

## MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2016

**For immediate release**

### ASCA grows international networks

ASCA's recent alliance with the Dutch-based [Global Smart City and Community Coalition](#) (GSC3) reflects the organisation's growing international networks as a platform for ongoing collaboration between smart cities and communities.

Both organisations signed the Memorandum of Understanding during this month's [Dutch City Mission](#) to Australia. It builds on other partnership agreements such as the German-based [Smart City Forum](#) in March 2016 and Swiss-based [World Smart City](#) in September.

Executive Director Paul Budde said these partnerships would allow ASCA and its members to work together and share smart, sustainable solutions with other cities and communities.

"ASCA and our members have clearly emphasized the willingness to be a testbed for innovation and collaboration to achieve more effective and efficient outcomes for our citizens and to show leadership by bringing all levels of government, private industry and the R&D community together," he said.

"In addition, these international alliances allow us to learn from each other, cooperate and showcase case studies and best practices, which are all aimed at building vibrant, innovative and sustainable communities.

"Together we can develop technologies, methods, standards and models for use across the country and around the world."

The following activities have been set in motion as a direct result of the newly forged collaboration with the Dutch visit:

- A teleconference between one of our mayors and a Dutch mayor regarding a specific smart city activity.
- A high-level visit later this month from one of our sustainable cities experts to colleagues in The Netherlands.
- Preparation of a three-day visit by a delegation from one of our cities to The Netherlands.
- Established a work group to bring together young entrepreneurs from both countries by linking the various innovation hubs.
- Facilitating a fact-finding mission on smart library developments.
- Looking for Dutch universities interested in participating in an education hub aimed at the Asian market.
- ASCA, Austrade and GSC3 are also exploring how both countries can work together in relation to activities aimed at the Asian market.

The Dutch Smart City Delegation will return to Australia in February/March 2017 for follow up talks and has indicated it will participate in ASCA's [Smart Communities Conference](#) in Adelaide next May.

- ENDS -



Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA)

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*Image: GSC3 Chairman Bram Reinders and ASCA President Michael Whereat have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to foster ongoing collaboration between the two organisations.*

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## **Australian Smart Communities Association**

The Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA) facilitates, promotes and advises on how communities can build liveable, sustainable, workable smart cities. We put our citizens, local businesses and stakeholders at the core of our activities.

Our members are made up of local governments, Regional Development Australia committees, Regional Organisations of Councils, industry, businesses and individuals who **collectively represent 8.1 million Australians - or 1 in 3 Australians.**

The adoption of smart technology in city/town management, energy, water, health and transport, along with high-speed broadband, could add more than 70,000 jobs to the Australian economy and bring 1.5 percent growth to Australia's Gross Domestic Product within five years.

[www.australiansmartcommunities.org.au](http://www.australiansmartcommunities.org.au)

## **Global Smart City and Community Coalition (GSC3)**

[GSC3](#) is a network organisation of cities, communities and regions to share solutions pursuing sustainable living worldwide. It provides a platform for civic collaboration by sharing challenges, best practices and verified solutions.

## **Smart City Forum (SCF)**

Based in Germany, the [SCF](#)'s membership includes 40 cities and 75 enterprises and research organisations in Germany, Austria and other European countries.

## **World Smart City**

World Smart City is an [online community](#) of city professionals exploring the most important factors that hinder the broad roll out of Smart Cities today: Mobility, water, energy, cybersecurity and privacy.



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