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Smart Seeds 2014 Challenge Brief

BiodiverCity - – creating the future city

Challenge Name	**BiodiverCity** – creating the future city
Organisation name	The City of Melbourne
Brief description of challenge (approx. 50 words)	Fostering biodiversity in the urban environment is more critical now than ever before. The Convention on Biological Diversity commissioned global assessment of the state of biodiversity in urban areas. Their findings, published in Cities and Biodiversity Outlook, show that cities have enormous potential to support biodiversity.

The challenge here is to understand the potential of the City of Melbourne to support and enhance biodiversity. If we bring biodiversity to the fore, can we move from urban design to nature sensitive urban design? In a city that is constantly evolving and changing, how do we create our spaces differently? Where can we design in an innovative way to enhance the existing habitat, create new habitat and increase the biodiversity in the City of Melbourne? Can we have multi-functional urban spaces?

Rather than site focused, we'd like to challenge the team with **design solutions at 'precinct scale'**, exploring the opportunity from **both public and private** sector. |

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What are the key drivers contributing to the challenge? (e.g. environment, regulation, safety, cost, time)	- Increasing urban density and population growth - City of Melbourne has developed Open Space Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, Growing Green Guide, and is now committed to developing a biodiversity and urban ecology strategy. - Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy
What issues/limitations exist?	- Most of the existing urban biodiversity strategies are conservation focused. - Traditional thinking about urban landscape design, both form the community and the industry - Competition for space - Cost
Key stakeholders	External: Service authorities (Gas, Water, Transport etc.) Local Communities Private land owners Developers Internal: Engineering services Planning
Is this a challenge specific to a context (e.g. a site) or more generic?	All the major cities face this same challenge; however, City of Melbourne has its own unique context regarding the biodiversity, geography, climate, governance structure, history etc. We want this challenge to focus on the fact that Melbourne is a capital city and a city that is recognised internationally for its commitment to environmental sustainability. In that context what is it that City of Melbourne should be doing to show international leadership in this area? When we talk about biodiversity we want to focus on creation more than conservation.

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Links to other relevant information (optional)	Council: Urban Forest Strategy https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/Sustainability/UrbanForest/Pages/About.aspx Open Space Strategy https://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/ParksandActivities/Parks/Pages/OpenSpaceStrategy.aspx Growing Green Guide http://growinggreenguide.org/ Research: The Green Infrastructure Research Group http://thegirg.org/2013/08/22/urban-ecology/ International Cases: Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033
Further notes/comments	Further info available if required.