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On the Cover:

No matter the hemisphere, online information technologies have become essential tools for urban planning. The personal computer and internet support information sharing and participatory decision making in the planning process. Good government used to mean the trains would run on time. The populace was a distant and passive body represented by a handful of active and motivated mouthpieces. Making decisions with less information was risky but fast. In the era of the internet, the speed and delivery of government services has thrust Australian local government into a new era of community planning and access. The amount of information readily available to local governments has exploded. The challenge is developing infrastructure to meet new demands. The new problem is not a lack of information but rather knowing how to coordinate existing thinking with the influx of data available at the push of a button. These issues are outlined in an article by Tan Yigitcanlar entitled, "Australian Local Governments' Practice and Prospects with Online Planning." The

article underlines the importance of online planning and e-participation, examines household use of information technology, and discusses the digital divide problem. It also explores Australian local governments' potential and experiences in online planning and arranges them into clusters of those who are successfully adapting and those that aren't.