

PLAN-



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AUSTRALIA

Graduation Projects
Bachelor and Master of Planning

Never Stand Still

Built Environment



PLANNING 2015

Collectively the students' work makes an outstanding contribution to urban planning debates and establishes an unrivalled platform from which this next generation of planners will actively make their mark in the future of our city, state, Australia and indeed internationally.

We wish them all the very best for the next stage in their careers. Graduands of 2015, get out there and be part of that change: your city needs you!

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Sponsor



PROFESSOR ALEC TZANNES AM

Congratulations to the students who have completed their degree at UNSW Built Environment and now join our alumni community.

This catalogue provides a glimpse into some of the many study themes and projects you have undertaken as part of your academic experience and serves as a record of your graduation class.

We have designed your program of study to reflect advanced contemporary professional practice emphasising the development of leadership skills and innovation, ensuring that as a graduating student you have the best opportunity to be at the forefront of your chosen field of endeavour.

Now that you have graduated, our relationship evolves from student to alumnus, continuing a lifelong engagement of support and involvement (register to join the alumni community at www.alumni.unsw.edu.au). As you travel the world through your career, you will meet many alumni who have become global leaders through their innovative thinking, acting as catalysts for change in all facets of the built environment professions as well as in other fields of work. As an alumnus we encourage you to keep in touch with UNSW Built Environment. We are always keen to support our graduates and publish their successes throughout our alumni network. Please email us your news and updates at BEalumni@unsw.edu.au.

We are also always grateful to our alumni who support our future students with scholarships, prizes, internships and mentoring programmes.

Should you wish to further your education, qualifications and knowledge, UNSW Built Environment Graduate School of Urbanism (AGSU) offers an extensive suite of post professional degrees. AGSU focuses on advanced qualifications in specialised interdisciplinary areas of professional practice and a suite of highly relevant research orientated programs of study. Our commitment to being the leading educators in the design and delivery of more liveable, sustainable cities has underpinned the creation of the AGSU.

As a professional, I also invite you to join our LinkedIn group (UNSW Built Environment) where you will be able to keep in touch and network with your peers, other professionals and UNSW Built Environment.

I wish you a successful and rewarding career.

Professor Alec Tzannes AM
Dean, UNSW Built Environment



Welcome to **New Knowledge for the Changing City**, a celebration of the research undertaken by this year's graduating UNSW planning students. Our title captures the tremendous change currently taking place in our city, and the importance of evidence and research in helping inform decisions that are reshaping our urban environments and everyday lives.

These are exciting times, with major city building projects taking form, from the northwest rail link and CBD & SE light rail, transformative urban regeneration activity planned for areas such as the Bays Precinct and Parramatta Road, and a more general acceleration of development and growth in Western Sydney focused particularly on Parramatta itself. This year has also seen the establishment of the Greater Sydney Commission, a metropolitan-wide body charged with enhancing strategic planning and implementation processes for the whole city. Impending local government reform and the prospect of merger further adds to a sense that significant shifts in the urban governance of Sydney are underway.

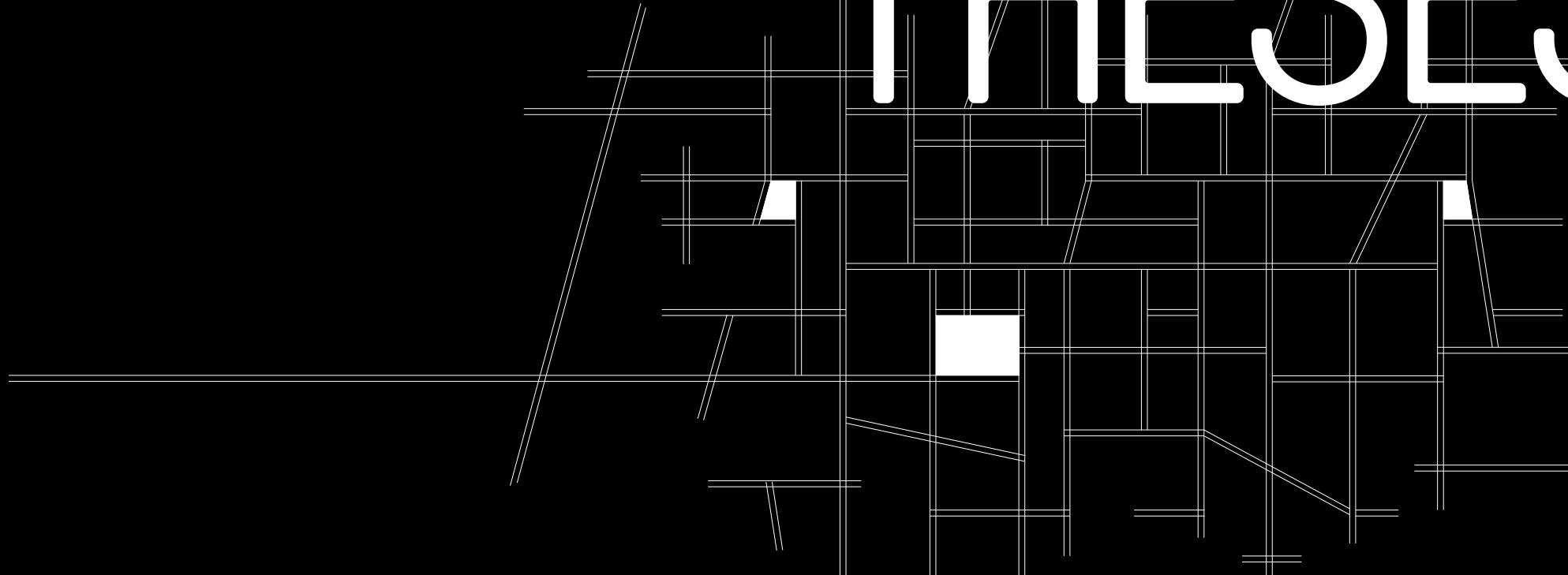
Much of the excellent research undertaken by this year's students captures the opportunities and challenges tied to this 'buzz'; however, it also continues to reflect the breadth and depth of all aspects crucial to the design and delivery of sustainable, healthy and equitable cities, regions and communities. As much as those big ticket items, our future planners have focused on the importance of local community concerns, open and green space, urban agriculture, walkability and civic design to name a few.

Research of the highest quality is one of the core defining components of the Planning Program, with Faculty staff – alongside our colleagues based in the City Futures Research Centre – identified as one of the foremost groups for urban planning research in the country. UNSW planning research is deemed world class, and it is this commitment to building evidence and informing debate that can also be seen in the quality of student work on show here. Research supervision of students captures a further core strength of our degrees, drawing across our entire teaching family – Program staff, many Sessional staff and colleagues in City Futures – to assist students in this major undertaking.

For both undergraduate and postgraduate students, the research thesis represents a capstone to their degrees. The impressive results of their hard work are on show here. As well as providing leading edge content, the quality of the research undertaken captures distinct UNSW planning graduate attributes – grounded, considered, passionate and professional. Collectively the students' work makes an outstanding contribution to urban planning debates and establishes an unrivalled platform from which this next generation of planners will actively make their mark in the future of our city, state, Australia and indeed internationally.

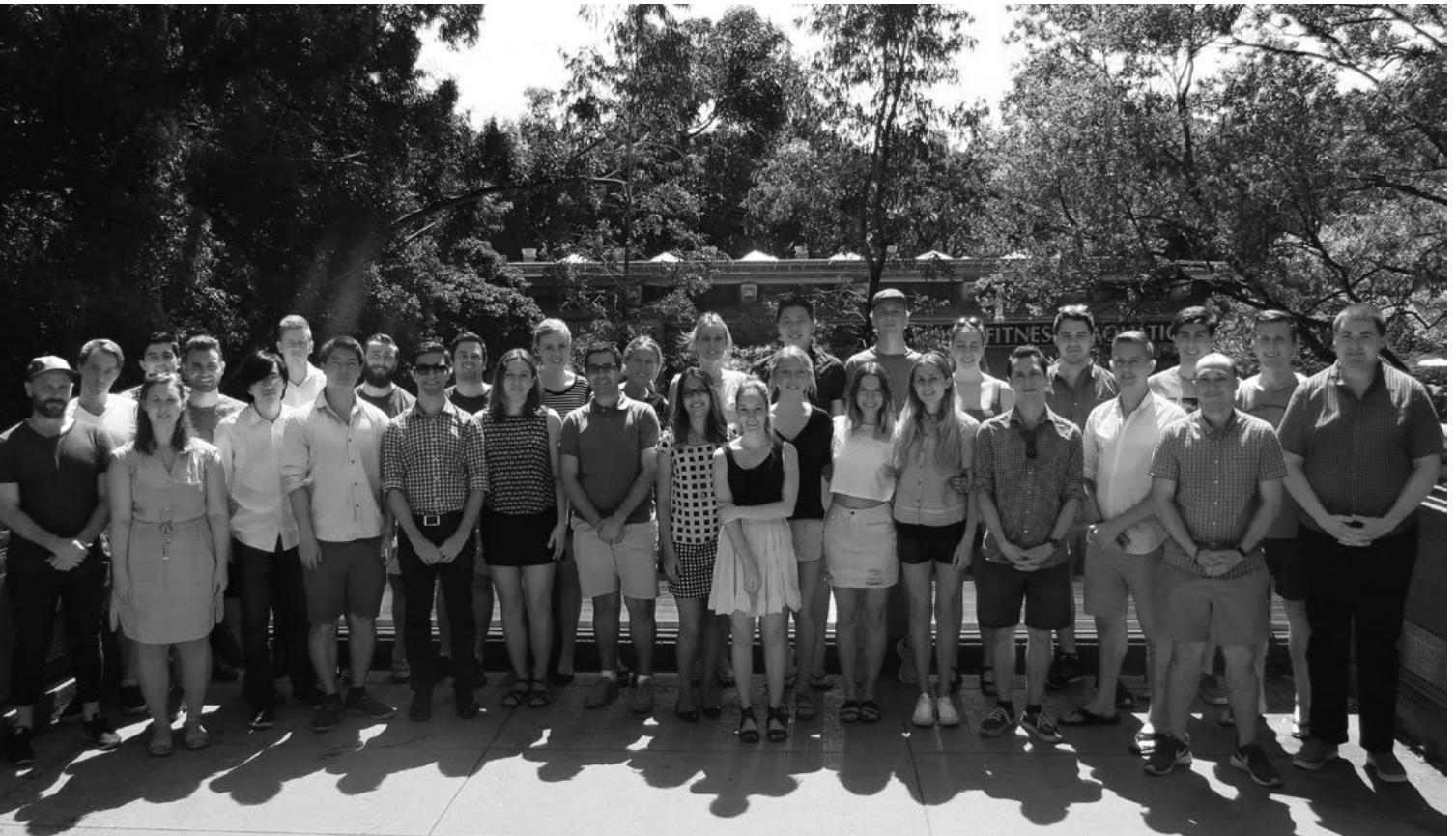
We wish them all the very best for the next stage in their careers. Graduands of 2015, get out there and be part of that change: your city needs you!

BACHELOR
OF PLANNING
FINAL YEAR
THESES



Bachelor of Planning, 2015

Christine Steinmetz,
Course Convenor



First row (L–R)

Emmanuel Smith, Amanda McIntyre, Jordan Eng, Jianne Wei, Jordan Faeghi, Lauren Rose, Deniz Kilic, Kathrynne Glover, Ashleigh Coombes, Alice Hanigan, Jasmin Blazevic, Briarna Lee, Harlan Langtree, Richard Barry, Ian Mundy, Luke Boadle

Second row (L–R)

Ben Jones, Matt Di Maggio, Max Moratelli, Paul Johnson, Matt Norman, Dave Schwebel, Suzannah Byers, Hannah McDonald, Lucie Clifton, Kevin Lam, David Hargreaves, Phoebe Jarvis, Ryan Macindoe, Nick Armstrong, James Stanley

Not pictured

Sasha Aronson, Dyan Artesano, Edward Bonser, Joanne Chan, Alexander Galea, Anthony Kong, Louise Mansfield, Kevin Osorio, Mary Su, Clarissa Sukkar

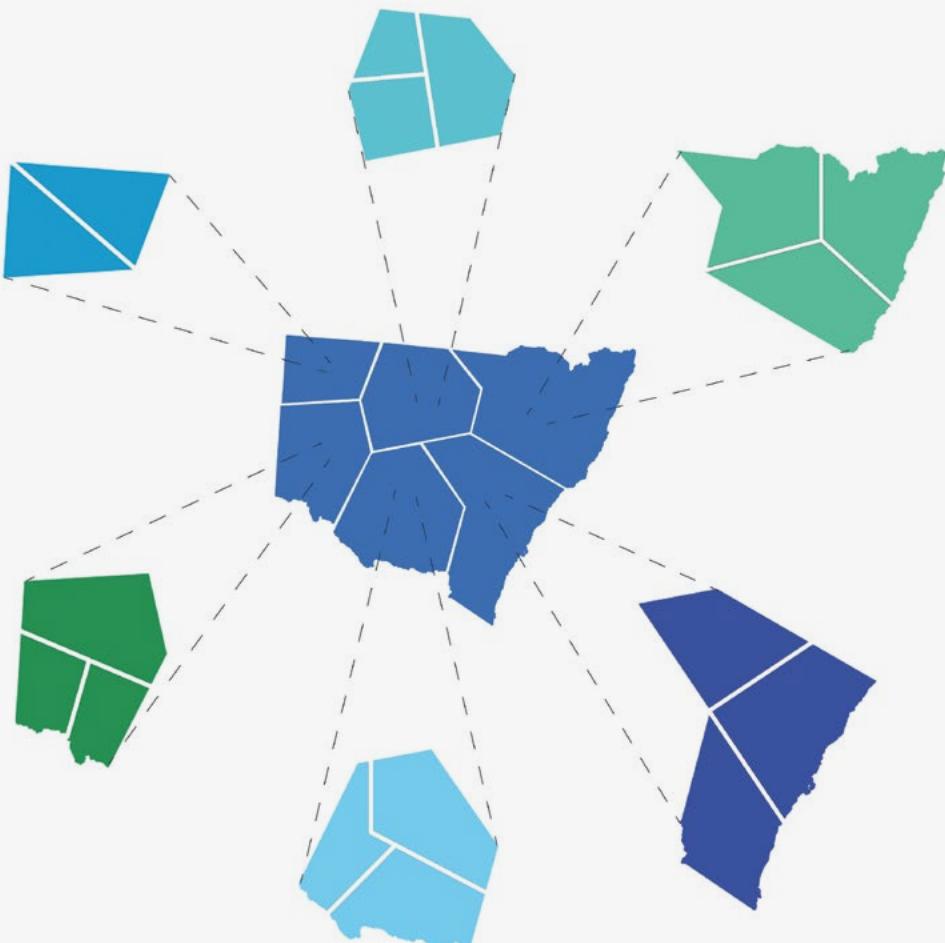
By the time UNSW Bachelor of Planning students reach the fifth and final year of the degree they have already completed over twenty core and elective courses in planning and related disciplines, as well as having undertaken a twelve-month work placement in the planning industry. With this solid grounding, the fifth year of the degree provides them with the opportunity to develop a particular area of specialism by designing and conducting independent research on a topic they choose. The research that they undertake in their final year is then written up in the form of an undergraduate thesis of up to 20,000 words; the 'capstone' project of their degree.

Although officially the thesis project entails enrolment in just one thirteen week university session, preparation actually begins in semester one through a preparatory course that revisits the practicalities of research design, research ethics and methodology. In order to pass this course the students must develop a research proposal that sets out exactly what they plan to do in their independent research project, how they will do it, and why it is worth doing. Invariably the range of topics is vast, reflecting both the breadth of planning as a discipline and the varied interests and backgrounds of the students themselves. For the past few months our fifth year Bachelor of Planning students have been out conducting interviews, surveys and focus groups on issues to do with the politics of planning, healthy built environments, job satisfaction in planning, land use conflicts, urban design, governance structures, transport planning, community development, urban renewal, housing affordability, night-time economies and environmental sustainability.

In this final semester, each student is assigned a supervisor drawing from: full-time or sessional Planning staff, Built Environment Faculty staff from other disciplines, City Futures researchers, and industry partners. This wider pool of expertise is also tapped for the examination process. The successful completion and examination of so many independent research projects within a relatively short space of time simply would not be possible without the input of so many colleagues generously giving their time in supervisory and examination roles.

I must also take this opportunity to thank the many other people who have assisted Bachelor of Planning students in their research endeavours this year. Literally hundreds of people have contributed directly through participation in interviews, surveys and focus groups. In addition, the students have benefited from invaluable support, advice and information given to them by parents, friends, colleagues, academics and professionals working in planning and related industries.

I have been impressed by the energy and enthusiasm of this cohort, and by the range of research projects that they have devised and executed over the past nine months. Collectively, their theses convey well the intrinsic breadth of the planning discipline and the challenges that our contemporary planners face. Having spent many hours this year working closely with them on their research, I can see that they are both ready and able to take on these challenges. Over the last five years they have studied intensively the forces that have shaped planning outcomes for better or worse in many different contexts and at different scales. With the challenges facing our cities more urgent than ever before, it is now time for them to make their own mark on the planning profession.



Can larger local councils create more effective planning outcomes?

Australian local government has been a turbulent arena of constant adjustment since its inception in the late 1800s. The implementation of varying structural reform measures have created mechanisms for activating change for the purposes of producing a more effective, efficient and sustainable form of municipal governance. Reforms have the ability to substantially impact and influence key local council planning processes and practices. This thesis aims to identify, analyse, and examine the planning issues created before and during a local government reform process, specifically by the formation of larger local councils through amalgamation.

The review of literature documents the formation of local government within Australia and the importance of local representation in order to plan effectively. It also identifies previous examples of local government amalgamations across Australia and the successes and failures which resulted from those processes. The review culminates with a critical analysis of the current NSW Fit for the Future reforms, using the Northern Beaches region as the focal point of the case study in order to discuss key planning issues that will be impacted by reform. In-depth interviews support varying underlying theories and ideas behind local government reform and provoke a discussion about several potential solutions for enhancing the ability for councils to plan more effectively at the local level.



Prison:

Planning purgatory or progress?

Imprisonment rates in NSW are at a ten year high with approximately 34,000 prisoners in adult services custody, with this rate further exacerbated by a forty percent likelihood of reoffending within the first two years of release. Eighty-five percent of said offenders are sentenced to ten years or less, resulting in their eventual reintegration into society. Despite the significance of these statistics, little consideration has been given to addressing statutory, social and environmental controls which should function to ensure quality development of correctional facilities in NSW. Well-planned design has the ability to encourage rehabilitation; subsequently creating opportunity for reduced incarceration and recidivism rates. Therefore, there is an essentiality to reassess the effectiveness of in-house, rehabilitation programs for convicted offenders, in order to encourage their return as productive, reformed citizens; and to consider the role urban planning and design has to play in achieving such desired outcomes. Using qualitative methods including in-depth interviews with key stakeholders, site visits to operational correctional facilities and a case study analysis of international examples, this thesis aims to illustrate the gap in the rehabilitative ability of existing correctional facilities and explore how planning and design, through the implementation of health, safety and well-being conscious principles, may be able to fill it.



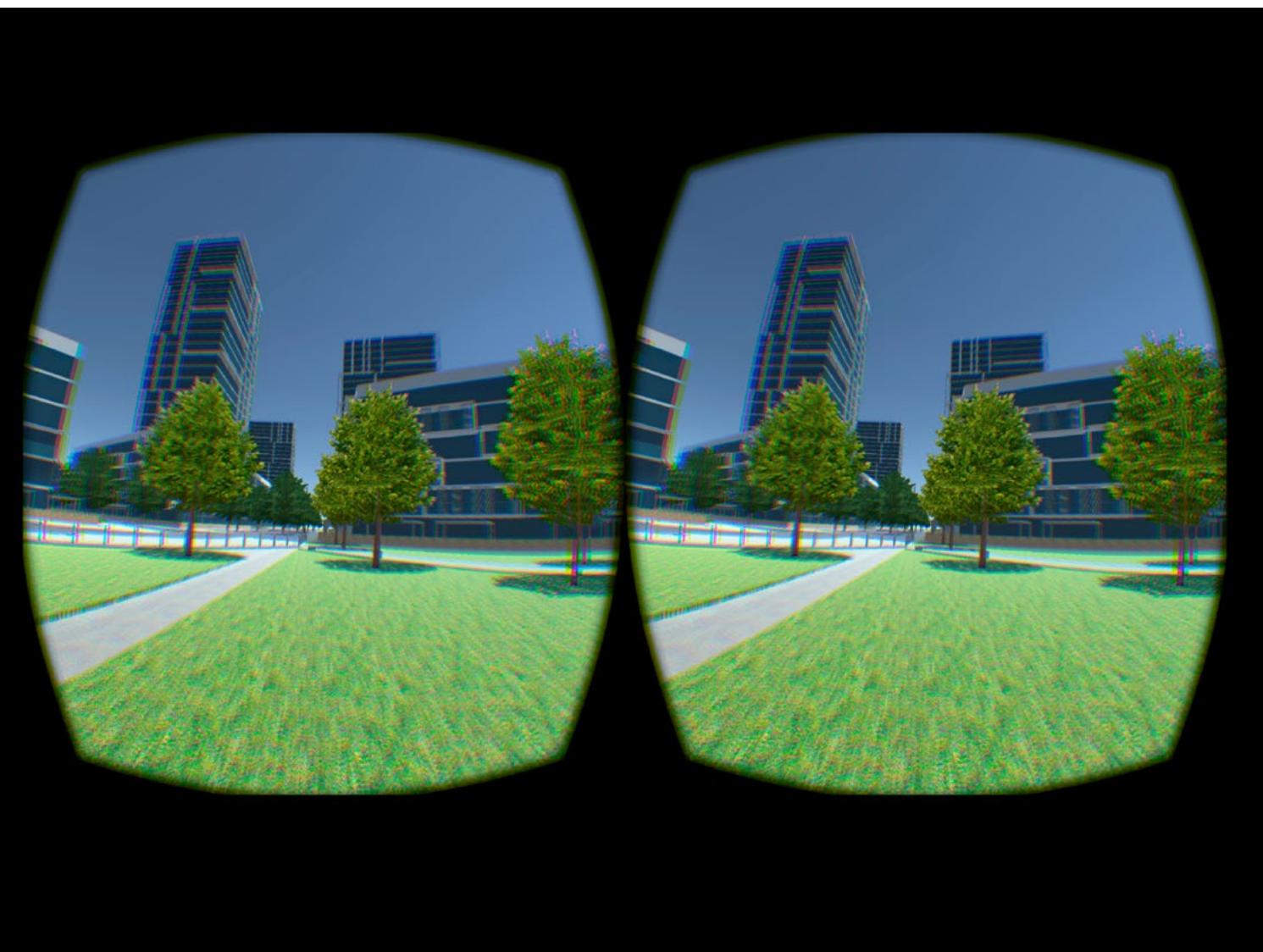
Chasing the Australian Dream:

An exploration of adaptive behaviours adopted by younger generations breaking into the NSW property market

Throughout Australian history the quintessential Australian Dream has been seen as a representation of status, personal aspirations, belonging and security. Housing choice, has therefore acted as a snapshot of an individual's personal and socioeconomic circumstances.

Housing affordability research and generational studies have identified causal factors contributing to decreased home ownership rates in younger generations, in addition to trends in adaptive behaviours adopted by younger generations in order to break into the property market. Where some have made geographic, housing or lifestyle trade-offs in order to make the Australian Dream a reality; some have chosen to defer the purchase of property or other significant life events such as leaving the family home and child rearing; and others have sought assistance – financial or otherwise – from the family unit or other sources to improve their chances.

This thesis builds upon a foundation of strong quantitative research, offering a more intimate understanding of younger generations in the New South Wales property market. This shall be achieved through in-depth interviews with 20–34 year olds, wherein their motivations for entering home ownership (or lack thereof), descriptions of their lived experiences of seeking property and the complexities associated with their decisions are unearthed.



Exploring the Virtual City:

Immersive public participation using VR headsets

In March 2014, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg acquired the Oculus Rift VR headset for \$2 billion, declaring that this kind of immersive Virtual Reality (VR) technology will become a part of daily life for billions of people. The arrival of VR headsets to the consumer market by early 2016 will revolutionise how a wide range of professional industries operate in the future, including urban planning. This thesis analyses how VR headsets are the next progression of 3D visualisation as a method to communicate planning controls to the general public by visualising built form and the public domain at the human scale. This is done through a triangulation of qualitative methods to capture perspectives and opinions on the emerging VR technology. In-depth interviews with interactive media professionals and planning practitioners identify how this technology is already progressing in planning and focus groups with members of the public provide one of the first empirical tests of how VR technology can improve the public's understanding of proposed built form. This thesis concludes with a discussion of how VR can greatly increase effective communication and comprehension of proposed developments in comparison to plans, fly-through videos and 3D models on screen, in addition to highlighting opportunities, challenges and requirements that will allow this technology to be justified as a viable public participation tool.



Governing Homelessness:

A review on the roles and responsibility of State and Local Government

Homelessness is a dynamic condition that arises from a complex relationship between an individual's characteristics and structural determinants identified as housing unaffordability, unemployment and poverty. Over 105,237 Australians experienced homelessness in 2011, an alarming 20 per cent increase since 2006 (ABS 2011). These statistics indicate that government intervention and the broader support systems in place have failed to address the problem. A major concern is Sydney's housing affordability crisis and the flow-on effect through which immense pressure and demand is placed on homeless services in NSW and Sydney. Using a series of semi-structured in-depth interviews with 10 key government and non-government stakeholders, review of government documents and media analysis, this thesis critiques existing relationships between the Commonwealth, State and Local governments, and their coordinated response to homelessness. Using the City of Sydney as a case study, the thesis explores the roles and responsibilities of different government tiers in responding to homelessness and uncovers the challenges in early intervention, supplying affordable housing and potentially ending chronic homelessness in Australia.



Planners vs. the people?

Understanding the tensions that exist between planners and the communities they serve through resident action groups and the role of community input in the planning and political process

Resident action groups are vocal examples of political diversity, and, as such, their existence is a testament to the openness of a democratic society. However, their existence can also imply unease with the planning process and the professionals entrusted to implement it. The relationship between planners and the communities they serve is managed through community input mechanisms which give stakeholders their say and planners the ability to constructively respond to such community input. In an ideal world, the relationship between planners and the communities they serve would be positive and constructive, but in reality this relationship is tense; these tensions need to be understood. In order to understand these tensions, two case studies – WestConnex and the Local Environmental Plan 2015 for Sutherland Shire Council – have been used as the basis for interviews with planners, representatives of resident action groups, and neutral parties about their views of community input processes. Both case studies, one a major development proposal and the other a strategic planning document, have been fertile ground for tension. Possible pathways to resolving tensions exist in the form of community consultative bodies and other innovative policy approaches. Whilst tensions can never fully be eliminated, there are ways to minimise them.



Free Public Transport:

To what extent can it contribute to sustainable urban growth in Australia?

Australia's population growth is forecast to deliver an increase in population of some 8.2 million people by 2031, of whom 72% will live in the cities of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. This growth in population will generate significant demand for the provision of infrastructure services, in particular transport, where the estimated cost of congestion will rise from \$13.5 billion in 2011 to \$53.3 billion in 2031 without substantial increase in capacity.

Recently, there has been a consistent element of policy by all Australian governments for the substitution of public to private ownership of major infrastructure projects and their funding. It is argued that private ownership leads to greater efficiency. Inherent to this philosophy is the need for such projects to demonstrate an immediate and substantial income stream on completion, leading to a preference for toll-able highways over public transport options. This thesis explores the feasibility and consequence to the urban environment, of providing a free public transport system in Australia. The research methodology is comprised of: (1) a comprehensive evidence review of transport policy, behaviour, attitudes and funding; (2) a case study; (3) in-depth interviews with leading experts in economics, transport and the urban environment; (4) a traffic study on the relationship and affect of traffic volumes and travel times in Sydney.



Healthy Hospital Settings:

Supporting wellbeing for staff and visitors

Environments affording opportunities for physical activity and social connection support health and wellbeing, nurturing livable communities. Hospitals, as major developments, are often referred to as centres of healing but to what extent do they incorporate design elements to support general health and wellbeing for staff and visitors? This study examines supportive healthy environments in a healthcare setting using Royal North Shore Hospital (RNSH) as a case study. RNSH will soon undergo significant redevelopment. An audit instrument, incorporating key NSW Health strategies, was devised and used to assess healthy built environment principles at the hospital. In depth interviews with health and built environment professionals were also undertaken. The findings indicate the hospital has incorporated aspects of healthy built environment principles, although the redevelopment concept plan does not align with NSW Health policy. Improved partnerships between built environment and health professionals are required to achieve a holistic implementation of a healthy setting. This study can assist stakeholders to ensure staff and visitor wellbeing is supported through the implementation of NSW Health policies at all scales of development. The audit instrument from this study could be used by stakeholders examining the health supportive nature of similar settings throughout Australia.

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City of Edmonton

Transit Oriented Development:

The future for light rail development in Sydney

Much research has been undertaken linking the relationship between Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and increased public transit (PT) ridership levels in many American TOD focused cities, however, little has been uncovered linking the two in the context of Sydney. Due to the resurgence of Sydney's light rail system, it is worthwhile to explore the influences that integrated land use and transport planning have on PT passenger levels in Sydney. The aims of this study were to analyse the progress of TODs in New South Wales planning, and demonstrate that integrated land use and transport planning have an effect on increased PT ridership. A review of secondary sources suggests the significance of key TOD principles in motivating PT ridership. A total of 30 anonymous quantitative surveys were distributed in areas surrounding Sydney's Inner West Light Rail Extension. Findings confirmed that there is a relationship between high density development and greater levels of PT ridership. The higher PT ridership amongst the light rail stations with greater density, mixed-use development suggests that integrated land use and transport development, to a certain extent, share a relationship with increased PT ridership levels. As such, the significance of TOD should be emphasised for future light rail stations in Sydney.



Barking up the Wrong Tree:

A planning approach to native vegetation

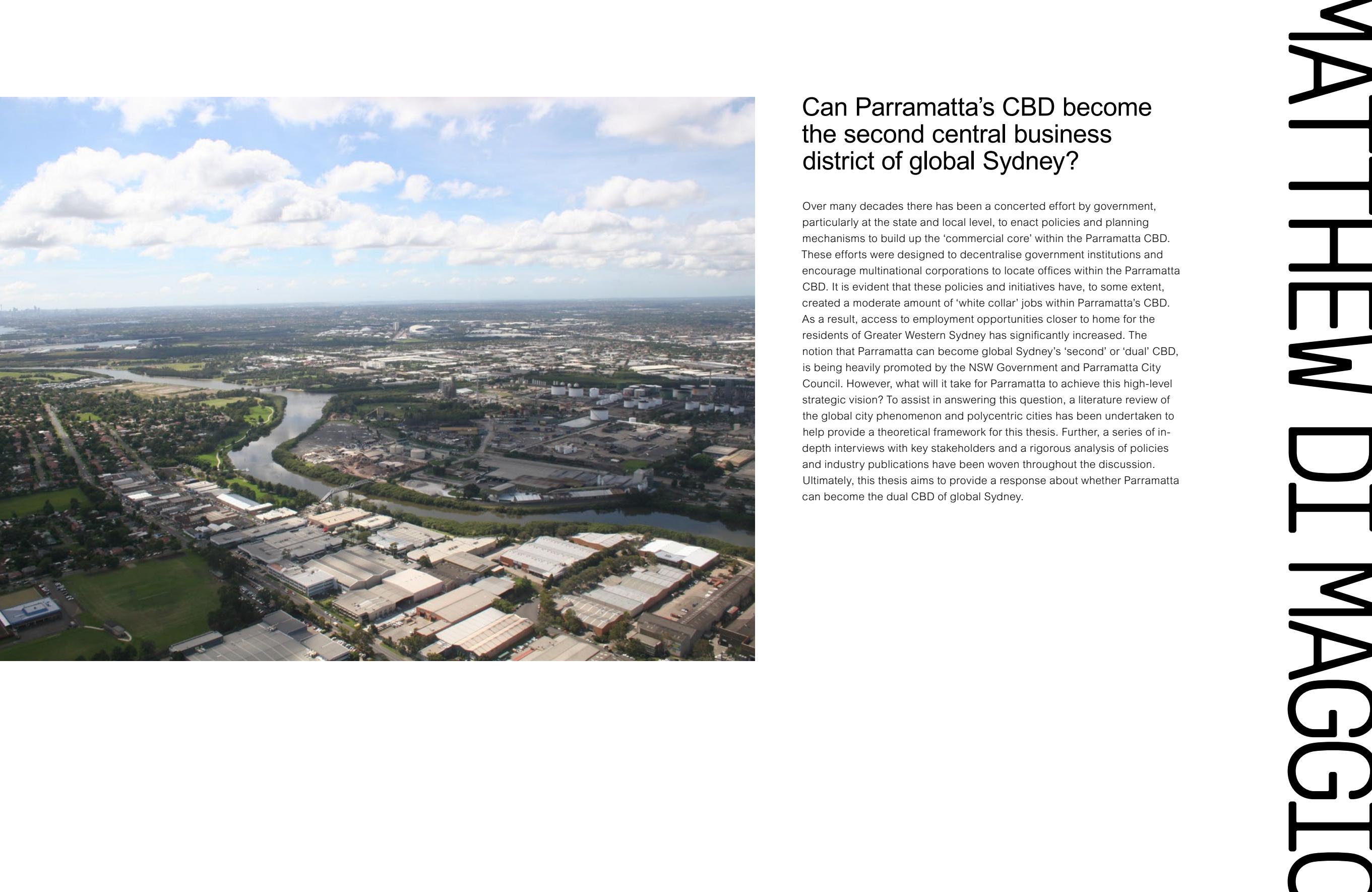
Land clearing in NSW is affected by the zoning of land. Clearing of native vegetation in urban zones is subject to the extent of tree preservation controls in Local Council's LEP and DCP; somewhat rare in rural Councils. Land clearing on rural zones is regulated under the Native Vegetation Act 2003 involving an uncertain, complicated and bureaucratic process with no indication of the assessment, outcome or timeframe. The existence of two regimes determined by land use zoning has led to much debate in the community, particularly the agricultural sector; however, a recent review of the system recommends managing and conserving native vegetation through a combination of state and local government bodies within the framework of the planning legislation. This thesis investigates the complexity surrounding native vegetation management and implications any change may have, aided by a literature and policy review, and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders from planning, natural resource and law backgrounds. It has revealed a combination of a lack of resources, poor funding, absence of education programs and inadequate experience of planners is likely to have significant implications for effective native vegetation management.



Parrattraction:

An investigation into the quantity and quality of attractions for young adults in Parramatta's CBD

Young adults are key consumers of attractions in CBDs such as small bars, nightclubs and live performance venues. A CBD can provide spaces and places to meet the social needs of a city's young adult population as it hosts the location of such attractions that are commonly associated with youth culture. In Sydney, the ability of its main CBD to meet these needs is likely to become increasingly difficult as the city expands outwards thus making it less accessible to young adults living in Sydney, and in particular, Western Sydney. Parramatta is an ideal setting for such attractions because of its location and status. Improving the quantity and quality of attractions in Parramatta could make it easier for more young adults living in the Sydney region to meet their social needs while alleviating pressure off the Sydney CBD. This study investigates the quantity and quality of attractions for young adults in Parramatta through a review of literature and policy, interviews, data analysis and a detailed land-use survey of existing attractions. The findings of this study will result in a list of recommendations that have the potential to influence planning policy and practice to make Parramatta more attractive and vibrant.



Can Parramatta's CBD become the second central business district of global Sydney?

Over many decades there has been a concerted effort by government, particularly at the state and local level, to enact policies and planning mechanisms to build up the 'commercial core' within the Parramatta CBD. These efforts were designed to decentralise government institutions and encourage multinational corporations to locate offices within the Parramatta CBD. It is evident that these policies and initiatives have, to some extent, created a moderate amount of 'white collar' jobs within Parramatta's CBD. As a result, access to employment opportunities closer to home for the residents of Greater Western Sydney has significantly increased. The notion that Parramatta can become global Sydney's 'second' or 'dual' CBD, is being heavily promoted by the NSW Government and Parramatta City Council. However, what will it take for Parramatta to achieve this high-level strategic vision? To assist in answering this question, a literature review of the global city phenomenon and polycentric cities has been undertaken to help provide a theoretical framework for this thesis. Further, a series of in-depth interviews with key stakeholders and a rigorous analysis of policies and industry publications have been woven throughout the discussion. Ultimately, this thesis aims to provide a response about whether Parramatta can become the dual CBD of global Sydney.



Dripping Water:

The tumour within greater Klang Valley

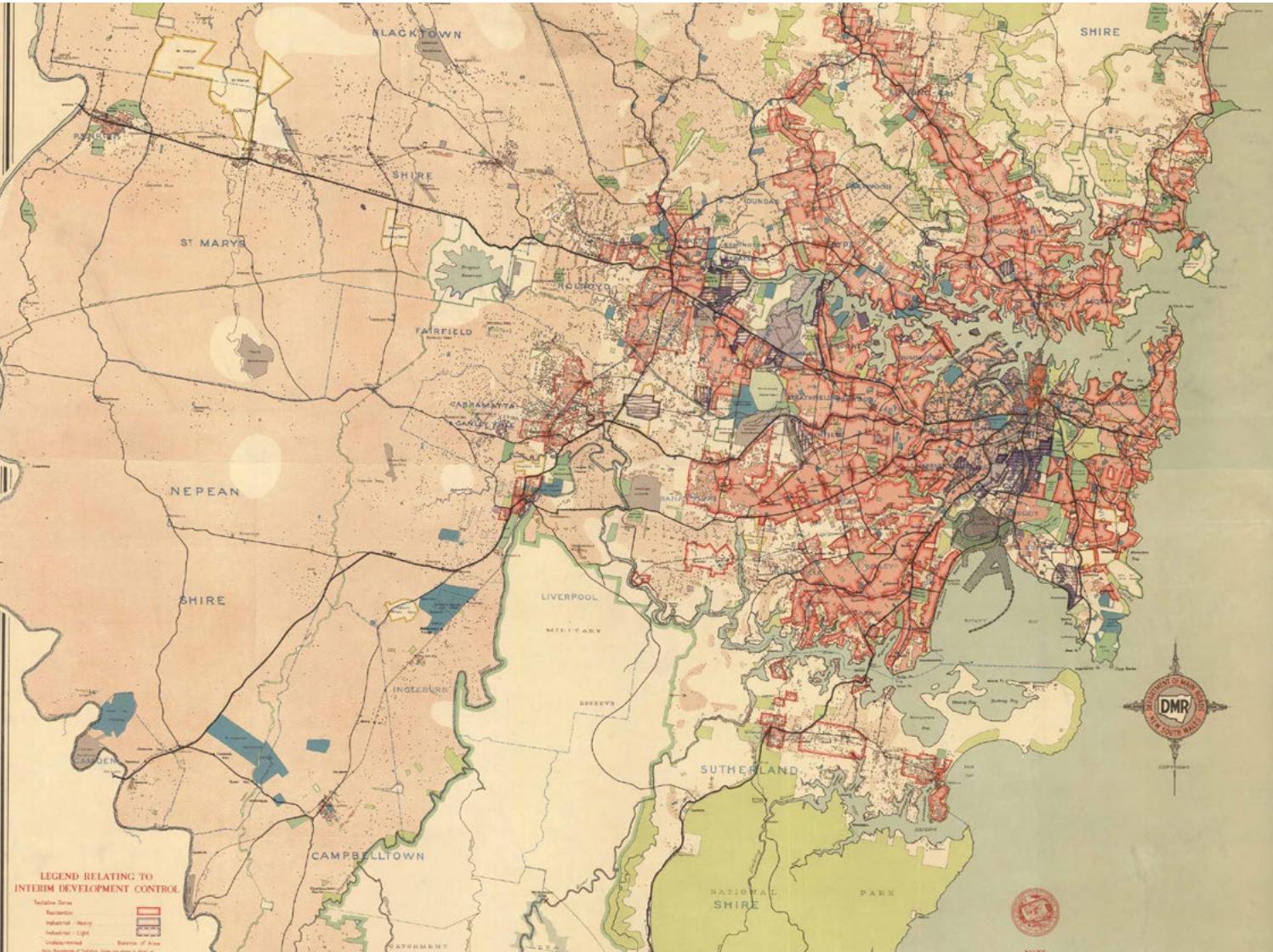
The primary objectives of this research are to understand the growing issues of traffic congestion in greater Klang Valley, Malaysia, and investigate individual transport mode choice behaviours. In particular, the thesis focuses on commuters' socio-economic and demographic characteristics that may affect their travel decisions on a daily basis. In 2013, the Ministry of transportation Malaysia reported that 20.8% use public transport, with 74.1% registered private vehicles being used in the Klang Valley. This study focuses on how to increase public transport adoption rate by understanding the behaviour of commuters. Quantitative data has been collected by: survey questionnaire, online survey through social media, online forums, as well as word of mouth. Correlation analysis was used to find possible relationships between traffic conditions and travel behaviours. Findings suggest key negative factors influencing public transport use such as final destinations, misinformation on timetable and punctuality resulted in low public transport usage. What this research found will aid the government transport planning in providing a better public transport service through improved connectivity, accessibility and incentives to increase commuters' adoption rate.



Illumination:

To what extent can lighting facilitate a safe, accessible and vibrant night-time economy?

The United Nations proclaimed 2015 as the international year of light, emphasising the influence of light-based technologies on innovative and intelligent urban development. The confluence of rapid urbanisation and proliferation of light based technologies has provided an opportunity for cities to develop night-time economies which cater to the needs of everyone. In Australia, cities have begun implementing policies to encourage vibrant night-time economies that embrace the role of effective urban lighting. Despite this, the nexus between lighting and the extent to which it facilitates successful night-time economies has not been profoundly verified, resulting in policy and decision-makers relying on the anecdotal predisposition that it provides safer environments. Through the use of qualitative research techniques, this thesis identifies contemporary challenges surrounding the effects that lighting has on human behaviour and how it can influence the use of a space. Furthermore, this thesis discusses how current Australian Standards limit the prospects of designing light to respond to its environment and improve our public spaces. By enhancing our understanding of lighting we can create positive perception in our cities and facilitate safer night environments. This thesis concludes the relative importance of lighting is significant however, it is one of many elements that planners, policy-makers and practitioners can adopt to facilitate safer, accessible and vibrant night-time economies.



Greater Sydney Commission:

Do strategic plans need statutory power?

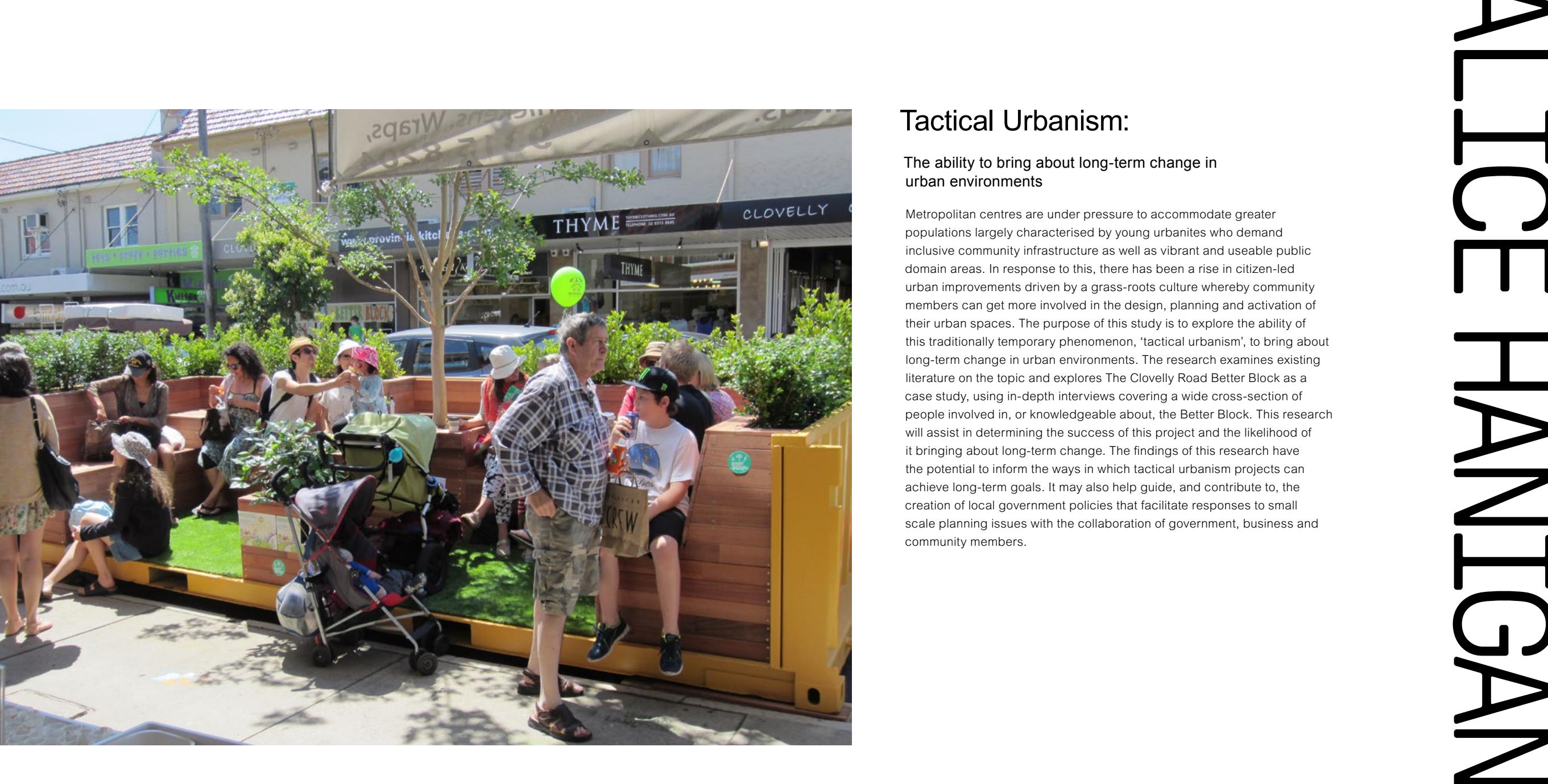
The conundrum of assigning strategic plans with statutory powers has long been an issue that has confronted the town planning of Sydney. Numerous strategic plans that have been formulated have failed to be implemented, their strategic objectives left floundering in the urban development of the metropolitan region. This has brought about a plethora of undesirable urban outcomes stemming from a lack of strategic direction and coordination in urban development. However, through the proposed Greater Sydney Commission there may indeed be a remedy to this challenge. This thesis will focus upon the statutory powers that need to be assigned to, in conjunction with, the structural composition of the commission. This will be achieved through a qualitative research methodology, focusing upon in-depth interviews of prominent planning experts and key urban stakeholders. Thus, through this methodological approach, the thesis will endeavour to determine what statutory powers are necessary for the Greater Sydney Commission to deliver its remit.



I Can't Get No (Satisfaction):

An analysis of job satisfaction in the planning profession

Job satisfaction continues to be of interest to organisational researchers as it has a long assumed role in predicting employee efficiency and the desire to remain in one's chosen career. A number of professions have been subject to studies on the topic of job satisfaction, however, planning, in an Australian context, is one profession that has not come under such scrutiny; this scholarly undertaking attempts to fill this apparent gap. The study compares the level of job satisfaction experienced by private professionals with their public counterparts. A secondary comparison is also drawn between recent graduates with less than five years of experience and professionals who have spent ten or more years in the field. These two comparisons are drawn from a detailed literature review and qualitative methodologies, comprising surveys and in-depth interviews. The results found that planners in NSW are satisfied. However, closer analysis of the data shows that a higher percentage of planners in the private sector are more satisfied when compared to their public counterparts. Conversely, planners with less than five years of experience were more satisfied than those with more than five. These results illustrate the dynamic nature of the planning workforce and highlight the importance of understanding what motivates planners and why their level of job satisfaction may vary.



Tactical Urbanism:

The ability to bring about long-term change in urban environments

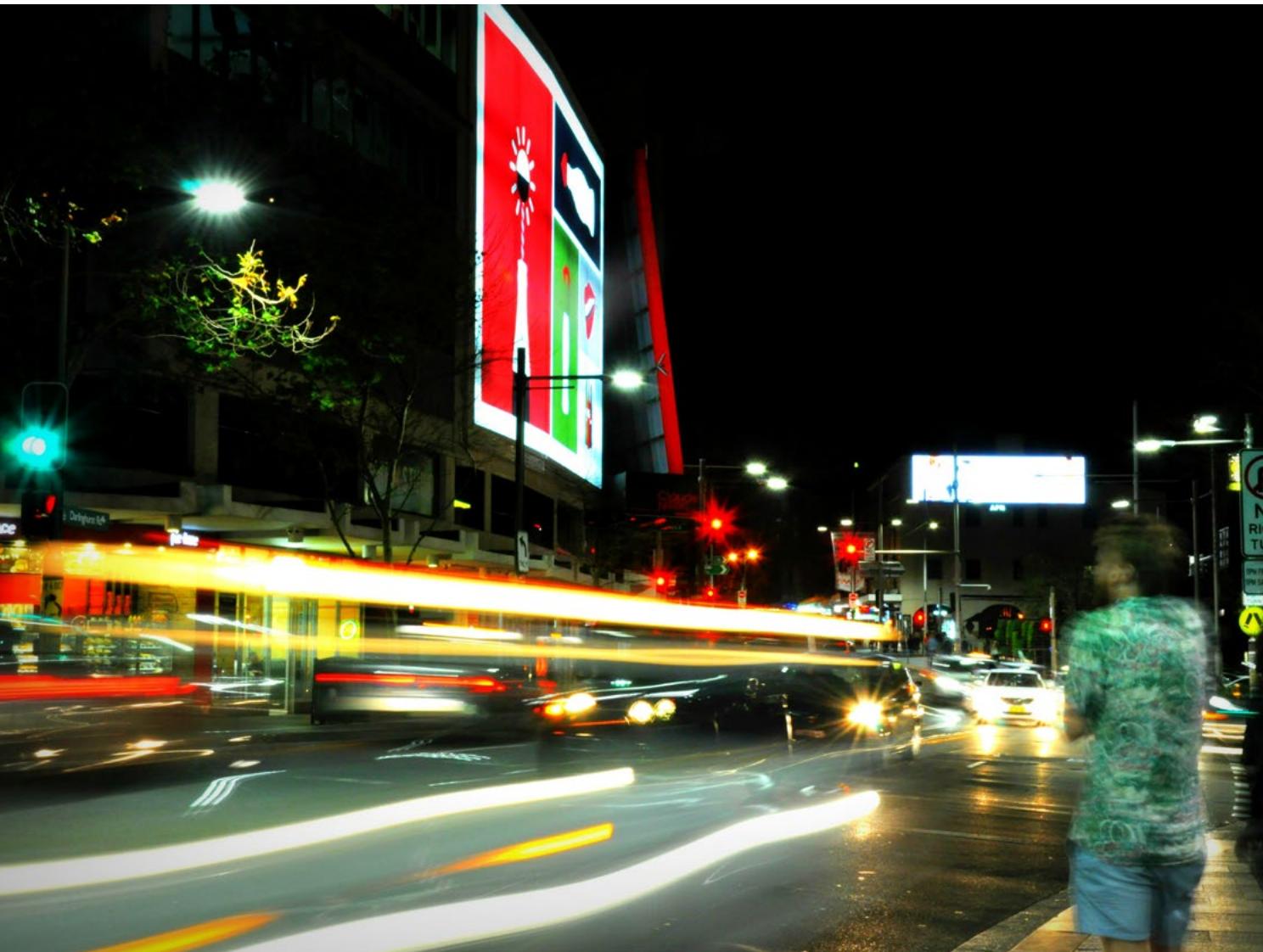
Metropolitan centres are under pressure to accommodate greater populations largely characterised by young urbanites who demand inclusive community infrastructure as well as vibrant and useable public domain areas. In response to this, there has been a rise in citizen-led urban improvements driven by a grass-roots culture whereby community members can get more involved in the design, planning and activation of their urban spaces. The purpose of this study is to explore the ability of this traditionally temporary phenomenon, 'tactical urbanism', to bring about long-term change in urban environments. The research examines existing literature on the topic and explores The Clovelly Road Better Block as a case study, using in-depth interviews covering a wide cross-section of people involved in, or knowledgeable about, the Better Block. This research will assist in determining the success of this project and the likelihood of it bringing about long-term change. The findings of this research have the potential to inform the ways in which tactical urbanism projects can achieve long-term goals. It may also help guide, and contribute to, the creation of local government policies that facilitate responses to small scale planning issues with the collaboration of government, business and community members.



Jam Packed:

The feasibility of congestion charging in the Sydney CBD

Fifteen million vehicular trips are made in Sydney every day, with the government forecasting a 42 per cent increase over the next 10 years. Arguably, there simply is not enough road space within the Sydney Central Business District (CBD) to accommodate the predicted growth as roads have reached maximum capacity. Congestion costs Sydney \$4.6 billion dollars a year and this is forecast to rise to \$8 billion by the end of 2015. It is critical for the future of Sydney that alternative strategies for effective traffic minimisation, management and ways to improve travel times, be investigated. Global cities such as London, San Francisco and Stockholm have turned to congestion charging as a solution to ease road congestion and to provide a more efficient and accessible central business district. This thesis poses the question: Is congestion charging a feasible method for controlling high traffic flows in the Sydney CBD? Thorough analyses of current strategies and traffic management, identifiable trends have allowed this thesis to form a strong assessment of the feasibility of congestion charging within Sydney. Coupled with interviews and case study analysis, this thesis provides an informed response to the suitability of congestion charging as a traffic management tool within the Sydney CBD.



Regulating Night-time Economies in a Global City:

Sydney's lock out laws

Global cities play an important role in the modern global economy; undoubtedly, the night-time economy (NTE) is a vibrant and thriving feature of global cities. However, generally speaking, distinct challenges arise when planning for and managing a NTE: conflict between pre-existing NTE venues and new residential development, and, the occurrence of alcohol related offences.

As a global city, Sydney has an active NTE which often encounters conflict. In early 2014, lock out laws, which included a 1am lock out and 3am last drinks for venues within the Sydney CBE Entertainment Precinct, were put in place as a response to a perceived increase in alcohol-induced violence and antisocial behaviour. This thesis seeks to discover how the laws have affected the NTE and compares two popular late night districts: Kings Cross, subject to the lock out laws, and King Street, Newtown, not subject to the lock out laws. Through a series of interviews with key stakeholders this thesis aims to explore the similarities and differences in night-time activities of these two districts. It will draw on knowledge from current literature on global cities and NTE as well as City of Sydney's NTE policy in order to discover what, if any, change has taken place in the NTE in Sydney.



Collaborative Planning:

An inter-agency analysis of responses to bushfires in New South Wales

Major bushfire events occur within Sydney's peri-urban fringe on an annual basis, with bushfires becoming increasingly severe over the past 20 years. The New South Wales planning system plays an integral role in preventing and mitigating the impacts of bushfires, however the planning system does not operate independently of other government agencies, such as the Rural Fire Service, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local Government and New South Wales Fire Brigades who also play a significant role in preventing and mitigating the bushfire threat.

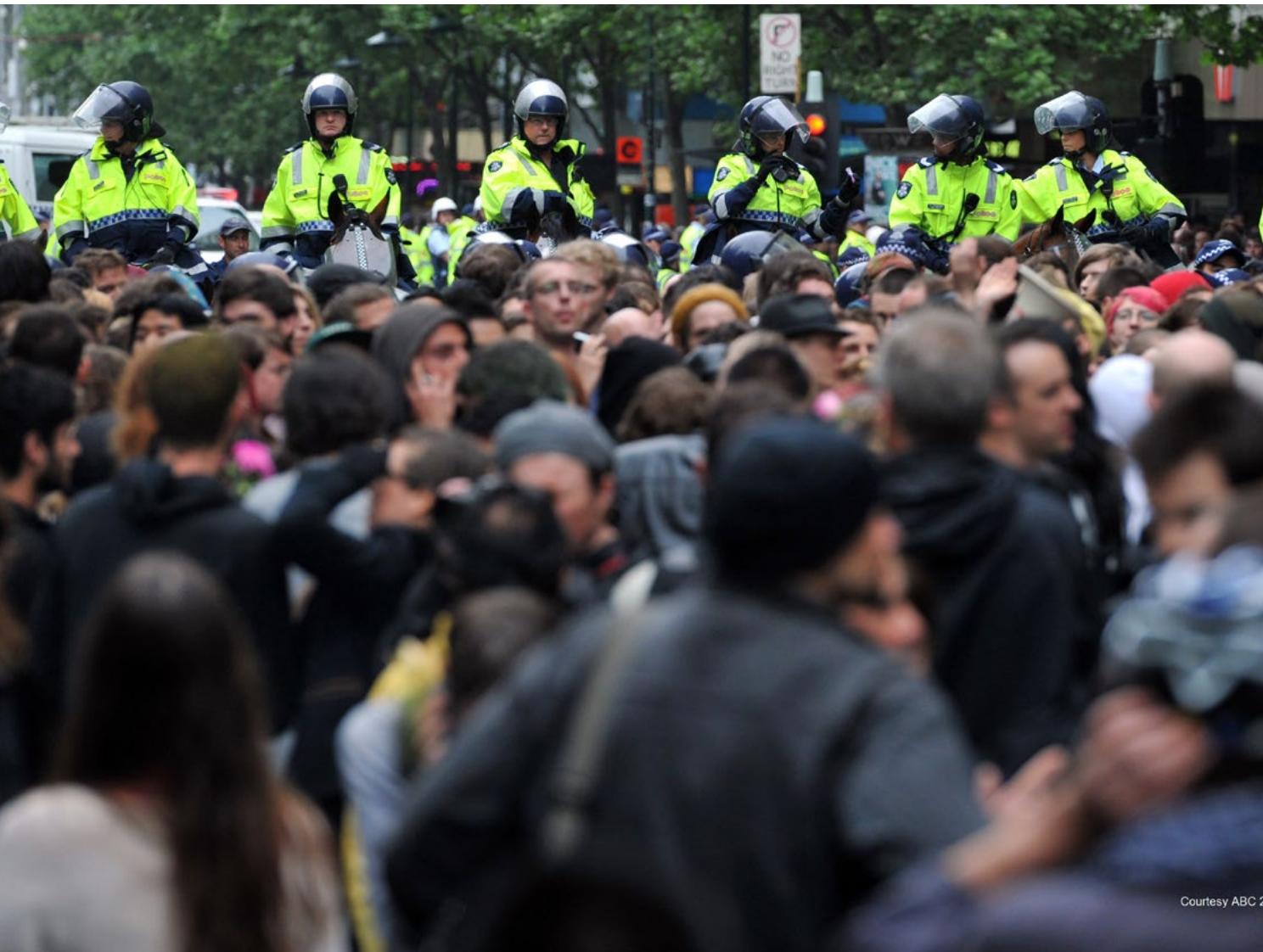
The driving philosophy behind the research project is the application of holistic Project Management methods to planning for bushfires within New South Wales. The research undertaken and subsequent findings draws upon the broad principles of Portfolio, Program and Project Management (P3M), and fundamental planning principles, to analyse current responses to bushfires within New South Wales and determine where efficiencies can be made. This research project maps New South Wales State Government agencies involved in planning and reacting to bushfires in the region and then analyses an array of case studies, through the application of P3M principles, to identify opportunities for direct and in-direct collaboration and co-operation.



Sustainable Mountain Biking:

Best practice land use

Emerging in its modern form in Australia during the 1990's, mountain biking has become a popular mainstream recreational pursuit. Conducted in bushland reserves, national parks, state forests and specially designed mountain bike venues, the sport offers benefits to the individual, community environment and economy. Unlike other recreational pursuits, mountain biking has low entry barriers and can be undertaken by a large demographic, offering potential widespread benefits to a community. However as with any landuse, if not implemented in a strategic and considered manner, mountain biking can be environmentally damaging and socially divisive. In Australia, implementation has often operated on a reactionary basis with official trail facilities being provided after demand has led to unauthorised trail creation and environmental damage. This thesis looks at how this land use can be accommodated using best practise methods thus minimising the potential for environmental damage and therefore adding social value to important bushland areas. Through the review of relevant academic and government literature, combined with in-depth perceptions of industry leaders, this thesis collates the issues surrounding the sport and offers insights into the user group, trail design, implementation methods and management techniques that are current best practice.



The Death and Life of Democratic Public Spaces:

Reflecting on our rights to the city

Political expression through protest, or displays of dissent are regarded as contentious uses of public space. Yet around the world, there are extreme examples of power relationships, democratic action and a test of the legal geography on display in public plazas, squares, streets and parks. These expressions often have an impact on governance, policy, and planning at the local if not global level. This thesis constructs a theoretical and philosophical deliberation over the role of urban public space from which to gauge the condition of the contemporary democratic city. This deliberation is conducted primarily through examining Henri Lefebvre's theory of 'the right to the city', which is enriched with perspectives and information from in-depth interviews with contemporary urban sociologists and philosophers. Such an evaluative reflection is significant given the recent surge of political discontent manifested in the public spaces of cities around the world in many different political contexts. It is argued that 'the right to the city' framework can be applied to the debate over the future for public space, its roles, significance and relevance to the condition of the contemporary democratic city and its publics.

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Key Ingredients to Creating Active and Vibrant Public Spaces

In more recent times, the design and planning of public spaces across Sydney's suburban town centres have been guided by a generic mantra epitomised by the common themes of placemaking: the strengthening of civic identity and creating a sense of place. It has become a presumptuous process whereby the allocation of key terminology directly correlates with the creation of successful town squares. The process and justifications in the design phase can also be very assuming in a sense that the combination of vague concepts will ensure a healthy, vibrant and active public environment. The fact is, every place differs in size, character, urban role, spatial form and surrounding context. Consequently, there needs to be a finer grain in the application of principles when designing public spaces that allow for public life to flourish in a more intuitive way. The aim of this research is to explore identify 'finer grain' design principles through three case studies and a series of in-depth interviews. This thesis will deconstruct the underlying elements which activate space, assessing spatial form as a key necessity.



The Impact of Public Housing Revitalisation on the Youth Community in Bonnyrigg

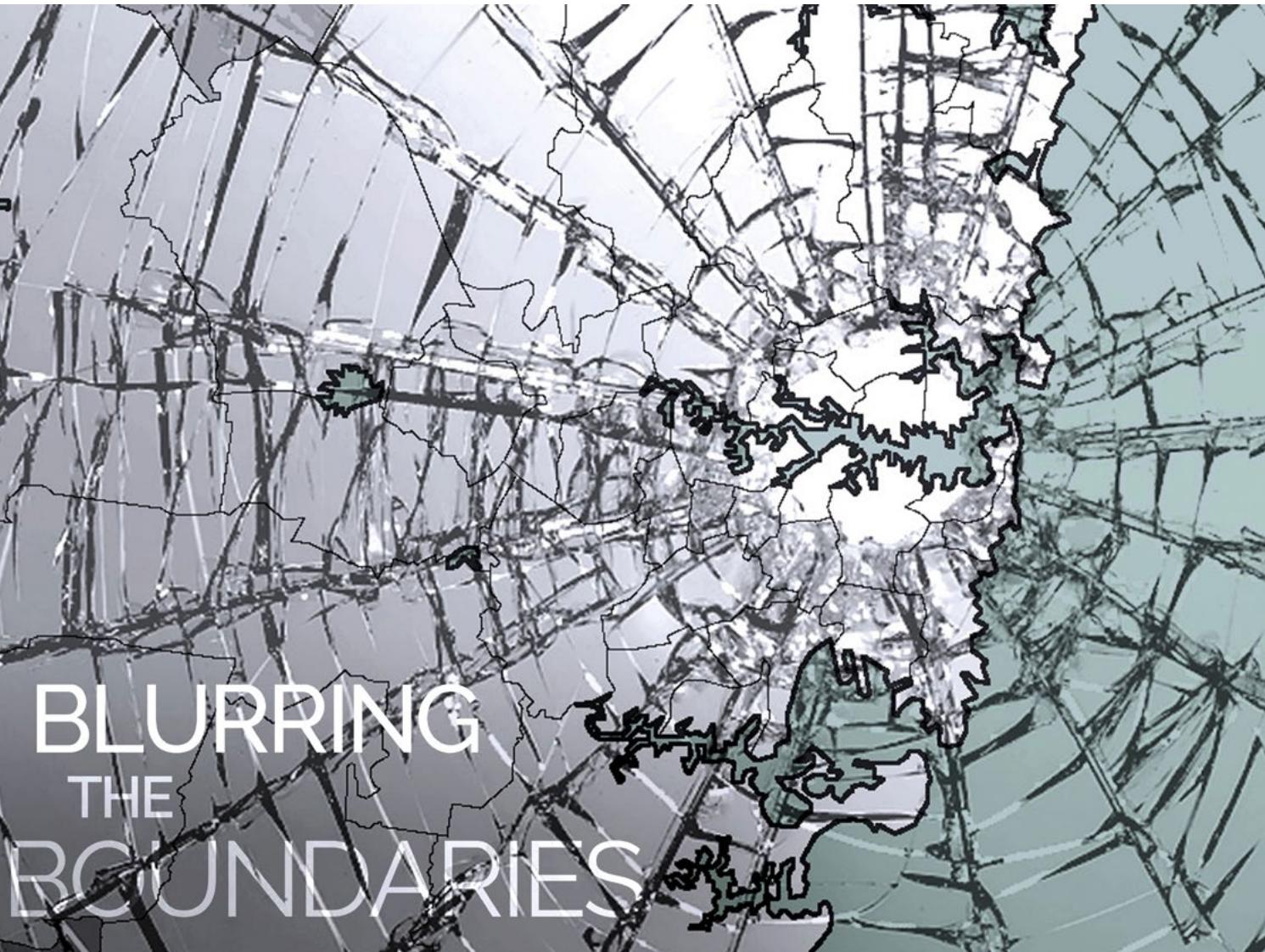
Public housing is an important form of government assistance that provides accommodation for individuals and families with low income, personal disadvantages and people with a disability. Since the early 1980s, Bonnyrigg has become one of the most highly publicised housing estates in Western Sydney due to its size and its history of criminal activity. In 2007, the estate became subject to a \$730 million redevelopment initiative that would successfully integrate private and public housing in order to create a new sense of community. This research explores the 'lived experiences' of youths living in the area before, during and after the redevelopment process and to what extent their lives were impacted. The study uncovers the perspectives of seventeen (17) youth tenants aged 18–26 who reside within the redeveloped and older parts of Bonnyrigg. This research was conducted through the use of quantitative surveying and face to face interviews. An analysis of the results indicates that bright landscaping, consistent maintenance, and modern designs of New Bonnyrigg were factors that prompted an improvement to the tenant's sense of peace and well-being and connection with community. However, redevelopment stages of the suburb that remain incomplete are contributing to a sense of segregation within the community.



All aboard!

How trams are influencing travel habits in Sydney's Inner West

In March 2014 the Inner West Light Rail Extension opened, extending Sydney's small tram system from Lilyfield to Dulwich Hill along a former goods railway. Since this time use of the system has increased significantly; trams are often standing room only, particularly during peak times, while weekend use has also grown appreciably. Extending the tram system appears to have tapped into a significant source of underlying demand for travel, but it is not clear how or why people have changed travel habits in response to this new public transport service. This research explores how extension of the tram system in Sydney's Inner West is influencing travel behaviour along a corridor which previously had no passenger-carrying transport function. It uses face-to-face surveys of people travelling by tram along the new section of line to generate new data about people's travel habits and how they have changed since the extended system commenced operation. The data suggests that by improving accessibility between some locations, expanding the tram system in Sydney's Inner West has simultaneously encouraged people to change travel methods for existing trips and to make new trips they previously did not make.



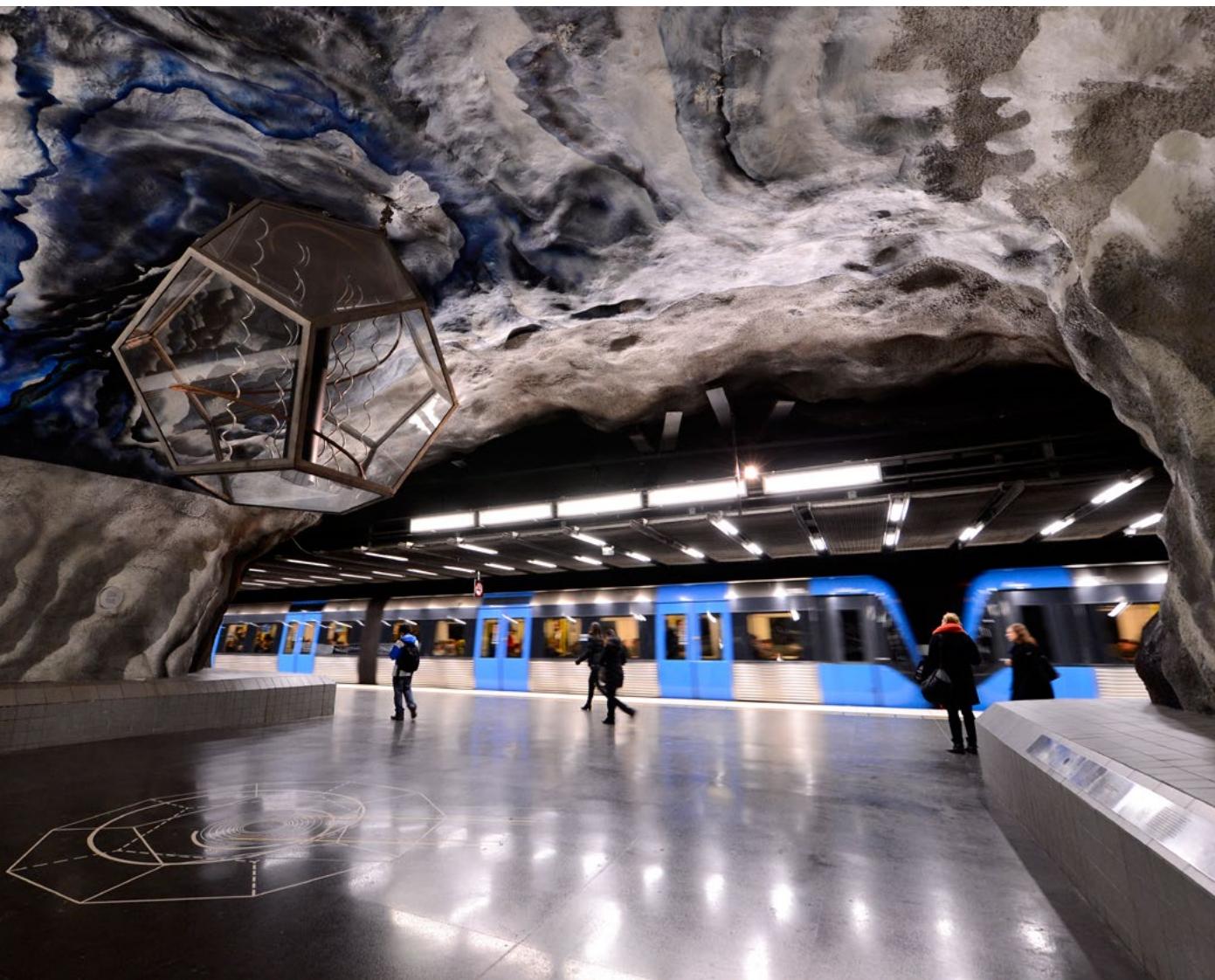
Blurring the Boundaries:

Metropolitan governance in Sydney

Since the late 1800s there have been a number of attempts to establish a formal body to govern planning across metropolitan Sydney. All attempts have failed, or had limited longevity. In recent times, new modes of governing metropolitan areas have emerged. The successes of these are affected by the values and behaviours of, and social norms between, governing actors. The institution governing planning across metropolitan Sydney is fragmented across 43 local governments, the Federal and State Governments, the private sector, civil society groups and individuals. Each of these actors brings their own values and behaviours, and embodies different social norms in governing.

Using a new institutionalism framework, this thesis examines the institution governing planning across metropolitan Sydney. It reviews the literature on governance, urban governance institutions, and urban regions, and how these affect the social norms, values and behaviours of governing actors. It reviews the context for governing Australia's metropolitan areas, Sydney in particular; attempts to establish a formal body to govern planning; and emergent modes of governing planning across metropolitan Sydney. Supported by in-depth interviews with governing actors, it identifies and analyses the norms, values and behaviours of the actors governing planning across metropolitan Sydney. The thesis argues these norms, values and behaviours are not conducive to governing planning at the metropolitan scale. In view of the current attempt to establish a formal body to govern planning at the metropolitan scale, this thesis has significant contemporary relevance for those wanting to understand potential pathways towards successful metropolitan governance in Sydney.

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Commuter Lines in Sydney:

How can public art contribute to local sense of place within train stations?

Train stations across New South Wales have been corporatised with identical built forms of cold glass and steel handrails, monochrome building materials and bland colour schemes. They are uniformly plastered with advertisements on billboards and walls. As a result, train stations are no more recognisable than another and these environments have essentially become 'placeless' and detached from the local community identity. A more enriched and creative commuter experience could be provided.

This thesis draws upon literature, interviews and questionnaires with academics, artists, Council and State Government representatives as well as site observations to identify the factors that contribute to place identity, creation of public art and the current design rationale of New South Wales train stations. Best practice, world case studies of train station public art programs are explored from Stockholm, Montreal and Santiago. The research findings have uncovered that Sydney train stations lack vibrancy and uniqueness in terms of contextual design and experience for commuters. As a result, this thesis recommends a shift from the current design rationale for train stations within NSW transport to encourage a more innovative outlook with design features that use public art to enhance the stations and improve the connection between people and place.



Ways to Revive Abandoned Projects in Malaysia

Abandoned construction projects are serious problems cropping up in the housing industry worldwide. The ripple effects of any abandoned project not only affect the buyers, developers and the banks involved, but also the country's economy, environment and society. This thesis not only investigates some of the factors that cause projects to fail but also considers the importance of reviving abandoned projects. Reviving a project has its challenges and the research focuses on setbacks that may be faced by the developer when taking up abandoned projects in Malaysia. The thesis argues that the use of collaboration theory or collaborative planning could help ensure the rescue of any abandoned project and also mitigate future projects from being abandoned. This research uses case study approach on an abandoned project that was taken up by a property development company in Malaysia (Ivory Properties Group Berhad) and also incorporates interviews with the developer, architect, engineers, lawyers and the local authorities. These findings add to our understanding of the revival of abandoned housing projects in Malaysia.

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Indigenous Representation in the Built Environment

Indigenous Australians have the longest standing connection to the land on which Australian cities are built. However, the recognition of Indigeneity in the places that compose a city is limited. This necessitates a need for built environment practitioners to understand and acknowledge that Indigenous people have a right to be expressed in the city and therefore assist with the recognition of Indigeneity in the built environment. This research provides a greater understanding of the role of Indigenous representations in the built environment, such as in public artwork, civic places and buildings, as a way to contribute to Australian cities being socially sustainable.

The link between Indigenous representations in the built environment and achieving a socially sustainable city is explored by triangulating an analysis of photographic images, a case study of the Eora Journey, and a detailed review of relevant literature with information gathered during several in-depth interviews with Indigenous built environment experts. The research findings indicate Australia has an untapped cultural resource that can contribute to making places that celebrate Indigenous culture, identity and people. This thesis aims to shift built environment practitioners thinking and practice to ensure that Indigeneity is embedded in planning and place making processes.



Us and Them:

A study of Balmain, gentrification and Balmain's long-term residents

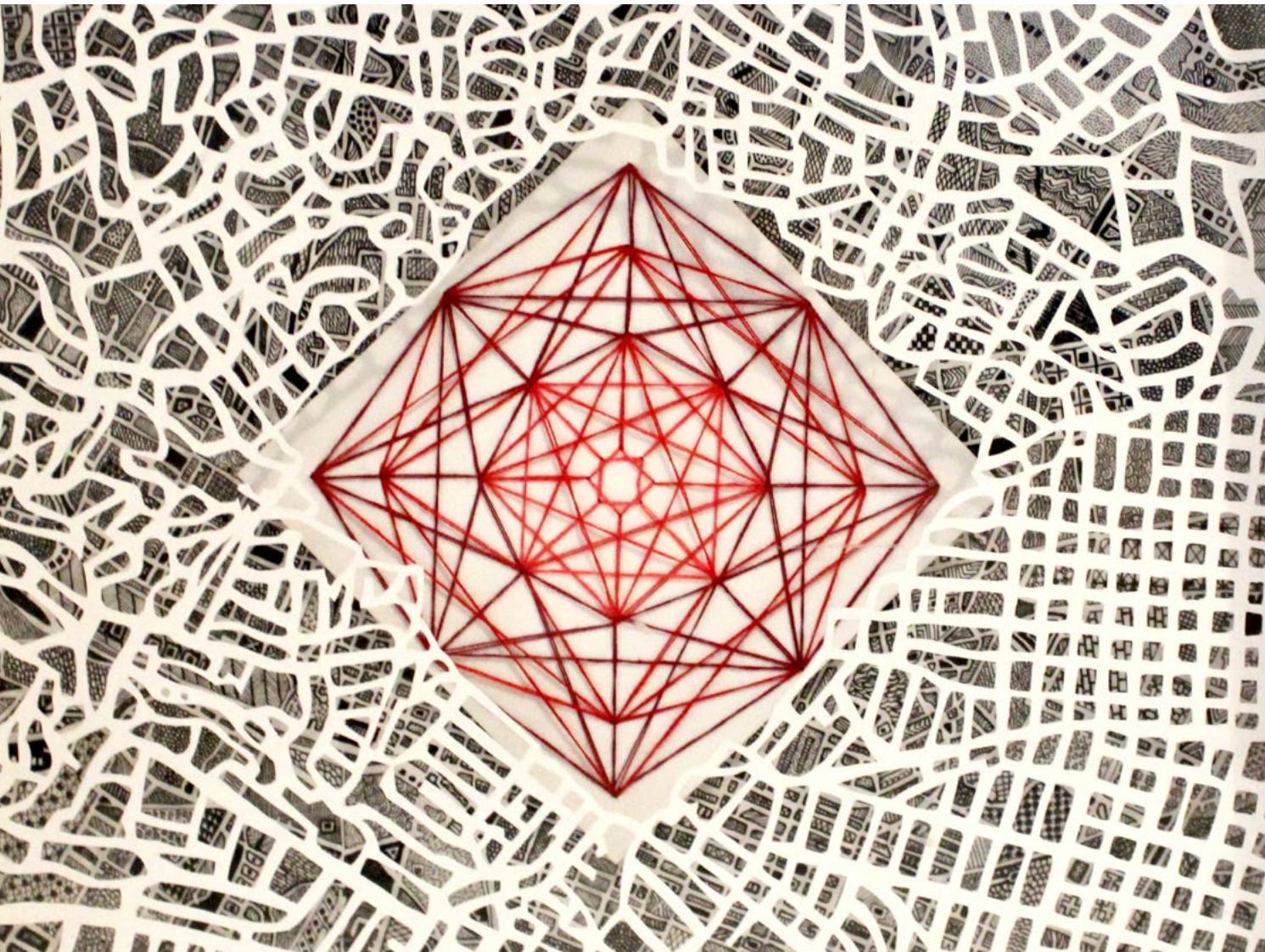
The innate relationship formed between person and place is important for an individual. This person-place bond can be strengthened through time and can be influenced by the social, cultural and historic values that coexist within place. This in turn can change the ways individuals foster this valuable connection between person and place. Much research has explored the impact of gentrification on the quality of people-place relationships, exploring issues such as social exclusion and displacement. In many larger western cities, inner ring suburbs have experienced the process of gentrification over recent decades, transforming these areas, displacing some residents and ultimately changing the nature of people-place relationships amongst both established and new residents. This thesis explores these issues in the context of the inner city suburb of Balmain in Sydney. A series of in-depth interviews with Balmain's long term residents were conducted to examine the personal experiences of living in Balmain and how these have changed over time. This thesis discusses the impact that changing social mix in the area has had on the people-place bonds of long term residents and considers the implications of these findings for urban planners and policy makers concerned with ensuring strong positive people-place relationships are maintained in areas undergoing rapid social change.



Limitations of Open Space and Lifestyle:

Conflict and compromise between open space and Sydney's housing supply

Open space facilitates outdoor recreation and is integral to the strong sporting culture that is an inherent part of the Australian lifestyle. These key features of the landscape are increasingly being redeveloped to satisfy Sydney's hastened demand for housing closer to the CBD. Whilst a viable short-term solution to Sydney's housing crisis, in the long-term, this trend may limit the accessibility of fundamental open spaces and undermine the lifestyle choices of future generations. Healthy planning provisions for open space are enshrined through strategic planning. However, current policies such as the pre-Gateway process are enabling alternative opportunities for developers to push development proposals on land identified for open space. To balance this conflict, planning must address the critical objectives of the RE2 Private Recreation zone under the Standard Instrument Local Environmental Plan to protect and maintain principles of not only healthy planning but also open spaces that are equitable and accessible. This thesis seeks to explore how planning can protect open space for future generations whilst balancing competing demands for housing supply. Through an analysis of qualitative-based findings, this research endeavors to identify future implications of development on land zoned RE2 Private Recreation. It is anticipated that this research may essentially inform policy recommendations that respond to Sydney's long-term open space challenges.



Urban Parra-dise?

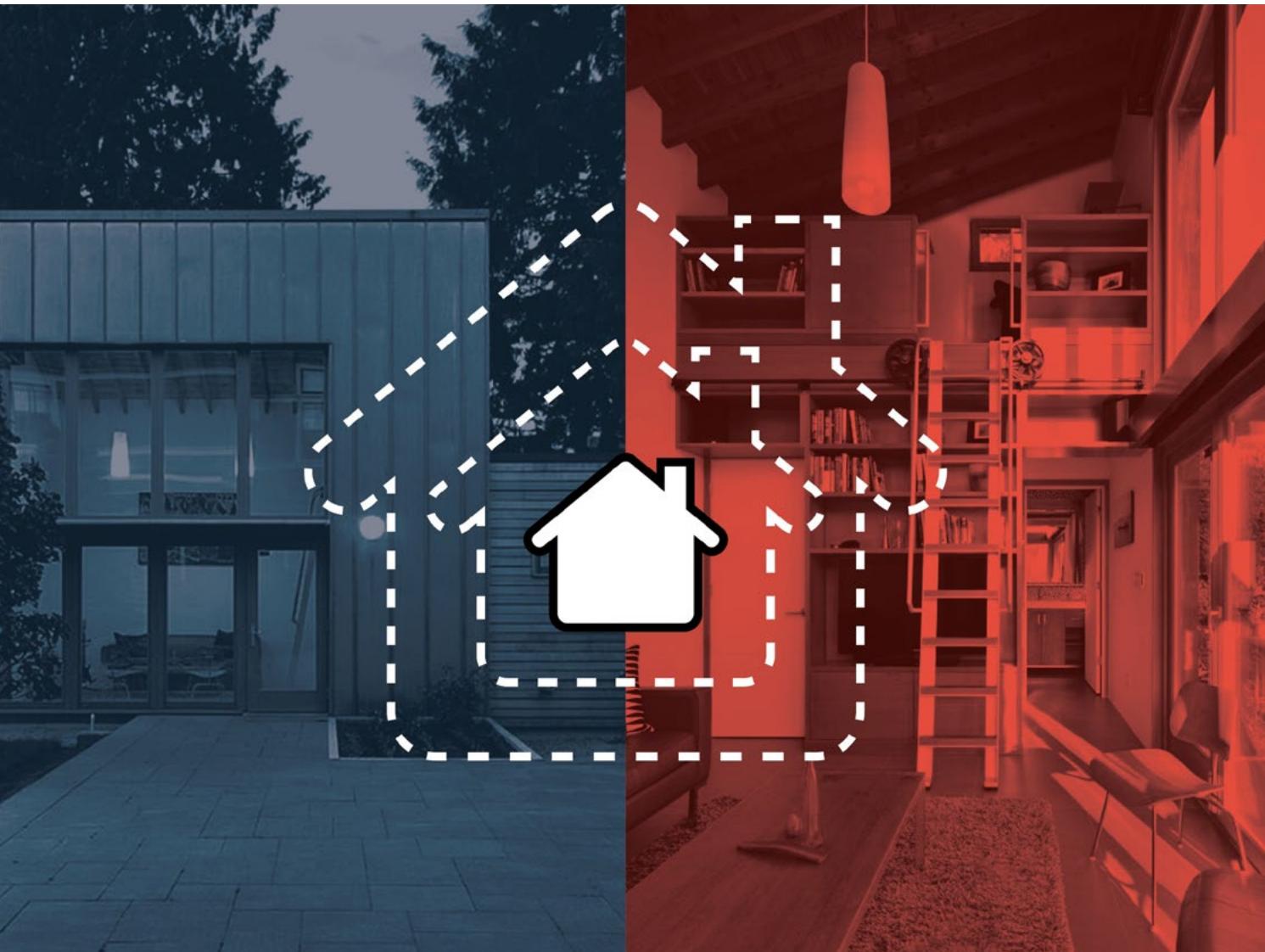
An investigation into government actions and their effects on creative activities in Parramatta

Creative economy activities are seen to be of vital importance for the nation's economy, particularly for second-tier Australian cities experiencing economic change such as Wollongong, Newcastle and Parramatta. This thesis investigates government strategies and their effects on creative economy activities using Parramatta CBD as a case study. Original empirical research for this thesis includes: a desktop review of creative strategies for four metropolitan areas in NSW; examination of ABS statistical data on creative industries in Parramatta; and, a series of in-depth interviews with key promoters of creative activities. Additionally, a suite of case studies, including the Parramatta Lanes Strategy and Information Cultural Exchange, were examined. Key findings of the research were: 1) the planners for the CBD have been working to change the way the city is perceived through creative strategies 2) local government was the main facilitator of these creative activities and 3) private organisations are also promoting Parramatta's creative campaign. Overall, this research has contributed to a deeper discussion regarding creative economy activities in Parramatta and has highlighted the need for further studies into this complex topic.



The Case for Urban Agriculture in Contested City Spaces

As many Australian cities have continued to grow, urban agriculture has been a marginalised and neglected element of the urban form receiving little attention from planners and policy makers. In the case of Sydney, agriculture has been relegated to the peri-urban fringe of cities, and increasingly to regional and rural areas with the perception that agricultural land is land awaiting higher economic development. However, in recent times with the advent of the local food movement and increasing concerns about environmental sustainability intra-urban agriculture has witnessed resurgence in Sydney and other developed cities globally. Although the literature on intra-urban agriculture is extensive, there is a scarcity of research which examines this phenomenon from an Australian perspective. This thesis draws upon qualitative research in the form of interviews to examine the case of urban agriculture in Australia, with a focus on the inner and middle-ring suburbs of Sydney. Interview findings are used to compare and contrast Sydney's situation to domestic and international case studies. Overall, the research aims to identify the known and perceived benefits of intra-urban agriculture as well as the challenges and obstacles to its effective implementation and by doing so, critically assess the arguments made for urban agriculture in urban spaces.



Planning for Sm-all:

Perspectives on encouraging a small, affordable and diverse housing supply in NSW

Housing affordability within the NSW and metropolitan housing markets is stifling many younger generations, and those less financially stable, chances of participating in the 'great Australian dream' of home ownership. Recent research and analysis indicates that government, industry and the planning system in NSW has failed to provide a diverse and affordable range of housing to cater adequately to changes in economic, demographic and household cycles. As NSW housing policy seeks to implement a greater range of housing diversity, the emerging trend and values attached to planning and building 'small' is worthy of investigation. Offering a range of economic, environmental and social opportunities, urban professionals and small house enthusiasts are promoting living in smaller dwellings as an affordable, liveable and more sustainable alternative. A background of sociological and affordability research on the Australian housing scenario establishes a focus for this thesis to explore qualitatively a variety of urban professionals perspectives on encouraging small housing and its future value for NSW. It is hoped that this research will spark discussion on the core principles, themes and issues which will need consideration if NSW is to pursue small diverse housing as one response to the current affordability dilemma.



A Hungry City:

Using incentive planning to feed Sydney's growth

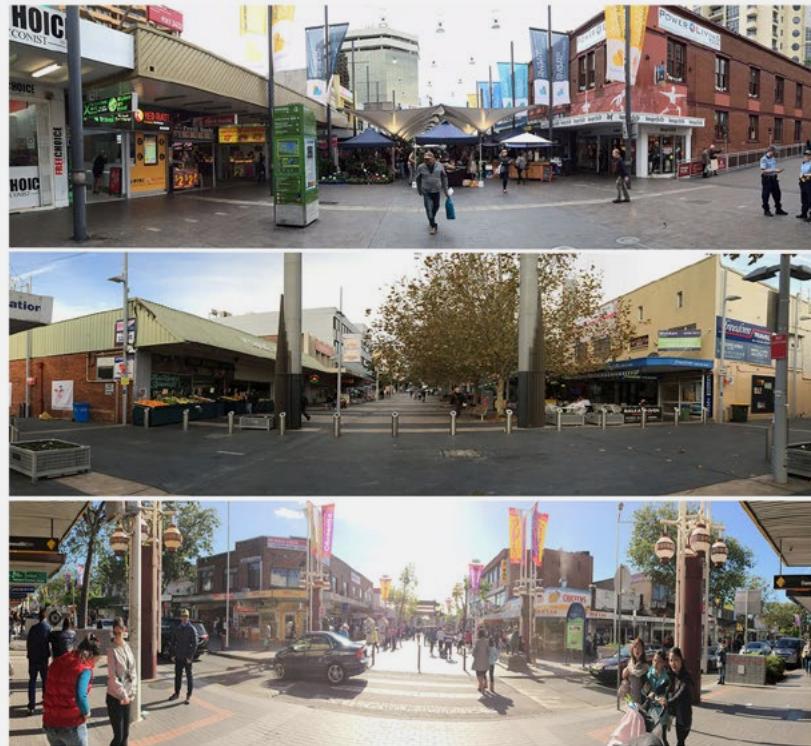
The rapid growth of Metropolitan Sydney is anticipated to deliver more than 660,000 new homes to accommodate a population of 6 million people by 2031. In order to satisfy residents' expectations of continued high standards of living in Sydney, the provision of public amenities and social infrastructure throughout the city must correlate with the anticipated growth in population and housing supply. Smart planning policy can be used as a tool to provide this public infrastructure. This thesis examines the extent to which planning incentive schemes can be used to provide additional public amenities whilst facilitating Sydney's population growth. With a particular focus on the provision of schools and affordable housing, the research gathers both qualitative and quantitative data to assess the shortfall in affordable housing stock and public school facilities. Additionally, it examines the difficulties of implementing incentive based planning schemes and considers examples of successful existing schemes in order to provide recommendations on how NSW planning policy might better respond to the use of planning incentives.



Sports, Culture and Community:

The influence of sports in the development of place and culture in a community

Sport has historically played a significant feature in shaping Australia's culture; from local sports in public parks during the weekend to the internationally recognised events taking place in major stadiums. Undoubtedly, sport is part of the Australian way of life. In recent years, professional sports have grown in prominence in the local communities they represent; this has resulted in both positive and negative implications on the community. With the release of the NSW Stadia Strategy 2012, there have been discussions regarding the probable future of local sporting stadiums moving towards major stadiums in major cities in compensation for the economic downfall of these significant sporting precincts. Although the economic side of sport has been widely discussed and researched, the social and cultural-community relations of sport in local areas are limited. This thesis explores the relationship between sport and community by looking into the spatial and social aspects of sport in communities. The thesis investigates two cases – Leichardt Oval and Brookvale Oval; both of which are recognised as facilities for two professional rugby league affiliated teams. A greater understanding of the makeup of sport and stadiums within local communities through spatial analysis and social development will be important in planning places beneficial for enhancing the community.



Convivial Eating Environments to Support Healthy Food Choices

The increasing prevalence of obesity throughout Australia has become of grave concern and is now a national health priority. Research indicates the strong correlation between the built environment and health, as a result, strategies to reduce obesity within the built form have become of importance. With food consumption being recognised as a determinant of health, it is imperative to establish how the provision of spaces to support healthy eating can be provided.

It has been made evident that the creation of a convivial environment, whereby social interaction and human connection can occur, holds a strong relationship to human wellbeing. Thus the provision of spaces that encourage people to come together to eat in an environment enriched by connection has the potential to support healthy eating.

This thesis aims to explore how planners can provide convivial environments to support healthy eating through defining the characteristics to be incorporated into the built form. It examines existing community strategic plans in terms of health and social connection, and evaluates spaces within selected local government area against an audit checklist created by the author. Findings indicate that improvements can be made within the built form in offering convivial environments and can be facilitated through a multifaceted approach, inclusive of individual choice.



Against the Wind:

Opposition to large-scale wind energy developments in NSW

Australia has one of the highest rates of greenhouse emissions per capita and is facing significant international pressure to invest in renewable energy. Although wind energy is a viable renewable source, the Australian wind industry is facing a plethora of barriers to its expansion. Many wind farms in New South Wales (NSW) have been confronted with significant community opposition, attracting political and media attention. The planning system has been criticised for inflicting costly delays and not adequately mediating conflicts between the community and developers. In addition, academic debate contends that justifying renewable energy for carbon reductions alone would not alleviate opposition to certain wind developments. As such, this thesis investigates the arguments of wind energy opponents in NSW and considers opportunities for the planning system to address community opposition. This thesis presents findings from interviews with key government, private sector and community stakeholders, and an analysis of community submissions to wind farm projects in NSW. This research demonstrates that the NSW planning system presents substantial opportunities to meet the needs of the community. The findings have implications for future wind energy planning and siting of contentious developments. Similarly, this is relevant to the current policy framework in NSW and the need for renewable energy investment worldwide.



Global Problems Need Global Solutions:

The role of international planning organisations in urban policy development

In the face of increasing global interconnectivity, many professions have recognised the benefits of establishing worldwide networks and established international organisations with common values and objectives. Planning associations, as representative bodies of the profession, play a key role in developing skills and advocating improved responses to the growing pressure placed on cities and the environment. A deeper understanding of the value of planning organisations can lead to improved strategies to strengthen planning practices across the world to promote sustainable development and healthier cities. Through an analysis of the policies and activities of national and international planning organisations, findings from this thesis have revealed that associations of professionals can be significant players in shaping policies and practices, particularly in regards to collaboration and skill development; networking; certification; and advocacy. However, it is clear that international cooperation can be improved. Interviews with key members of planning organisations further clarified the role played by these groups, as well as perceptions about planning's role in addressing global issues.



Global Sydney:

A race to the same

With the proliferation of globalisation, the rate at which capital, people and ideas are exchanged is unprecedented. These transactions are most pronounced within the western construct of global cities that compete with each other to attract unfettered hyper-mobile capital. This pursuit of capital has encouraged the specialisation of high value industries and people, resulting in the homogenisation of cityscapes and impacting on economic, physical and social diversity. Service industries currently account for over 90% of the City of Sydney's total economic output, with financial firms accounting for half of that amount alone. Sydney is at risk of further homogenisation resulting in decreased economic resilience, stultifying innovation and reducing access to opportunities. The aim of this thesis is to investigate the role of planning in encouraging economic, physical and social diversity throughout the city. Empirically, this research included a series of in-depth interviews which sought to juxtapose perspectives from government, business, academia and community experts, against statutory and strategic planning controls. The outcomes of this research suggest changes are needed in terms of how planning interacts with the spatial economy of the city. Understanding the value planning can contribute to global Sydney's diversity is crucial to the city's sustainability and future within the global city hierarchy.



No snow, no towns?

Planning, climate change adaptation, and Australia's sub-alpine communities

Climate change forecasts present a dire outlook for the Australian snow industry that could negatively impact the viability of surrounding towns that thrive on winter tourism. A common response from government, along with the ski industry, is to grow a diversified tourism economy to reduce economic reliance on the shortening three month snow season. In some locations, government resources have been provided to local planning departments to help the subject towns grow a year-round economy. However, little evidence exists as to how this investment will be used by planners to benefit the towns and questions arise as to what capacity planners have to enact change in these localities. This thesis investigates the towns of Jindabyne (NSW) and Mansfield (VIC) to unpack the experiences of both local planning professionals and relevant community stakeholders in determining how the planning profession can assist the diversification and growth of tourism. In-depth interviews reveal that while land use regulation is a consistently reported role for planners in these regions, there is stakeholder demand for planning roles to pursue more innovative and collaborative practices to facilitate tourism growth. Collaboration being the starting point for unifying tourism ventures and helping them achieve a net worth greater than their individual parts.



Creating Active Places Through Identifying and Measuring Walkability:

A study of Sydney's South West Growth Area

The design of streets and urban environments for the last 60 years in Sydney have been heavily focused on prioritising private vehicles over pedestrians, however, there is now a significant shift to design cities in which pedestrians come first. In Sydney, an average person spends only 11 minutes walking each day; in order to increase that amount, it is imperative to examine the design principles of creating walkable cities and address the barriers that associated with it. The role of the urban planner is to plan for places that encourage active living through walking, cycling and other forms of active transportation and recreation. This thesis focuses on creating active places in the Sydney's South West Growth Area where the level of walkability is lower compared to inner Sydney suburbs. Through in-depth interviews with planners in local government and developers and analyses of policies and academic literature, this thesis aims to explore how planning can address the issues and challenges in creating active places in Sydney's South West Growth Area.



A Debated Legacy:

The future of Planning Principles in NSW

A significant development since 2003 has been for commissioners of the Land and Environment Court (LEC), where pertinent, to expressly articulate the planning principles which form the basis of their decisions. This represented a new and unconventional approach to guiding planning decisions in NSW and a new dimension to the LEC's Class 1 merits review jurisdiction. As a relatively new and evolving mechanism, the operation and intended outcomes of planning principles has been identified as a topic requiring closer scrutiny given their potential to influence planning practice and processes within NSW. While the existing literature provides sound insight towards the debated value, critique, theoretical underpinnings and impact of planning principles beyond the LEC, much about their impact upon industry practice is yet to be understood in greater depth. Using both quantitative and qualitative analysis of LEC court case records; a website desktop survey of Sydney metropolitan, Illawarra, Central Coast and selected Hunter New England councils; in-depth interviews with experts from a range of professional backgrounds; and an analysis of key court commentary and academic literature, this thesis focuses on ascertaining the status, role and prospects of planning principles in development assessment in NSW. The thesis also provides key policy recommendations on the future role and use of planning principles by both the LEC and other actors in the planning system.

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Retrofitting Suburbia

The phenomenon of urban sprawl lends itself to the Australian suburban experience in ways that are unique in comparison to the rest of the world. The challenge for planners to revitalise suburban landscapes and combat the negative effects of sprawl presents an opportunity to consider radical urban design principles. Suburban retrofitting is one such principle that seeks to promote/enhance interconnectivity, density, sustainability, transit, walkability and further redevelopment through the repurposing of underperforming urban structures. This thesis will define and explore the notion of suburban retrofitting and make the case for its application in the redevelopment of Bonnyrigg Town Centre in Western Sydney. This thesis has found that legislation is the most significant barrier to achieving suburban retrofits in Greater Sydney, but is by no means the only impeding factor. The application and success of a suburban retrofit is reliant on the comprehensive analysis of the social, cultural, economic and environmental conditions of the recipient suburb. In other words, it must be deemed that the benefits of a suburban retrofit are in line with the site specific areas where the suburb may need improving. Additionally, interviews conducted with various stakeholders offer a critique on barriers that impede the application of suburban retrofitting principles in Bonnyrigg Town Centre.



Have your say, but how?

Integrating ICT tools with public participation in Sydney metropolitan area

Public participation is considered a fundamental practice in planning. Since the 1960s, there has been a greater recognition of the importance of public involvement in planning decision-making processes. Despite the significance being given to public participation during the planning process, accommodating the increasing demands from citizens to take part in planning decision-making has been problematic. The rapid advances in information and communication technology in recent years have fostered progressive changes to public involvement in participation and the discussion of planning activities; ICT tools has been the catalyst for these new forms of engagement. This thesis investigates the extent to which ICT tools can help engage 'effective' public participation. The methodology included a comprehensive literature review, interviews with planning industry professionals, focus groups with local community members, and case studies of foreign cities that successfully utilise ICT tools for public engagement. The study found that ICT tools can have greater potential to involve members of the community than traditional methods of engagement. In concluding the thesis, recommendations are made for how to best integrate ICT tools with public participation to achieve effective planning process.

MASTER OF PLANNING PROJECTS



Master of Planning Project

Hal Pawson
MPLAN Planning Project Coordinator, 2015



Semester 2 2015 PLAN7122
Planning Project Students

First row (L–R)
Matthew Kelly, Pan Li, Bennett Kennedy

Second row (L–R)
Steven Yuan, Phillip Adams, Carina
Lucchinelli, Jessica Chow, Jonathan
Joseph, Jie Zhao, Ruihan Wang, Qian
Guo, Linfang Shi, Tingyu Jiang

The Master of Planning (MPLAN) at UNSW is somewhat younger than its undergraduate sibling, but it has quickly established itself as a crucial contributor to urban planning education in our city. Our Masters students proudly encapsulate tremendous diversity in terms of background, academic pathways and experience. Reflecting the multi-varied aspects of our discipline and profession, they join us from a breadth of related disciplines – architects, geographers, political economists, social scientists, to name a few – and come with a myriad life, professional and practical experiences to apply to the planning context. International students make up around a third of our postgraduate body, and while Sydney and Australia often provides the focus of our enquiry, perspective, comparison and best practice is drawn from across that spectrum.

In their final semester, students typically undertake a major Planning Project: a substantive piece of work grounded in primary research on a topic of their choosing. Since inception, the course has been delivered in conjunction with the City Futures Research Centre, with our supervision team drawing upon the skills of some of Australia's leading young urban planning researchers.

For the students, it is a tremendous undertaking. In the space of just 13 weeks, they identify their subject, develop a proposal, arrange and conduct their research, analyse the results, present to class and write a 10-12,000 word thesis. Every semester we see students start their research journeys with some trepidation; they complete it with a tremendous sense of achievement. And rightly so: the quality of the output produced is on show here. Their theses not only act as an overarching achievement of what they have learned throughout the degree, but offer a statement about their interests, passions and commitment to the issues and questions they have explored as they present themselves to the workforce.

Every year, hundreds of in-depth interviews and surveys are conducted, and reams of data analysed. In enabling this engagement with the world around them, I extend our students' thanks to the many stakeholders who have assisted them in this task. Ensuring that our students are providing the knowledge required to help make informed decisions regarding our changing city relies upon the support of the planners, policy makers, agencies and communities who have given their time to share their knowledge as much as the hard work and commitment of the students themselves.

I am delighted to present to you the work of this year's completing MPLAN students, and wish them the very best in their future planning careers.



Policy Success and Failure:

Environmental protection zoning and the standard instrument

Environmental protection zoning (e-zoning) is the primary spatial expression of local governments attempt to preserve its natural capital. E-zones have the capacity to plan for an ecologically sustainable future by enabling government to provision for the protection of a range of environmental values. This thesis explores Pittwater Council's adoption of e-zones in its residential areas. Through looking at this application of e-zoning, the paper aims to critically analyse the policy framework that e-zones are derived from and explores the relationship between e-zones and their potential to form locally considered environmental outcomes that reflect the community. Research has involved an extensive literature review and interviews of key stakeholders in the community, local and state government areas. A review of e-zoning and its relation to ecologically sustainable development, the design of e-zones and how they have been applied state-wide, state policies shaping of e-zones and Pittwater's reasoning behind e-zoning has been researched through these methods. The findings of the research are that e-zones implementation in Pittwater makes for a legible spatial representation of environmental protection that embodies a range of environmental considerations, yet the policy framework of e-zones has room for refinement and improvement. Overall, e-zoning provides a critical role in spatial policy, giving planners an opportunity to promote and enforce a range of considered environmental outcomes in their communities.



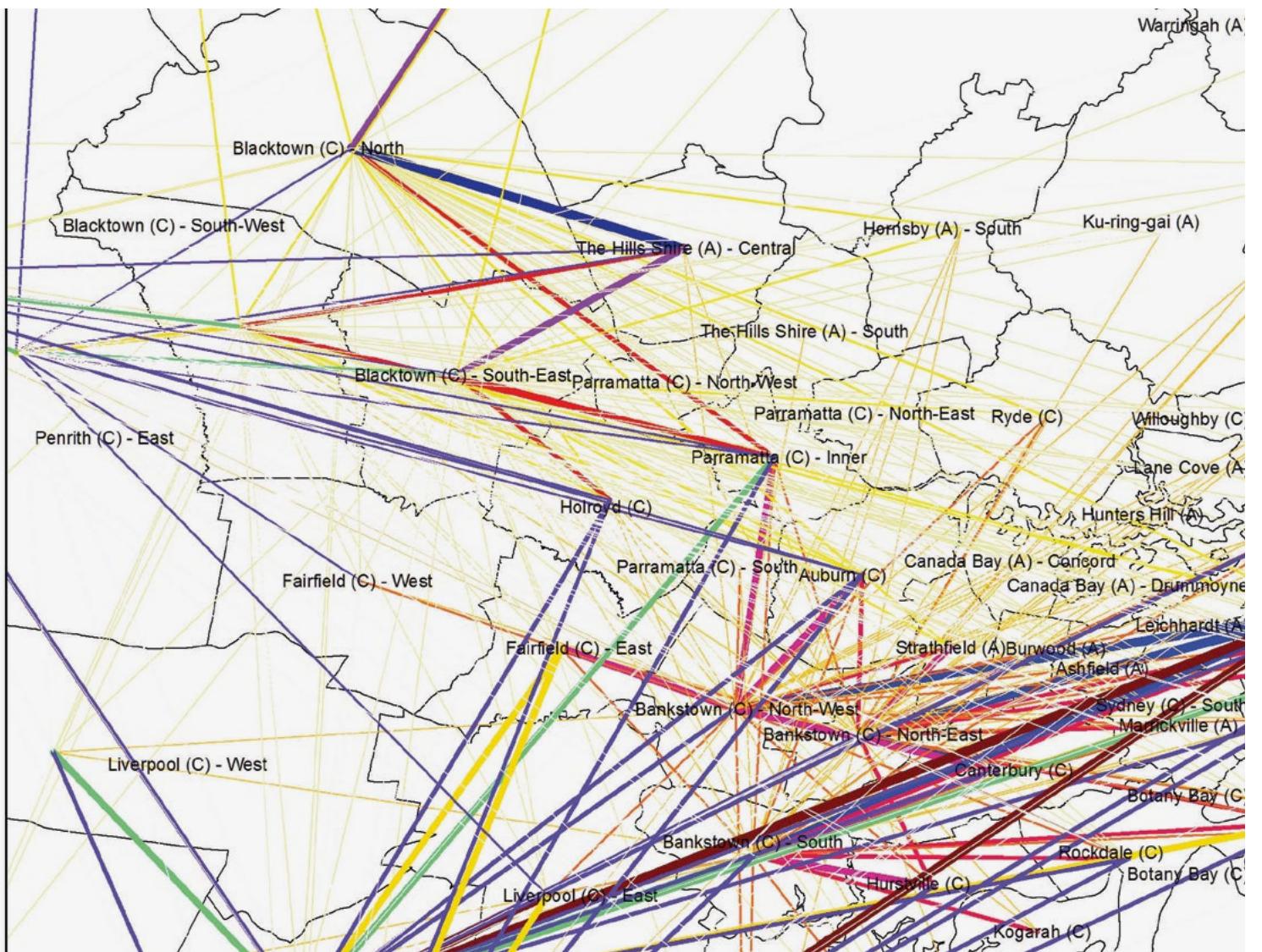
Health and Built Environment

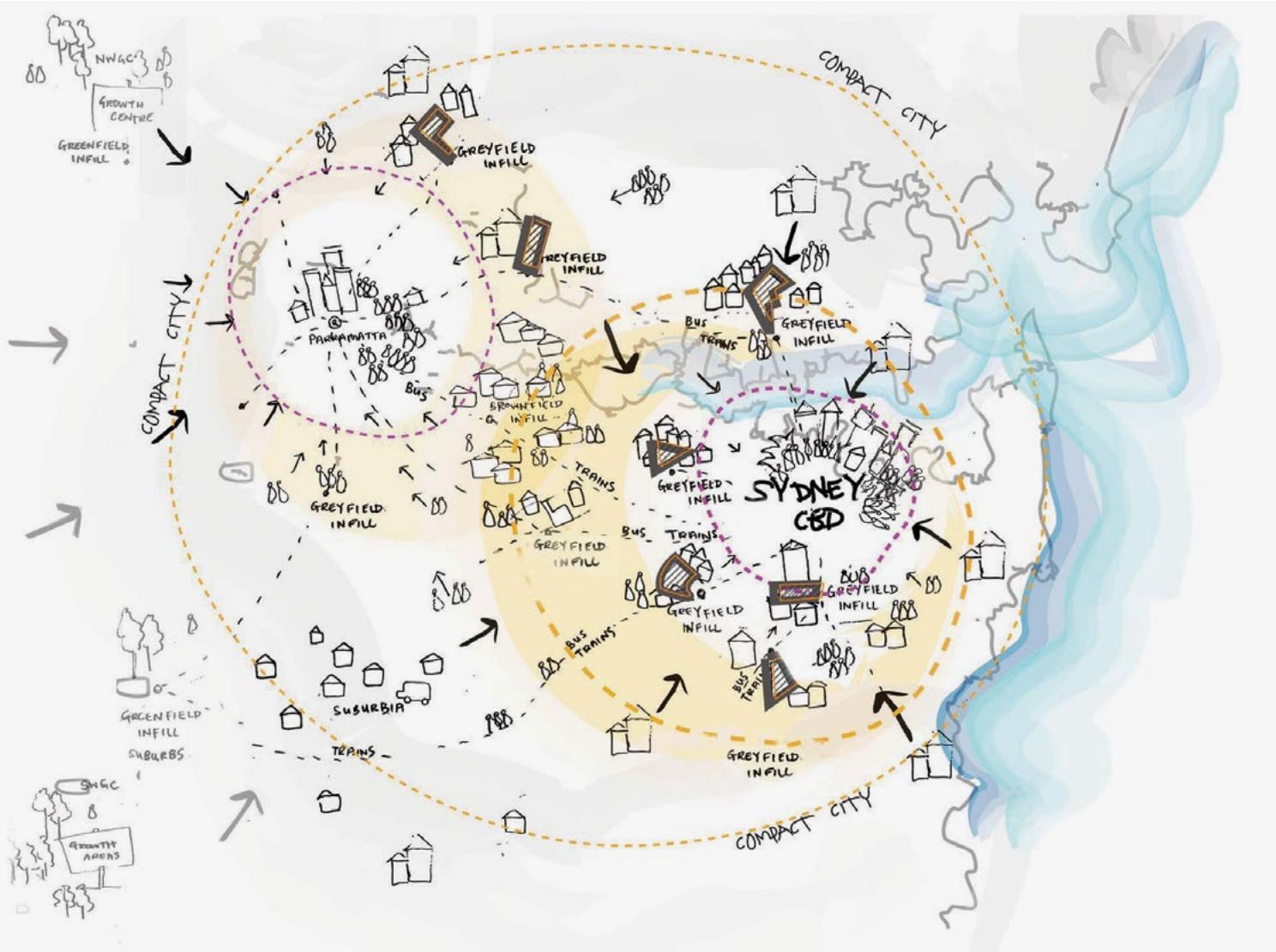
Healthy built environments (HBE) is an important planning concept enhancing relationships between built environments and human health that 'built environments will be planned, designed, developed and managed to promote and protect health for all people' (HBEP 2011, p. 3). Open space is one of the most crucial components in built environments impacting people's health. In the high-density environment, public open space (POS) plays a more important role than private open space. This research aims to explore POS provision in high-density neighbourhoods in Sydney, understand the health outcomes of POS and investigate the provision in Rhodes West, one of the largest high-density residential development area in NSW. The literature review, interviews and a special audit instrument are used as three major methods used in this research. Diversity of types, high-quality facilities and furniture supporting various activities and comparatively high accessibility to POS contribute to the POS's quality and community's physical and mental health in Rhodes West high-density neighbourhoods.

1. Image reference: http://familypedia.wikia.com/wiki/Rhodes,_New_South_Wales

How can planning for affordable housing affect how individuals inhabit the city?

This thesis explores if key workers who live in Sydney experience a spatial mismatch between where they live and where they work? It develops a contemporary understanding of spatial mismatch and how it can be understood for an Australian context. The term key workers is used in this research to refer to hospitality and retail workers who are generally ignored by research in this field. In order to represent the spatial relationship of where people live and where they work, a case study utilising a geographical information system (GIS) program ArcMap is conducted. This analysis brings together journey to work (JTW) data collected by the Bureau of Transport Statistics (BTS) and spatial data to represent the strategic areas that key workers travel to for work. It focuses on four statistical areas in Sydney, namely Bankstown, Blacktown, Campbelltown and Penrith to explore if there is a spatial limit to movements within Sydney. This analysis reveals that in relation to hospitality workers a spatial mismatch is developing within the accommodation sector, where there is a strong demand for movements into the inner city. In contrast to this the retail trade industry represents a decentralisation of workforce participation with high workforce movements to local and regional centres outside the inner city.





Innovative Strategies for Infill Development

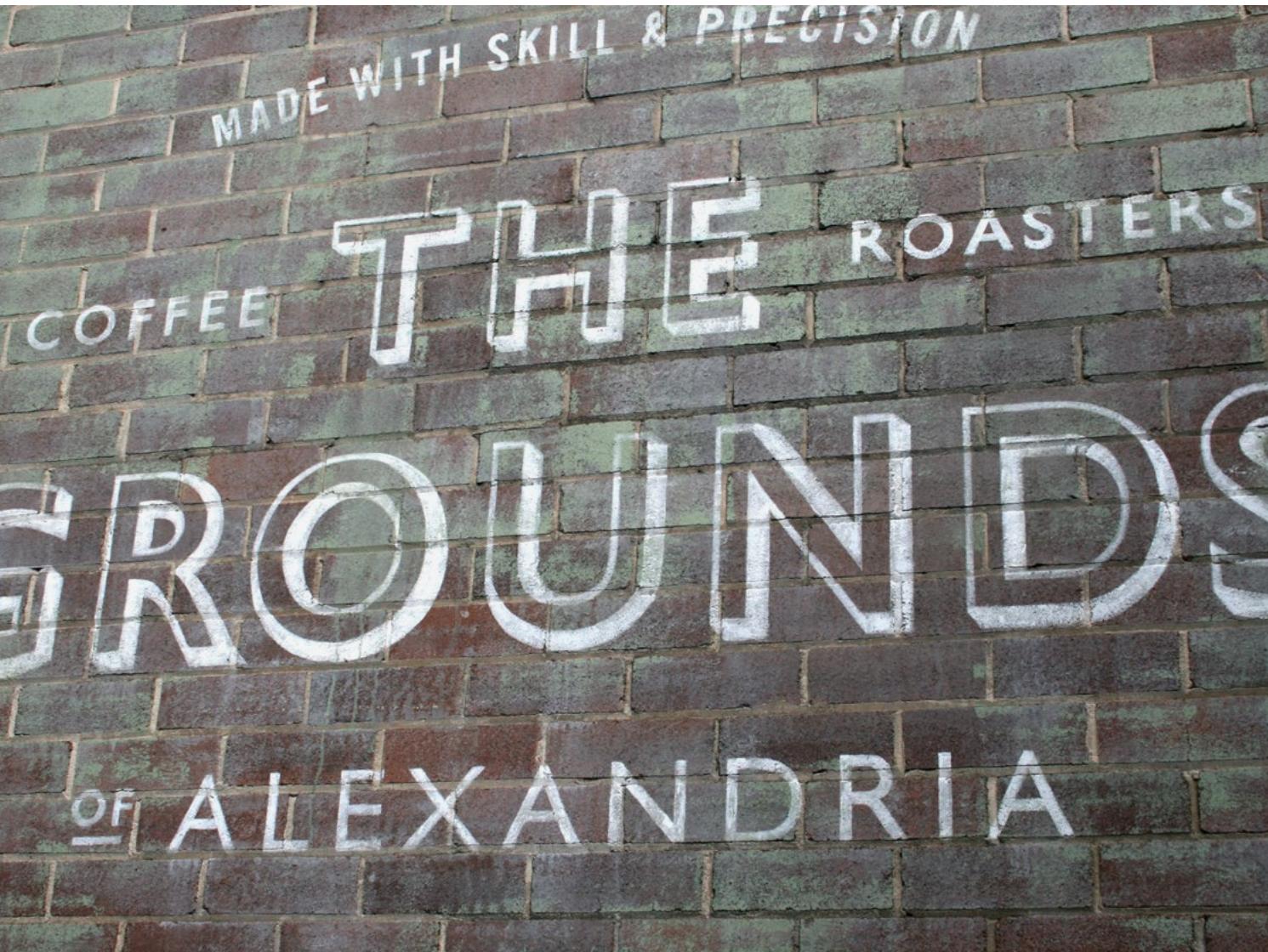
Sydney is expected to grow by two million people by 2031. This presents major challenges for achieving adequate housing supply, especially in the context of a policy preference to minimise further suburban sprawl and its associated negative externalities. Thus building towards a compact-city through infill development is vital for the city's future. This thesis examines issues associated with utilising and designing infill development within Greyfield sites restricted by statutory planning. Encouraging the optimal use of all developable land within Sydney's inner and middle-rings suburbs, this paper investigates local and state government planning policies that influence the scope and characteristics of infill housing developments. Complementary research methods implemented to identify innovative strategies for infill development included: a literature review, a systematic analysis of planning statutes, LEP and DCP, across four LGAs, and in-depth case studies within Holroyd LGA, studying both potential 'left-over' sites and sites awaiting development approval, via interviews of involved professionals. This research has identified 'left-over' and 'under-developed' Greyfield site typologies inadequately considered within relevant planning statutes. It is argued that addressing these sites through innovative planning policies would inspire 'architectural designed' solutions as planning flexibility is granted, and thus encourage an increase in infill development – vital for sustainable housing growth.



Mixed-up Development:

An analysis of how mixed-use zoning is failing Sydney

The concept of mixed-use centres is central to strategic planning policy in New South Wales. Mixed-use centres contain a range of activities (commercial, residential, retail and employment) and are an attempt at delivering compact, liveable and sustainable cities. Although mixed-use centres are widely supported by government and academia, the wisdom of this approach has not often been challenged. To facilitate mixed-use centres at the local level, the NSW Government created the B4 Mixed Use zone in 2006 and the zone permits a wide range of uses. The research hypothesised that the B4 Mixed Use zone is an ineffective tool for delivering mixed-use centres. The research investigates three case studies – Wollie Creek, Marrickville and the North Ryde Station Precinct – to understand how the zone is being applied and whether these areas have delivered a mix of uses. This research can assist governments and policy makers on the effectiveness of the zone and puts forward that planning needs to better under the influence and drivers of the market. The study found that the B4 Mixed Use zone is an ineffective tool for delivering mixed-use centres. Mixed-use zoning cannot deliver mixed-use centres as it is heavily influenced by the property market. The zone is failing Sydney.



Conservation and Utilisation of Industrial Heritage in Land Use Planning

Former industrial sites continue to play significant roles in many post-industrial cities worldwide, including Sydney. Strategies in protecting their historical value include heritage protection; increasingly some of these sites are also repurposed for new uses, such as in the form of loft conversions or for other, light industrial uses. The Grounds of Alexandria in inner city Sydney is one such example of the latter. Research to date has mainly focussed on policies that facilitate such repurposing. This thesis proposes that the views of the community and consumers – the end users of these repurposed sites – should also be considered in reviewing the overall success of these projects. Through 20 face-to-face interviews with community members who visit The Grounds, this thesis discusses the economic, social and environmental benefits of industrial heritage protection and reutilisation from the view of the end users; it also highlights the unintended challenges that reutilisation brings. With many visitors unaware of the industrial history of the site, the thesis questions whether heritage protection was achieved, and potential of how their heritage and history can be better protected.

ON
GROUNDS
OF
THE
ROASTERS
COFFEE
MADE WITH SKILL & PRECISION
OF ALEXANDRIA



Safety in Numbers

As part of the CBD and South East Light Rail project, a one-kilometre section of George Street will be pedestrianised. George Street has developed a reputation for being unsafe due to traffic accidents during peak hours, and for crime and antisocial behaviour during the night. How will pedestrianisation address pedestrians concerns for safety on the street? This thesis reviews pedestrianisation and current literature promoting safer street design around the world and, from this, creates a framework to analyse state and local government policies, plans and concepts for the George Street project. The street design changes and accessibility improvements identified are then put forward to the public for their feedback, specifically on whether changes to be introduced with pedestrianisation will make them feel safer on George Street. The results from the survey indicate that many initiatives developed by the state and local government will have little impact on pedestrian's feelings of safety. Respondents overwhelmingly stated that an increased police presence would be the most effective change to improve their feelings of safety on the street. The thesis concludes that this research has significant policy implications for the pedestrianisation project and suggests areas for further research.



The new Sydney sameness?

An investigation into the SEPP 65 look

This thesis evaluates the influence of State Environmental Planning Policy No 65 (SEPP 65) on the aesthetic design of apartment buildings at Victoria Park, Sydney. It utilises a policy analysis framework, a literature review about contemporary architectural aesthetics, photographic documentation and interviews with key policy actors involved in creating and using SEPP 65. The research reveals how SEPP 65 did aspire to achieve aesthetically appropriate apartment buildings, but it had a greater focus on improving occupant amenity. It found that Victoria Park is a significant case study in the context of Sydney's urban consolidation, and that SEPP 65 did have a small, yet demonstrable influence on the aesthetic design process of apartment buildings there. The research identified that a large amount of this influence occurred because of appropriation of SEPP 65 related guidelines as controls by councils in a complex process of power plays at the development application stage. It suggests that a similar 'ice-cube tray' aesthetic was often imposed as a result of developers seeking to navigate that process as cheaply and quickly as possible. While arguing that proposed amendments to SEPP 65 will go some way to ameliorating these conditions at the approval stage, but it also proposes further recommendations for how the policy may better influence the aesthetic design of apartment buildings.



How can transport planning most effectively contribute to more environmentally sustainable cities?

The item environmental sustainability and sustainable cities have been paid more and more attention in recent strategic plans of cities allover the world. Transportation is the major focus of sustainable cities. Due to the significant impact that transportation services have on the energy consumption of cities, there has been an increasing emphasis on sustainable transportation by developmental experts in the last decade. Both developed and developing countries have paid more attention on public transport construction. This research will help to find more efficient ways for future transport planning in building environmentally sustainable cities.

The research is settled on the field of transport planning and sustainable city, focus on the public transport planning. The research will explore the relationship between transport planning and environmental sustainable city. There will be comparison of transport plans between Sydney and Beijing, focus on how transport infrastructure investment in the two cities is being committed, analysis the efficiency and try to find method to improve.

In addition to a comprehensive literature review and transport policy (plans) analysis of Sydney and Beijing, there are several in-depth interviews with city planner and experts in this thesis.

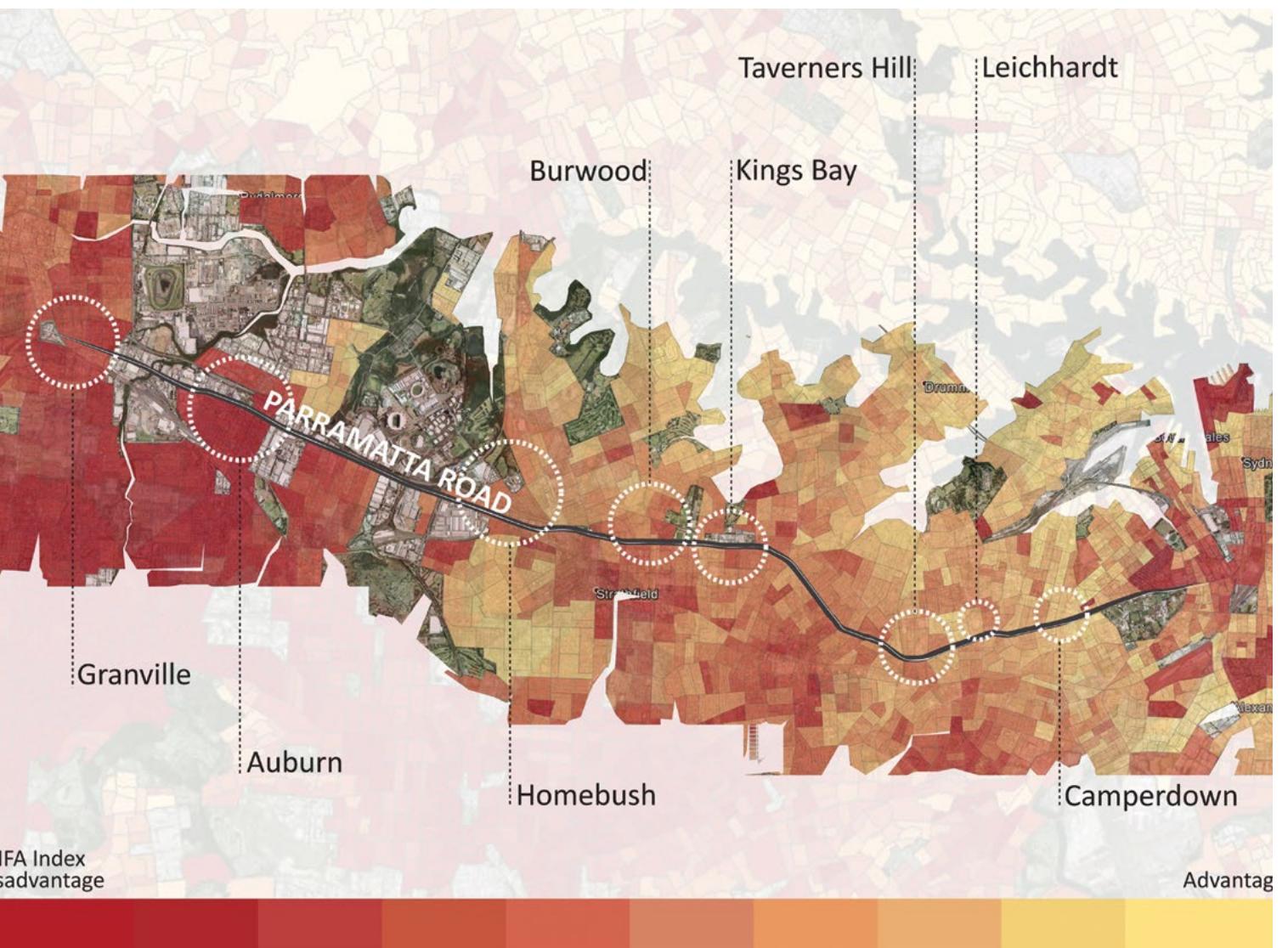
Both cities have put great efforts on public transport planning in order to achieve sustainable. They are trying hard, but there is still a long way to go.

Image reference: Beijing Subway Line 10, source from internet [<http://citylife.house.sina.com.cn/detail.php?gid=13680>]



Re-Strategising the Neighbourhood Plan

The vision of creating sustainable places is both a priority and a challenge for contemporary planning models. Strategic spatial planning embodies a process informed by seminal knowledge to frame place focussed outcomes, and is the mechanism being used by Wollongong and Maitland Councils to develop sustainable places. The objective of this process is to provide urban structure for the development greenfield place making projects in these council areas. However, the apparatus of traditional land use planning is making this complicated. This research aims to consider this issue in greater depth by investigating whether strategic spatial planning (referred to in this research as neighbourhood/precinct planning) can effectively develop place focussed outcomes for greenfield development projects whilst residing within the context and framework of traditional land use planning. The research is informed by a literature review, planning policy review and semi-structured interviews with Wollongong and Maitland based land owners, developers, consultants and council planners, which seeks to confirm neighbourhood/precinct planning's purpose, process, challenges and possible improvements. The research finds that the effectiveness of neighbourhood/precinct planning is challenged by gaps in its strategic function which are precipitated by the governance and management of the respective councils. The research concludes that neighbourhood/precinct planning can be improved provide that more consultative forms of management and governance are adopted by the councils.



Urban Renewal Policy and Practice in Socio-economically Disadvantaged Suburban Settings

With Sydney's population increasing and policy preferences for urban containment, locating growth within the existing urban-fabric is essential. One strategy to achieve this is urban renewal; that is, the (usually more intensive) re-use of previously developed (or 'brownfield') metropolitan land. Complexities arise where such projects involve socio-economically disadvantaged communities. Broadly, Australia's governance framework means urban regeneration creates challenges and tensions around inter-governmental relations; relationships between State and Local Government entities, the involvement of communities and other local stakeholders. This thesis aims to highlight how inter-governmental relations unfold in urban renewal projects, through considering such projects at two scales; the city-wide scale; and the local scale – focusing on governance relationships on the Parramatta Road Project, targeting the disadvantaged suburbs of Auburn and Granville. Research methods include a contextualised literature review, analytical mapping of renewal projects, policy-document analysis, and stakeholder interviews (with State, Local and Community actors). The research suggests that major renewal projects are less commonly situated in disadvantaged areas, as the Metropolitan Strategy appears to place greater emphasis on more affluent areas. However, within the disadvantaged suburbs of Auburn and Granville, the governance model employed by UrbanGrowth NSW (through the Parramatta Road Project) is proving to be a progressive model – where affordable housing, gentrification and community sustainability, have to a degree, been addressed.



Do secondary dwellings have a positive role to play in addressing Sydney's housing crisis?

Secondary dwellings (often referred to as granny flats) have emerged around the world as a means of addressing housing affordability problems and advancing 'smart growth' development objectives. Since 2009, the development of secondary dwellings (SDs) in New South Wales has been facilitated by the Affordable Rental Housing, State Environmental Planning Policy. This study aimed to consider the effectiveness of SDs in delivering affordable housing, smart growth development and high resident amenity in Metropolitan Sydney. The study employed a mixed method design. AURIN datasets were analysed to map incidence of SD development in the local government areas of the Sutherland Shire, Bankstown City and the City of Sydney. Council officers of the respective governments were surveyed as to the function and prevalence of SDs in their jurisdiction. In the Sutherland Shire and Bankstown City local government areas, primary and secondary dwelling residents were surveyed as to the affordability and amenity of secondary dwellings. In the City of Sydney, residents of principal dwellings were surveyed as to their views on the suitability of SDs, built as 'laneway housing', in their neighbourhood. The results of the study aim to guide local government in developing mechanisms to ensure secondary dwellings are developed and used in a manner that achieves smart growth objectives, affordable housing outcomes and high amenity for residents.



The Tensions and Tessellations of Competitive Advantage in the Strategic Planning of Manila

The population of world cities have been expanding much faster than their respective increases in Gross Domestic Product (GDP). If left unchecked this will exacerbate an urban employment crisis that has been growing for the last twenty five years. In the first decade of this century, many developing countries embraced the paradigm of Competitive Advantage as the holy grail of economic development. Much of the reasoning behind this was that the goals of equity and sustainability underpin this paradigm. The Philippines embraced this approach and aimed to achieve their economic development objectives by incorporating competitive advantage into key aspects of their strategic planning framework including their Comprehensive Land Use Plans, investing in infrastructure through Private Public Partnerships and improving efficiencies in government services. This research will explore the tensions and tessellations between government agencies and the initiatives taken by reviewing current data on their actions and interviews with key players in the process. It will also show that, although the Competitive Advantage paradigm will go a considerable way to achieving their goals of equity and sustainable economic development, inter-government relations are not 'set and forget' propositions but dynamic requiring constant monitoring in domestic and international contexts.



The Urban Activation Precinct Policy and its Four Principles

Across the Sydney Metropolitan Area, over a dozen Urban Activation Precincts are currently either in planning stages or have been finalised. While there has been intense interest regarding the proposals at the individual precincts, debate over the range of planning issues at each precinct has distracted many from understanding the meaning of the Urban Activation Precinct Policy (UAPP) and its four principles. This thesis attempts to interpret how these four principles represent the Urban Activation Precinct Policy. It explores these principles in the context of the history of Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and the history of Urban Renewal Policy in Australia. By exploring the way these principles have been interpreted into each Urban Activation Precinct, it helps explain the meaning and intent of the UAPP and its principles. This thesis has been informed by a thorough literature review, four in-depth interviews (three with key stakeholders), extensive document analysis and a case study. The research highlights a level of confusion regarding the intention of the UAPP. This thesis has been able to conclude that it is intentionally, strictly a delivery tool and not a set of guidelines on TOD. As such the Urban Activation Precinct Policy and its principles are supported in their current form but they should be accompanied by a separate set of TOD Guidelines.

Image: Department of Planning and Environment



Deliberative Democracy in a Local Government Context

Local governments around the world face increasing challenges to the legitimacy of their decision-making process as previous models of public participation and engagement that have been employed are regarded by the community as unable to provide a truly democratic forum for public involvement in local decision-making. This has seen the rise in the popularity among local authorities of implementing a deliberative democratic process for citizen engagement that promises to deliver greater trust and transparency in government decision-making and better outcomes on complex issues for the community. However, it is a multifaceted and intensive process that requires substantial investment and commitment from both parties. Significant critical analysis on the structure and implementation has been carried out in this growing field of public engagement. This research project explored the participants view in an effort to understand whether the randomly selected representatives of the community thought it to be a worthwhile process. The results indicate that from the participants' view deliberative democracy is a worthwhile and valid method of decision-making but the shortcomings in areas of inclusion and representation need to be addressed.

Image: <http://yoursaymarrickville.com.au/marrickville-infrastructure-jury/photos/13655>



What counts as 'high density'?

As the population of Sydney will grow by 1.7 million to approximately 6 million in 2036 (NSW Department of Planning, 2010), the increasing population will bring about incredible stress in terms of infrastructure provision. It will lead to a number of social and environmental issues, such as traffic congestion, urban sprawl, environmental pollution, resource over-consumption and social injustice. Compact city theory which features high density, mixed land use, public transportation and walkable city has become a guiding mantra for planning decision makers. This thesis will explore compact city theory through a series of global case studies, and develops an evaluation framework through which the 'compactness' of localities can be considered. North Parramatta is used as a test case. The evaluation framework includes consideration of key factors including: the local economy, population, land use, transportation, habitability and public facilities. Analytic hierarchy processes are used within this criterion to weight to each factor and GIS software has been utilised to visualise finding. The research helps research helps question a number of assumptions shaping current strategic spatial policy.

SEARCHING FOR CARBON HAZARD



What are the Drivers of Strata Termination?

With aims to increase the density of Sydney's core, the redevelopment of ageing strata buildings is being considered for Sydney's growing population. Reforms to the Strata Scheme (*Freehold Development*) Act 1973 have recently been proposed that will change the voting requirements for the termination of an existing Strata Scheme. The reforms aim to facilitate the process of urban consolidation and urban renewal across Sydney. This thesis investigates the relationship between strata title legislation and town planning controls. It aims to understand the policy implications that the proposed strata title reforms will have on urban planning. An inquiry was conducted into six different strata schemes that have been terminated. Each case study investigated the process of termination and assessed the resulting redevelopment of each site. The research also involved a quantitative analysis of the ownership patterns of strata schemes that have been terminated as well as in depth interviews with industry professionals and academics. It is argued that the proposed reforms may potentially increase the rate at which strata titled developments are renewed. However, a targeted and integrated approach to strata termination is necessary if the proposed reforms are to facilitate urban consolidation and urban renewal.



BASIX in the Development Assessment Process

Residential development across New South Wales has increased rapidly post-war and future plans for Metropolitan Sydney and subsequent major centres across NSW indicate it is only set to increase over the next 20–50 years in order to accommodate predicted population growth. With development and intensification of land uses, detrimental impacts on the environment will inevitably follow. In an effort to combat this, in 2004 the NSW State Government introduced the State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004, a legislative tool to enforce sustainable residential development across New South Wales.

This State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) requires all new residential development to meet sustainability targets pertaining to energy and water consumption. This thesis analyses the SEPP BASIX and its practical application within the Development Assessment (DA) process from the perspective of a practising Development Assessment professional. To date, the bulk of the research and literature surrounding BASIX does not consider this vital part of the process. This paper utilises a range of qualitative research methods and an auto-ethnographic style to draw conclusions about the success of SEPP BASIX and the implementation of the policy at the DA level.



Stormwater Management in Urban Environments

In a natural environment, water is a versatile resource that moves from a reservoir to another as part of the water cycle. In an urban environment, the development of impervious surfaces causes a significant alteration to the water cycle as more rainfall water becomes runoff, increasing pollutant loads which are discharged into local waterways. In 2000, the Commonwealth Government released ANZECC 2000, the first ever guidelines to establish a direct connection between impervious surfaces and polluted waterways. These guidelines recommend the integration of new stormwater management systems including Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) principles to rehabilitate the water cycle in the urban environment. Consequently, the NSW Government initiated the WSUD program to provide councils with the necessary tools and resources to integrate these principles. Separately, in 2006, the NSW Government implemented a standard Local Environmental Plan (LEP) across the State. Local councils were required to review their LEPs against this standard. This thesis investigates how the 41 councils within the Sydney Metropolitan Region have integrated the WSUD principles into their planning policies by analysing their respective LEP and Development Control Plan (DCP). The research findings show that only two councils have enforced the WSUD principles through their LEP. Consequently, councils' endorsement of the WSUD principles cannot be perceived as a great success even though thirty-five councils have adopted WSUD provisions in their DCP.

Image reference: <http://crazy-frankenstein.com/spring-water-wallpapers.html>



What qualities make a vibrant town centre?

Mona Vale as a case study

Town centres play a crucial role as the main business and commercial areas of a suburb. They serve communities by providing household necessities for residents, medical and professional services, housing, hospitality, entertainment, community and recreational facilities. As town centres play an important role for individuals and the community, the quality of spaces within town centres is of the utmost importance as it has the ability to impact on our quality of daily life. This research examines what focal qualities of town centres impact on a visitor's experiences and how town centres may be designed to improve the quality of experience and provide a positive impact to the community it serves. The Mona Vale Town Centre was used a case study to explore visitors' experiences within the town centre. Interviews with staff of Pittwater Council and surveys with visitors to the town centre revealed a broad range of physical and social experiences within Mona Vale Town Centre. Pittwater Council and visitors shared similar opinions on what improvements needed to be made to the town centre. The findings conclude that improvements and modifications to the form and design of town centres can improve various social and physical experiences for the community.

The Rise of Secondary Dwellings in the Context of South-Western Sydney

In the period 2013–2014, 3017 Development Applications and 1,856 Complying Development Certificates were determined for secondary occupancies (Dual Occupancies and Secondary Dwellings) in the Sydney Metropolitan Area by Local Councils (LDPM 2014). The popularity of secondary dwellings is rising and New South Wales leads the legislative way

in terms of encouraging this type of development for the provision of affordable housing and its rental on the open market. This research project explored local government controls on secondary dwellings in the Sydney Metropolitan region with a focus on the degree of variances. It also explores how local councils in South Western Sydney perceive the future of secondary dwelling developments. This is achieved through an analysis of the nominated Council Development Controls Plans and interviews with selected professionals. The controls of the councils focused on different aspects, which were influenced by the council's embedded ideals of the purpose of secondary dwellings and its place in the landscape of their local government area. Professionals interviewed indicated secondary dwellings as a growing phenomenon and identified a need to understand the implications of the current planning framework as well as council's secondary dwelling controls as the demand for this dwelling type intensifies.



Housing Affordability and Planning Policy in NSW

The provision of affordable housing is a major challenge in Australian cities. In New South Wales, the primary planning intervention to deliver affordable housing is the State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009. This thesis explores the effectiveness of this policy with regard to providing affordable housing in Sydney via the private sector and in retaining existing affordable housing. The thesis included an extensive review of planning mechanisms used to deliver affordable housing internationally, as well as semi-structured interviews with a series of relevant experts in state and local government, academia and the housing industry. The thesis finds that the State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009 is still a work in progress, as it has not yet achieved all of its aims and objectives. The policy currently faces a variety of challenges and requires significant changes in order to be more effective. Planning tools need to evolve and adapt to changing conditions, such as those that influence housing affordability. It is therefore critical that the performance of the policy be constantly monitored and reviewed. It is recommended that in order to improve its effectiveness, the policy should be provided with greater support through other mechanisms that are applied by all levels of government.



Working Alternatively:

Using open data to support Sydney's creative and knowledge economies

Alternative workspaces characterised by the co-location of independent workers and teams in collaborative environments provide space for production of the knowledge and creative economies. Co-working spaces, makerspaces, incubators and accelerators function as 'serendipity accelerators', at the intersection of several technological, economic and social drivers. As agglomeration sites of knowledge-intensive, 'disruptive' and innovative economic activity, these spaces exist through digital urbanism which shapes urban life and environments through advances in information and communication technologies. This evolving geography of labour exists in an urban context faced with the increasing pressure of road congestion and decreasing quality of community life and wellbeing. As cities move towards open data models of governance, an opportunity exists to address these challenges by leveraging the affordances of the changing nature of work supported by alternative workspaces. This study uses open data available through the AURIN portal to investigate how alternative workspaces can be used to support urban planning. A comprehensive search was undertaken to identify and map alternative workspaces in Sydney. Spatial analyses were conducted to identify relationships between these locations and industry clusters, demographic variables and urban infrastructure by using data derived from census, local government agencies and property asset registers. The findings demonstrate how open data can be used to make planning decisions that support Sydney's changing economy.



Mixed Use Development in High Density Urban Renewal Projects

Urban renewal is an essential part of urban planning strategy, especially for cities with a high population growth forecast. The principle of mixed use development, implemented through diverse planning tools, is believed to meet the potential challenges brought by high-density development. It has achieved positive impact in recent years, however further improvements are needed in the areas with large development potential. The research aims to discuss how to maximise the benefits of mixed land use and to ensure the success of this kind of urban land use in Sydney's urban renewal strategy. The thesis utilises both quantitative and qualitative research approaches in covering the contributions of mixed use development in different aspects of the urban renewal projects. Methods employed include a review of planning documents and primary data analysis collected from site visits. A case study approach, focusing on two urban renewal precincts of Rhodes West and Green Square, is adopted. The latest Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney, A Plan for Growing Sydney, has identified several major projects with good redevelopment potential. Mixed use renewal should take the advantage of location and encourage planning policies for promoting high density development with more integrated accessibility, diversity of dwelling types and open space provision. It's worthwhile seeking more extensive mixed use developments to achieve more active regional centres across Sydney.

Image reference: A Plan for Growing Sydney (Sydney's Strategic Centres and Transport Gateways) Rhodes West DCP 2015 (Figure 12.Mixed Use Zone), Facebook of Victoria park. (<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsOfVictoriaPark/photos/pcb.861479540604189/861477823937694/?type=3&theater>)

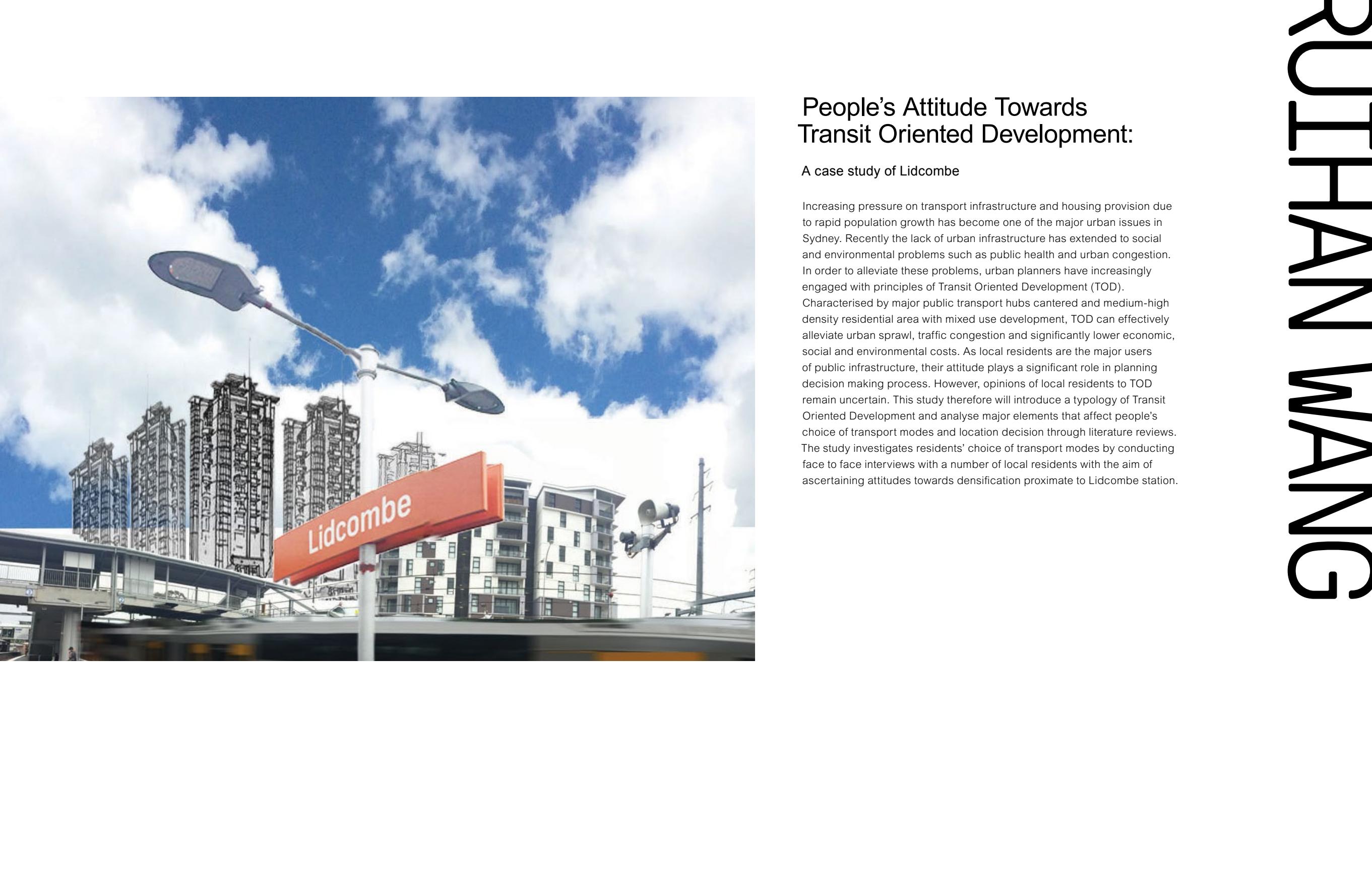


Planning for Food Security:

How can we preserve and strengthen peri-urban agriculture in Sydney?

Productive agricultural land is finite, increasingly important to food security given the rising global population and large areas of these lands are often located within peri-urban coastal areas. While regional agriculture is under threat from climate change, vulnerability to peak oil and resource scarcity, peri-urban agriculture simultaneously faces increasing conflict with competing land uses. Although several factors affect the sustainability of agriculture, land use planning particularly has a significant impact on the management of agricultural lands. In Sydney the importance of a strategic approach to prepare for long term food security is emphasised in planning policies, however these plans have not translated into strategic action due to competing land uses dominating. This thesis examines how planning mechanisms are used worldwide to preserve and strengthen peri-urban agriculture in order to consider what models, or parts therein, might resonate in Sydney. In addition to on-ground observations and a review of the literature on models used elsewhere, the research included semi-structured interviews with planning, research, government and urban design professionals. The findings indicate that there are certain characteristics that create the right environment for planning to preserve and strengthen peri-urban agriculture. The thesis concludes by identifying the key requirements associated with implementing effective planning mechanisms for peri-urban agriculture in Sydney at the metropolitan policy level.

Image reference: 2015, Neamap Ltd, 2015 au.nearmap.com



People's Attitude Towards Transit Oriented Development:

A case study of Lidcombe

Increasing pressure on transport infrastructure and housing provision due to rapid population growth has become one of the major urban issues in Sydney. Recently the lack of urban infrastructure has extended to social and environmental problems such as public health and urban congestion. In order to alleviate these problems, urban planners have increasingly engaged with principles of Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

Characterised by major public transport hubs centered and medium-high density residential area with mixed use development, TOD can effectively alleviate urban sprawl, traffic congestion and significantly lower economic, social and environmental costs. As local residents are the major users of public infrastructure, their attitude plays a significant role in planning decision making process. However, opinions of local residents to TOD remain uncertain. This study therefore will introduce a typology of Transit Oriented Development and analyse major elements that affect people's choice of transport modes and location decision through literature reviews. The study investigates residents' choice of transport modes by conducting face to face interviews with a number of local residents with the aim of ascertaining attitudes towards densification proximate to Lidcombe station.



How does the Commonwealth jurisdiction over the new Western Sydney airport affect local government planning strategies regarding creating employment?

A new airport will be built in Western Sydney. This can potentially create jobs and boost the economy in Western Sydney. However, the Commonwealth of Australia controls airport land. However, general planning matters are regulated by state governments. This may create difficulties for local governments when planning for creating employment opportunities.

This research helps to identify whether the differing jurisdictions creates difficulties and the roles of local government in planning for airports. It establishes how local governments have responded to the announcement of the airport and how their strategic plans have changed. It investigates whether and how the airport is regarded as an economic opportunity and a threat. The research was conducted through literature review and semi-structured qualitative interviews. Quantitative data helps to establish the economic circumstances, and why job creation should be prioritised in Western Sydney.

The Commonwealth and local governments cooperate effectively. However, there is great potential for conflict. The Western Sydney airport represents a major opportunity for creating employment and building infrastructure. There are challenges, especially with mitigating air, noise and water pollution. Councils have adopted different positions regarding the positives and negatives. The Environmental Impact Statement, which is still being drafted, may be a game-changer.



Badgerys Creek Airport Development:

Implications for affordable housing needs in SW Sydney

Sydney residential property prices have substantially increased in recent years, becoming less affordable. Worsening housing affordability is reducing access to homeownership particularly for Generation Y. Foreign investors, in particular Chinese investors, have been blamed for rising house prices. To understand how the real impact of foreign investment for Sydney real estate market, this project seeks to examine the impact of Chinese investment on the housing price in Sydney. The research aims to understand how the Chinese investment activity impacts Sydney's housing price and housing types in Sydney housing market, and how it impacts the supply and demand in Sydney's residential property market.

A literature review examines trends in housing affordability in Australia, using secondary statistical data about the Sydney housing market. Qualitative research involved interviews with ten key stakeholders, including Chinese investors, property agents, property developers and academics. The findings suggest that although Chinese investment is increasing demand for dwellings in Sydney, in part it also has been supporting Australia's economy and increasing residential housing supply. Impact on housing prices is harder to demonstrate.

Image source: <http://platinumbypayce.com.au/architecture.php>

TO
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CityFUTURES

The City Futures Research Centre is very pleased to have been invited to sponsor the New knowledge for our changing city exhibition for 2015. We work closely with colleagues in the Planning Program and together we represent the leading group of urban planning research in Australia, having achieved the only 5 star rating in Urban & Regional Planning in the 2012 National Excellence in Research for Australia assessment.

Established in 2005 and headed by Professor Bill Randolph, CityFUTURES undertakes research spanning the interrelated areas of urban planning, housing, design, development and social policy. Our work aims to advance the understanding of Australia's cities, their people, the policies that manage their growth, and their impacts on our environment and economy. The core activity for CityFUTURES is research. The Centre offers a place where scholars can pursue research on aspects of urban development and change. But it also focuses outwards, engaging with the wider audience beyond the University. Wherever possible, CityFUTURES works in partnership with the community, government and business to contribute to growing the evidence base on the issues that impact on urban regions and how we can better manage their dynamic progress and support the wellbeing of their residents. CityFUTURES works closely with other UNSW research groups as well as other leading universities in Australia, Asia, Europe and North America.



CityFUTURES also strongly focuses on the training of the next generation of urban research scholars through an active postgraduate research program. We are committed to expanding the skills and capacity of young urban researchers and to communicating the value of good research to those involved in making policies that impact on the city.

More detail on what we do, including opportunities for post-graduate research degrees, can be found on our website www.cityfutures.net.au. You can subscribe to our quarterly Newsletter at: www.be.unsw.edu.au/research-centres-and-clusters/city-futures/news-letter-registration.

Bill Randolph
Director, City Futures Research Centre

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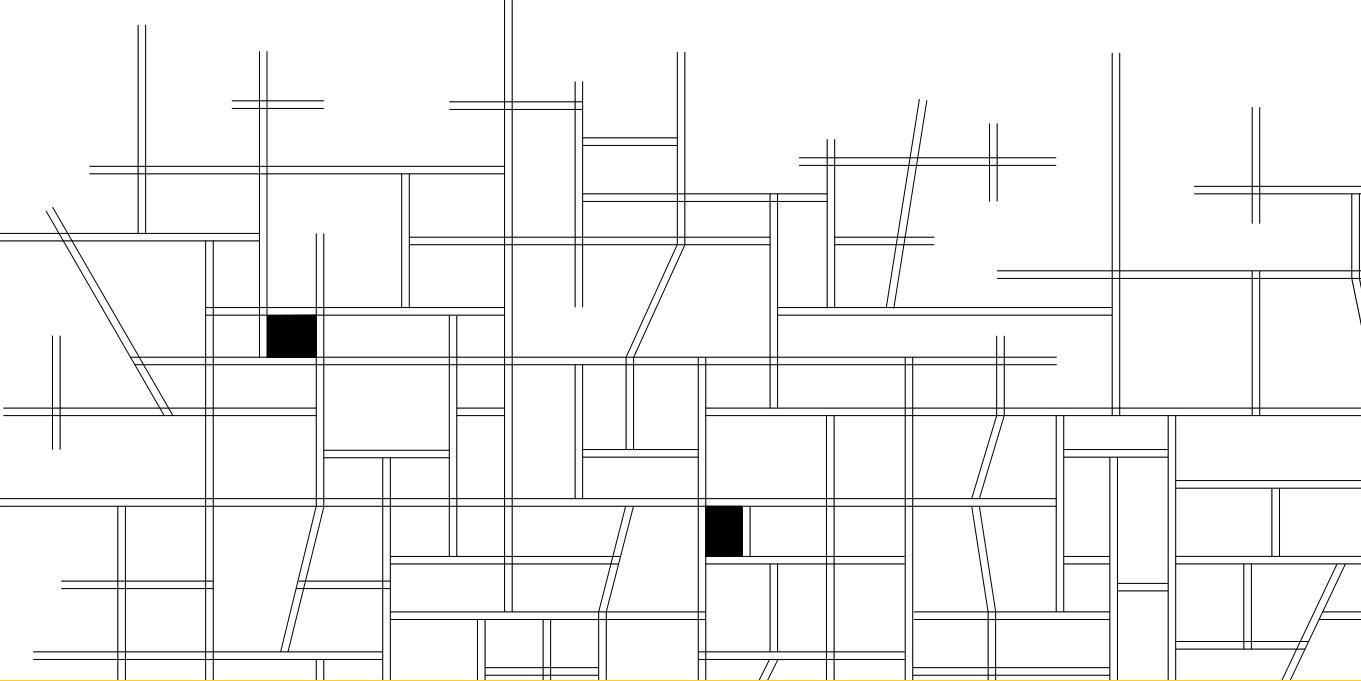
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