Invitation to book launch

Accommodating Australians
Commonwealth Government Involvement in Housing
Patrick Troy AO

In a special event at UNSW, Professor Patrick Troy AO, Adjunct Professor in the City Futures Research Centre, will launch his new book Accommodating Australians: Commonwealth Government Involvement in Housing.

The book explores the way that the Australian Government responded to the critical situation facing Australia’s housing supply in the middle of a world war, developing a housing program in the post war period to improve the way Australians were accommodated. It also looks at how that vision became derailed in the following forty years.

The book is about the ambitions of those who witnessed the extremes of housing deprivation during the Depression and resolved to improve the quality of housing, to make it more affordable and the nation fairer. It is a story about the rise and fall of public housing and can help explain why Australian housing is now among the most expensive in the developed world.

The book has an edge. It is a story about the way a rational consideration of the way we develop our cities succumbed to a preoccupation with accommodating the short term needs of the development industry and the rise of political ideologies antagonistic to the idea of public intervention.

The book will be launched by Professor Peter Spearritt, Director of Centre for the Government of Queensland and one of Australia’s leading urban historians and an internationally acclaimed speaker on Australian urban affairs.

For more details, please visit the City Futures website at www.cityfutures.net.au

A limited number of signed copies of the book will be available for purchase on the night. Alternatively the book may be purchased at UNSW Bookshop www.bookshop.unsw.edu.au

About the Author:
Professor Patrick Troy AO is an Adjunct Professor in the City Futures Research Centre at the Faculty of the Built Environment at UNSW. Before pursuing a research career Professor Troy served on Statutory authorities of State and Federal government agencies. He was head of the Urban Research Program at the Australian National University and was Deputy Head of the Department of Urban and Regional Development and Deputy Chair of the Australian Housing Corporation.