

CAPITheticAL

BIG IDEAS. BIG FUTURE.

A design ideas competition for a hypothetical Australian capital city.

FIRST PRIZE - \$70,000

PROJECT NAME: The Northern Capital by Ecoscape Aust Pty Ltd

TEAM MEMBER NAMES

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DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY

Ecoscape's submission is based on the division of national governance through the creation of a second capital city. Canberra, historically conceived at the time of Federation is located in the cooler south eastern corner of the country. The second capital, conceived 100 years later in a global environment, is located in northern Australia. The formation of a new capital is a response to future climate change impacts, strategic defence, food security, strengthening relationships with our northern neighbours and galvanising the population of northern Australia.

The Northern Capital sets new paradigms in developing innovative and resilient city planning principles which embrace all cultures, contribute to the surrounding environment, invest in skill development and develop strong connections that support regional stability in a global market. Key city planning principles of the Northern Capital include:

- an inspiring place – planning and architecture which delivers the city as an attraction in itself
- a regenerative capital - sustainability and resilience principles
- sense of place - inclusive of traditional indigenous cultural values and a strong connection to the landscape
- innovative and creative excellence - renewable energy and sustainable farming techniques in a region with climatic resilience
- density and diversity – multicultural population between 150,000 – 200,000 by year 2050 in high density developments of 2000 -3000 people/sq km



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- Indigenous and Asian influence – in city development.

In order for the city to thrive, it must grow from a strong economic base in response to new markets (the Asian Century) and demands. It is envisaged that the Northern Capital will be driven by a knowledge based economy.

This would include:

- education and science centre for high tech sustainable food production systems
- international research centre for health and technology
- agricultural production for Asia and Australia
- learning and knowledge centre campus
- water distribution centre
- Asian supergrid renewable energy administration
- tourism centre
- manufacturing and servicing centre
- lifestyle city
- Australian Defence Force administrative centre
- Federal Government administrative centre.

TEAM BIOGRAPHY

Ecoscape Australia Pty Ltd is a firm of environmental scientists, landscape architects and spatial planners based in North Fremantle, Western Australia. The company provides its services to the urban development, mining, infrastructure, natural resource development and tourism industries throughout Australia. Central to the company's philosophy and processes is the integration of science + design. The application of this approach has brought the company a number of state and national awards for excellence over the past 20 years.

Our inspiration to enter CAPITheticAL grew from a vision we had for a new eco-city in northern Australia; a city that tackles our nation's greatest challenges of water and food security, climate change and distribution of population. We saw this as an opportunity to create a parallel capital city, one that represents a new direction for Australia, with sustainability, resilience, cultural integration and economic development as its foundations.

A great capital city is one that is
symbolic
visionary
strategic
inspiring
and beautiful.

