading urban planners, what is the ideal size for a city?  
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2. List the 3 most common things that Australian city inhabitants complain about?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did government spending on infrastructure change from the 1960s to the beginning of this century?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Do the following statements present solutions to the problems in Australian cities? Answer *True*, *False* or *Not Given*?
  - [a] \_\_\_\_\_ Building more and better roads
  - [b] \_\_\_\_\_ Improving public transport
  - [c] \_\_\_\_\_ Re-designing the cities
  - [d] \_\_\_\_\_ Shifting development from the City area to middle suburbs
  - [e] \_\_\_\_\_ Homebush should be developed to resemble Hong Kong
5. According to John Stanley, what kind of development is appropriate to middle suburbs?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Anton Roux admits that city growth is good for the economy but what is the main downside?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Fill in the blanks with one word or number

Anton Roux says that new urban developments should comprise a network of urban centres of a <sup>a)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ hundred thousand dwellers. These centres should have good transport access and advanced <sup>b)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ technology and surrounded by green and lush nature. They would also be self-sufficient in terms of food production, relying on <sup>c)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ agriculture, where food is grown in multi-storey <sup>d)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ houses.

8. What does Anthony Albanese, the then minister for infrastructure think about the ideas presented in the report?  
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## Authentic Listening

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**9.** Listen again and write down the synonyms for the underlined words below, as used in the recording (you will need to use one word only!):

- [a] Leading city planners
- [b] City inhabitants
- [c] From the very beginning
- [d] Traffic jams
- [e] The way we develop and design cities
- [f] Main, essential direction
- [g] Economic benefits
- [h] The report was unveiled by the Minister for Infrastructure

**10.** Answer the questions using the bolded words and phrases from the recording.

- [a] Which city in your country is considered the most **liveable**?
- [b] If you experience serious personal problems, who do you expect **to come to** your **rescue**?
- [c] Were there any significant events that happened in your country around **the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century**?
- [d] Have you ever been in a situation when you knew that the only thing you could do was **to bite the bullet**?
- [e] Do you think the economy of your country is **resilient** enough to withstand another financial crisis?
- [f] What kind of amenities do you have **in close proximity to/of** your place of residence?
- [g] When speaking about changes that they want to introduce, do the politicians sound **convincing** enough?