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Director, Natalie Allen Consulting

*Delivering liveable neighbourhoods: What does this mean to residents?*

Many cities in Australia and New Zealand have urban growth management policies and strategies in place which aim to promote growth and limit sprawl, while simultaneously enhancing liveability. To understand how the perceived liveability of residents is affected by their existing neighbourhoods intensifying, it is important to investigate the connections between how residents make their housing choices and what aspects of the urban environment most contribute to their neighbourhood satisfaction.

This paper reports on the findings from fifty-seven-structured qualitative interviews, conducted with residents who currently live in attached housing typologies in four established neighbourhoods that are currently experiencing considerable growth. Each of the case study neighbourhoods are located in Auckland, New Zealand. The paper provides insights into two critical areas: firstly, higher density housing choices and the trade-offs around neighbourhood satisfaction that residents make; and secondly, the significance of neighbourhood amenities, such as supermarkets and cafés, in relation to liveability outcomes.

The research concludes that if higher density living is to be embraced in established areas, the changing ways that residents are defining their neighbourhoods must be acknowledged and incorporated into urban policy and strategy directives. In addition, the changing spatial role that urban amenities play in delivering liveability outcomes, both within the neighbourhood, and within the wider city, must also be understood. The apparent risk of not considering neighbourhoods and their amenities in this way is to misunderstand the nature of contemporary urban life and the effects that changing demographics and household structures are having on housing choices.
Mr Peter Anders
Project Engineer (Energy Specialist), Liveable City Solutions, Sydney Water

**Energy efficiency, generation and recovery at Sydney Water**

Sydney Water produces approximately 18% ($9 million/year) of its energy needs through renewable energy generation and reduces demand through energy efficiency measures. These results are achieved by Sydney Water’s drive to limit electricity grid imports to pre-1998 levels. Population increase as well as new processes, technology, more efficient and affordable equipment and increasing power and gas prices make meeting the target ever more complex.

Since 2009, Sydney Water installed 15.2 MW biogas cogeneration, solar and hydro generation capacity and will further expand this portfolio. We will go beyond our commitment to keep energy purchases to pre-1998 levels if financially viable to do so. In doing so, we are always considering energy efficiency before renewable energy generation because it reduces site load instead of offsetting it. Since 2014, innovative ideas such as trucked food waste co-digestion has been introduced to increase biogas production for higher energy recovery rates.

To limit electricity grid imports, we created capacity of 9 MW biogas, 6 MW hydro and 0.16 MW solar generation. We also offset our site energy load through aeration improvements, LED technology, belt drive improvements, leakage removal and most open valve technology which saves around 20GWh/y.

A major part of our emissions minimisation effort is the continuous improvement of biogas production by trialling and implementing innovative technologies such as glycerol dosing, co-digestion of trucked organic waste and tests in bespoke mini digesters.

Our energy conservation and generation work continues across our renewable energy generation portfolio making cogeneration, hydro and solar installations more efficient, increase of energy efficiency through site audits and continued co-digestion research to improve biogas yield.

High electricity and gas prices have increased and prioritised our energy and emissions reduction efforts. This benefits the community and our business.
Ms Meg Argyriou  
Acting CEO and Head of Engagement, ClimateWorks Australia  
Co-authors: Mr Adam Majcher, ClimateWorks Australia

**What motivates a pro environmental culture?**

How can we better inspire engagement and action in audiences currently ‘uncommitted’ to pro environmental attitudes and behaviours? Drawing on social research, this presentation aims to challenge our assumptions through the lens of one of the most complex environmental challenges: climate change.

As we move to tackle some of the complex social and environmental challenges in a rapidly growing and evolving world, the magnitude and rate of change required is likely to create uncertainty and anxiety across the population.

This uncertainty can provide motive for business, government and communities to reduce their ambition on areas like environmental action.

An antidote to that uncertainly is an educated and engaged constituency that helps provide the ‘fertile ground’ to help socialise the achievability and benefits of such large changes. The question becomes, ‘How do we drive the interest for that deeper discussion in a world where the volume of information is overwhelming and the everyday person doesn’t need ‘another problem’ to think about?’

This phenomenon is no more apparent than through the lens of climate change. Unlike other issues where the weight of scientific evidence may be enough to provide the impetus to act, progressing the climate change agenda requires more than technical solutions.

Our cities are a rich tapestry of attitudes and opinion, often informed by personal world views. The presentation will explore the need for a ‘cultural roadmap’ as well as a technical one.

Whilst approaches that tap into a sense of social responsibility and the moral imperative may be an effective means to engage with more committed audiences, are they enough to drive the involvement of the broader population?

If not, what do we need to do differently? What are the key things we should be thinking about as practitioners or policymakers?
From aspiration to reality: North Sydney’s inner city Liveable Neighbourhood

As built form professionals, we are motivated to create interesting, inviting and successful cities. We formulate ideas, designs and masterplans that we feel will improve the well-being of our community and future generations. Those ideas and their context, however, change over time and each generation of planners face new challenges in turning well-meaning aspirations into a reality.

North Sydney has a fascinating history of transforming the CBD: as a healthier alternative to living in the city at the turn of the century, embracing the motor car with the opening of the Harbour Bridge in 1932, the appeal of modernism in the 1960’s and its inevitable backlash in the 1980’s. Some ambitious plans were realised, and some, thankfully, never saw the light of day.

With the announcement of a new metro station, North Sydney Council has yet another opportunity to reshape the identity of North Sydney. This time, our aspirations are threefold: encouraging greater activity in the centre, securing future employment capacity and improving the quantity and quality of the public domain.

The Ward Street Precinct has the ingredients to make these aspirations into a reality.

The precinct is already among the densest in Sydney, however, strong development interest continues to escalate given its prime position in the CBD on the doorstep of the new metro station. What’s more, it has a large, and central public asset, beckoning redevelopment. And in a unique twist, the preparation of a masterplan has political support for progressive ideas, backed by resourcing, to explore best practice urban design outcomes.

Earlier this year, Council released the draft Ward Street Masterplan for public comment. It proposes to transform a near 600 space commuter parking station into an exciting pedestrian focused precinct. It also supports new employment floor space and 18-hour a day activity in a CBD that craves both. However, a number of submissions questioned whether the scheme is economically viable.

This presentation examines the role of local government in turning aspirations for liveable, economically strong, inner-city neighbourhoods, into reality. It will discuss some of the challenges and lessons learnt from the draft masterplan and some unexpected resources and opportunities to turn the project from vision to tangible possibility.
**Incorporating active living principles into statutory planning:**
A successful case study within Canberra, Australia

Background: The vision for Canberra is to be a healthy, active city that is well connected, compact and equitable. To deliver this vision, the ACT Government is implementing specific changes to its statutory plan, the ‘Territory Plan’, to mandate the inclusion of active living principles into all developments.

Description: The Heart Foundation worked with the ACT Government, industry and university sector to define six active living principles. A line-by-line Territory Plan Gap Analysis was then undertaken identifying potential changes to the statutory plan.

- Sixty-three recommendations for incorporating Active Living Principles into the Territory Plan were developed following seven broad categories:
  - Revise the Statement of Strategic Directions
  - Incorporate Active Living Principles into all zone objectives;
  - Amend the relevant rules and criteria in all zones;
  - Include character statements in Precinct Codes to support active living;
  - Review and update General Codes that relate to active living;
  - Include active living terminology within the Territory Plan Definitions; and
  - Amend the relevant rules and criteria in the Estate Development Code.

The ACT Government has accepted most these recommendations and has written Draft Variation 348: Incorporating Active Living into the Territory Plan.

Lessons Learned
- There are three crucial lessons in incorporating active living into statutory planning:
  - Collaboration between government and non-government organisations are an effective tool for implementing government change;
  - Skilful advocates supported by strong evidence, need to build ongoing trusting relationships with key decision makers to effect change; and
  - There is an appetite to fight chronic disease through changes to the built environment and codification is seen by politicians and planners as readily available, effective and implementable tool to achieve this.

Conclusions: It is possible to incorporate health and active living into statutory planning given time, commitment and resources.

Support/Funding Source: This research was undertaken with the generous support of The Australian Capital Territory Government.
Dr Cesar Calalang  
Senior Project Officer, South West Sydney Local Health District  

Co-authors:  
Ms Fiona Haigh, Centre for Health Equity Training, Research and Evaluation  

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**Improving community engagement in aerotropolis development to promote health**  

**Introduction:**  
The Western Sydney Airport (WSA) is a proposed second airport to be located about 50km west of the Sydney central business district. In addition to relieving congestion for the Kingsford Smith Airport, it will serve as a focal point of urban growth for south western Sydney. Community engagement is requisite for appropriate planning, particularly for large-scale developments like WSA. To date there has been limited engagement with communities and relevant stakeholders for WSA. Bringing a health lens to any community engagement strategies may help to improve health and wellbeing of communities. For this reason, it was decided to undertake a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of community engagement for WSA.  

**Methods:**  
The HIA began in June, 2015 and was completed in February, 2017. It was conducted through a partnership between the local University (UNSW Sydney), health service (South Western Sydney Local Health District), and community-based organisation (Western Sydney Community Forum). Evidence was collected through literature reviews, community profiling, and community workshops that provided qualitative evidence on the impacts of existing engagement strategies, and recommendations to improve engagement processes in the future.  

**Results:**  
The robust community engagement process for the HIA enabled researchers to elicit important community perspectives that highlighted the very limited nature of airport engagement practices. Most stakeholders found the airport engagement process to be insufficient to address their questions and concerns. As such, current engagement practices are impacting on important determinants of wellbeing (i.e. access to information, feeling of control, participation, and risk perception).  

**Discussion:**  
It will be important for developers to consider their approach to community engagement as development of the airport and surrounding urban growth area will continue over the next 50 years. The HIA provides recommendations to improve community engagement practices that may be relevant to other aerotropolis and large urban development projects.
Dr Seona Candy  
Research Fellow: Resilient Urban Systems, Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab  

What does a low carbon local diet look like for Melbourne?

Food systems in cities are under increasing pressure. Food production is occurring further and further from the point of consumption and extreme weather events due to climate change are impacting on food supply networks. It is possible that cities will have to rely on their local regions to meet at least some of their food needs in the future. Although large amounts of food are produced on the outskirts of cities, it is not clear the extent to which the nutritional needs of inhabitants could be met sustainably.

This paper aims to investigate if it is possible to feed the city of Melbourne a healthy diet from the local area (i.e. achieve direct food availability) and what that diet might look like. It tests a new methodology using linear programming to find the optimal mix of food types to produce a diet profile that meets the Australian Dietary Guidelines within the production capacity of the local ‘region’. Results from three region scenarios are presented – Greater Melbourne, Hinterland and Rest of Victoria – at two time points – 2014 and 2040, taking into account urban sprawl and climate change impacts on production. Conclusions are drawn about the capability of the city foodbowl to meet the needs of the urban population, and the potential for adoption of the proposed diets, threats to production and possible methods to address any shortfalls are discussed.
Mr Mark Casserly  
Director Community Services, City of Karratha

**From mining town to liveable city**

The Pilbara region in Western Australia is a place of extremes in terms of scale, climate, history, resources and beauty. With just 2.6% of the state’s population the region delivers 11.62 % of Western Australia’s Gross State Product. The per worker contribution to the economy in the Pilbara is nearly three times that of the balance of the state and nearly four times that of the nation.

Welcome to the City of Karratha, the regional capital of the Pilbara and powerhouse of the nation. A place with a ‘can do’ and ‘fair go’ attitude. Once a series of mining towns, Karratha is now a vibrant, modern cosmopolitan city. Karratha is underpinned by a strong and diversifying economy and offers an unparalleled lifestyle in a community with a rich tapestry of character, culture and heritage.

Riding the crest of the mining boom in the mid 2000’s and weathering the global financial crisis of 2008, the state government’s Pilbara Cities Initiative injected $1.7billion into the region. Karratha has been a proud recipient of this transformative initiative and has emerged with a vision to become Australia’s most liveable regional city.

The story of Karratha’s growth and development is exciting and compelling, clearly fuelled by world-wide demand for raw resources. The rapid fire injection of essential infrastructure, community facilities and social services to a booming economy and the consequential impact of a fall in resource prices in recent years have certainly been experienced. The relentless pace of exponential growth has softened. There is a sense of normalcy emerging in community life.

Now is the time to complete the city’s transition from adolescence to maturity. It is a time for consolidation, for deepening connections and growing resilience. This presentation will share the journey to date and the plans and initiatives proposed for the future.
Ms Jessica Christiansen-Franks  
CEO and CoFounder, Neighbourlytics

**How can we harness open data to deliver positive outcomes for people?**

Technology is having a transformative impact on cities. It is enabling efficiencies, and insights to transport, movement, connectivity and construction that were previously unimaginable. However its critical that smart cities don’t only deliver on infrastructure and efficiency outcomes, and also achieve positive social impact.

How can we harness open data to deliver positive outcomes for people?

Enter Neighbourlytics.com, a community knowledge and analytics platform that harnesses open data to map and measure how people use places. This revolutionary new platform helps urban managers gain local data and real-time insights to shape places that thrive.

How? Open Datasets including social media feeds map our movements in public spaces every day. By aggregating mapping and measuring these movements, and correlating these movements to behaviours, we can gain a rapid understanding of public space utilisation in real time. More powerful than user surveys, open data enables us to map and measure social insights anytime, anywhere.

This presentation will highlight key findings of the recent Neighbourlytics trial with Frasers Property Group across five urban development sites in Australia, outlining the key opportunities and known limitations of open data sets for public space planning.

By demonstrating the power of open data, this presentation aims to elevate the smart cities conversation beyond automatic rubbish bins, towards new mechanisms for improving community connection and social sustainability.
**Empathic conversations and owners corporations: Supporting the emergence of vibrant vertical villages**

The urban centres of Australian cities are undergoing a major change in their residential modes of living, referred to as High Density Dwelling or Vertical Living. The City of Melbourne, for instance, claims a current residential population in the high density precincts of Docklands, South Bank and the CBD of 67,500 which, by 2036, is expected to increase to 144,000 (CoM, 2016).

While several layers of Government hold formal responsibility for the wellbeing of these new residents, it is contended that Owners Corporation Committees are under-recognised as cultural architects of these emerging vertical precincts.

This is because it is the accumulation of the various decisions made by these committees, coupled with their styles of resident engagement, which combine to fundamentally shape both the cultures of their own vertical villages, and the overall nature of the high density precincts. This potential for impact highlights the importance of the calibre of interactions occurring between Owners Corporation Committees and their residents, and puts a different light on the effect of combative interactions, such as those currently experienced by an increasing number of Owners Corporation Committees in relation to ‘short stays’.

This paper addresses the need to specifically foster emotional intelligence skills within Owners Corporation Committees so as to better deal with decisions that shape these Vertical Villages. One such competency that is held to assist with better decision making is ‘empathy’ (Patnika, 2009).

The authors of this paper report upon the trial of a ‘structured empathy conversation process’, an intervention aimed at growing self-awareness and improving perspective taking through promoting access to the ‘lived experience of the other’. The subjects involved in the investigation were drawn from two groups which held opposing views on ‘Short Stays’, members of Owners Corporation Committees and residents who let their apartments for Short Stays.
Mr Alberto Costa  
Head of Engineering, Veolia ANZ

**Smart City - An Integrated Resource Management Approach**

Between now and 2050, the world’s population share living in urban areas will leap from 50 to 70%, while 3 billion people are expected to join middle classes by 2030. This strong demographic growth will be particularly significant in developing countries’ urban areas. It will have as a consequence the appearance of new stakes within cities, where the pressure on natural resources will be the most critical. Among these stakes, we can mention drinking water, waste, energetic services as well as sanitation management.

To support cities in this context it is crucial to choose and implement the proper solutions in order to allow cities to have a sustainable growth as well as a controlled fate. For all the cities, budgetary efficiency and regulatory compliance are prerequisites for a good management of public services. Cities also express other concerns depending on their characteristics, their ambitions as well as their positioning concerning: health, quality of life, employment, security, the environment, social equity, citizen involvement, innovation...

Thus, in addition to its historic promise - ensuring the reliability and efficiency of urban services - Veolia developed an integrated resources management approach as well as solutions around its five main focal areas of value creation for cities. These axes, which are naturally complementary, are divided into the following major items that can be deployed depending on the city’s specific context: Liveable; Inclusive; Smart; Circular and Resilient.

The integrated resource management approach talks through the five main focal areas of value creation for smart cities:

- **Liveable**: improves citizens’ well-being and reduces environmental footprint
- **Inclusive**: highlights the created shared value for cities and citizens, by being more oriented on social benefits, communities’ involvement and customer satisfaction
- **Smart**: improves operational performance, customer satisfaction and is a path to develop new services for all the city stakeholders
- **Circular**: is based on maximising resource productivity, reducing resources consumption, recycling and prolonging the lifespan of materials
- **Resilient**: ensures that cities can perform effectively in the future, reduce risks and improve adaptability.
Air pollution choking our cities - how we can improve the health of city dwellers, making our cities better at the same time

‘Each year, more than 3,000 Australians die premature deaths from urban air pollution’ (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare in Environmental Justice Australia, 2014) and in 2016 ‘around 3 million deaths worldwide were linked to outdoor air pollution’ (World Health Organization in Rueter, 2017).

By world standards, Australia has very clean air, however ground-level ozone and particulate matter can still exceed current air quality standards which can be extremely harmful to health (Department of the Environment and Energy, 2016). Continued population growth and subsequently urbanisation and increasing demands for transportation create ongoing challenges for keeping our air clean. This is evidenced by growth that has occurred in other global cities such as London and Paris. Both cities are currently experiencing ‘some of the worst air in decades’ (as reported in the Atlantic CityLab on 23 January 2017). Australia can’t be too far behind with Sydneysiders warned on 11th January 2017 about negative impacts on health as a result of hot temperatures pushing up ozone levels in exceedance of national standards (Aubusson & Hannam, 2017).

Many European and UK cities are now implementing a number of air quality improvement measures to help improve the human health of its citizens, reducing health inequalities. Two projects in particular that I was involved in while living and working in the UK in 2014-2016 include:

Transport for London’s Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) ‘an area within which all cars, motorcycles, vans, minibuses, coaches and heavy good vehicles will need to meet exhaust emission standards or pay a daily charge to travel (to operate from September 2020)

The Scottish Government’s Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy ‘The Road to a Healthier Future (November 2015) ‘a strategy to identify ways to make Scotland’s air quality the best in Europe

My paper will discuss the current health impacts linked to poor air quality and the projected health benefits of implementing air quality improvement measures such as the ULEZ and the Cleaner Air for Scotland Strategy. It will further recommend action for change relevant in an Australian city context, drawing upon lessons learnt from around the world, opportunities being created in the digital space and work that Arup is currently undertaking in developing a global air quality toolkit.
How to engage the socially isolated when designing community engagement program

Conducting community engagement is now part of business as usual for most organisations, so the demands on the community to participate has never been higher.

Many in our community spend their days in meetings, town halls and online providing their opinions to companies, governments and educational institutions. Their efforts are rewarded with invitations to participate in more and more round tables, focus groups and interviews. These ‘market mavens’ or ‘opinion leaders’ are accessible and their opinion taken as the barometer of community sentiment.

When community engagement is dealing with controversial issues and much of the community engagement is organised around online forums and ‘unconventional’ engagement methods, by the time a community or town hall meeting comes around, the members of the community are frustrated, angry and feeling powerless. Largely isolated members of our community include the elderly, working parents and those of low socioeconomic status.

This presentation will provide considerations for engaging with those who see themselves as socially isolated or unable to engage online or publically. The presentation looks at ways of engaging early and appropriately to revive the concept of ‘debating’ the issue; engaging in ways to reduce intimidation, anger and frustration common in highly contentious issues; alternative ‘age appropriate’ engagement methods; and accessing those who feel disenfranchised and powerless in decisions.

The aim of the presentation is to use technology appropriately as part of an overall community engagement strategy rather than as the main tool.
Mr Adam Davies
Principal, HASSELL

Herston Quarter Redevelopment: Supporting new models of care through positioning, partnering and place-making.

Since the decentralisation of the Queensland Health system regional Health Boards across the State have been defining new models of care and delivery, including the needs and direction of their health precincts and facilities. In 2014 the Queensland State Government and the Metro North Hospital and Health Service commenced the search for a development partner to redefine the future of almost six hectares of Brisbane’s largest health precinct at Herston in Brisbane. This presentation will explore the rationale, process and outcome of what will become the Herston Quarter Redevelopment. The Herston Quarter will be a ‘health precinct plus’ that delivers: new services; uses collocation, adjacencies and partnerships to leverage value; and creates a new precinct that allows health, research, education and the city to coexist for the betterment of patients, staff, and visitors.

The $1.1 billion (Australian Dollar), Herston Quarter Redevelopment will be delivered in partnership with Australian Unity. It will deliver a range of new health and biomedical uses, complemented by a private hospital, student accommodation, residential, child care, consulting and a wellbeing precinct providing high quality accommodation and wellness facilities for an aging population. The new Specialist Rehabilitation and Ambulatory Care Centre will anchor the Quarter, returning the now vacant Royal Children’s Hospital site, back into a modern public health use. The redevelopment will retain five heritage buildings at the core of the development showcasing some of Brisbane’s most important historical health architecture. This new piece of the city will invite human occupation, through a generosity of public realm, open spaces, safe connections and a new retail, food and beverage offer.

The presentation will introduce the Herston Health Precinct with an overview of the last six years that have included master planning, design and feasibility studies to firmly position the future for Brisbane’s largest tertiary health precinct. It will examine the key manoeuvres proposed for the precinct that will define its future. The precinct master plan, public realm and architectural strategy will be presented to establish how the precinct will evolve over the next 10 years.
Ms Amy Degenhart  
Architect and Director, degenhartSHED architecture + urban design  

The Growth between the Green and the Gold  

Growth and the Gold Coast are inseparable concepts, but when that growth turns innovative, it also serves as small blueprint for a big idea: The New Urban Agenda.

With the cooperation of both state and local government regulatory flexibility, effective financial frameworks, good urban design, beautiful built form and collaboration from all stakeholders, ENVI Micro Urban Village has set out to prove that there is a commercially viable alternative to the spread-sprawl syndrome for our expanding cities.

ENVI was inspired by longingly studying the examples of community consolidation of great cities such as New York, London and Melbourne in order to demonstrate how a standard 600m2 residential lot can be transformed into 10 freehold homes and gardens. In fact, the smallest lot created is less than 40m2 in area, about the size of a standard double car garage!

Through consolidation and a reliance on existing infrastructure, Brownfield infill micro-lot housing can become a critical tool in delivering housing diversity, equity and affordability, while also preserving the "green behind the gold", a goal synonymous with the global vision of preserving valuable land for agriculture, biodiversity, recreation and even oxygen.

As ENVI completes its sub-division stage and the homes start rising on their individual slabs, the fact that 70% of the residents are First Home Owners is evidence of the housing affordability benefits of a delivery model that serves to re-purpose savings on holding costs, super-profits and statutory fees into securing a more walkable location in proximity to both employment and amenities.

If proven successful, the ENVI blue print may guide similar gentle density insertions into the outer suburbs and low density areas of fast-growing Australian cities and towns, allowing them to share in welcoming another billion people into their collective communities within the span of a single generation.
Ms Tracy Dobie  
Mayor, Southern Downs Regional Council

**Shaping Southern Downs - A Rurban Council**

After the amalgamation of Shire Councils in Queensland in 2008 some Local Government Areas forged ahead immediately, others have taken longer. The Southern Downs Region combined the agricultural, livestock, transport and logistics region of the Warwick District with the horticultural and tourism region of the Stanthorpe District.

Nine years on, having come through a prolonged amalgamation process it is time for the Southern Downs to showcase itself as a livable regional hub. With the Queensland Government forecasting that South East Queensland will receive more than 2 million new residents over the next 25 years, Southern Downs has a role to play in accommodating the emerging communities and new businesses and has the capacity to further increase primary production to meet the needs of the expanding South East Queensland economy. The region is entering a period of sustained growth in relation to employment and investment, with much of this activity being supported through continued interest in the agribusiness and food processing sectors, as well as retail and aged care.

The management of this next stage is crucial. The region needs to retain the liveability and tourism benefits of being rural while at the same time embracing and assisting the development of a growing business-based urban economy. Shaping Southern Downs will be the plan to guide this future growth.
**Get Your Hands Dirty: The Role of Tactical Urbanism in City Building**

As time progresses it is becoming increasingly evident that the only constant in the foreseeable future will be change, uncertainty, disruption and resource constrained environments. A city’s ability to adapt, the approach adopted and the rate at which all of this occurs will be a large determinant in the development of cities which are liveable and truly responsive to the needs of their inhabitants.

This paper focuses on the burgeoning concept of tactical urbanism and investigates its ability to assist in the creation of cities which not only embrace and capitalise on these emerging, global pressures but which are also representative, participatory and directly shaped by the local community. This discussion and investigation cites national and international case studies to elucidate the concept and its role in the development of liveable cities. The paper concludes with a summation of the current appetite for tactical urbanism, a presentation of identified barriers for wholesale implementation and a proposal for an appropriate way forward for the Australian context.
Mr Paul Edwards  
General Manager Workplace Experiences, Mirvac

**The Intermix Approach: Activating a smart precinct**

The evolution of digital technology has motivated the rise of some of the world’s most successful companies, including Uber and Airbnb. In a new discussion paper, Activating the Smart Precinct: The Intermix Approach, Mirvac and UNWORK discuss a new approach to making cities liveable, aiming to extend the successes of digital evolution into the development of ‘smart precincts’.

Between the smart building and the smart city is an often-overlooked area, the smart precinct. In his 30 minute presentation focusing on The Future of the Smart Precinct, Paul Edwards, General Manager Workplace Experiences at Mirvac, will encourage developers and planners to look beyond the footprint of the building they are developing to ensure they create smart, enabled mixed-use precincts. The design of mixed-use developments – incorporating workspace, retail, hospitality, leisure, residential, education, and transport – has evolved to integrate physical experiences with smart technologies, to strengthen the community fabric of an area and support the emerging tech-led economy.

Paul will share international and local examples of smart precincts, such as Mirvac’s Australian Technology Park, to showcase the essential building blocks of urban planning to enable individuals to prosper, our community to grow, small start-ups to progress and large corporates to adapt.

He will also put forward thought starters to consider bringing The Intermix Approach from ideas to action for the future of our cities.
Mr Anthony Franklin  
Senior Town Planner, Brisbane City Council

**Opportunities for Australia's Future - learnings from the old world for new world cities**

Article 2 of the United Nation’s New Urban Agenda states urbanisation is “one of the twenty-first century’s most transformative trends”. Cities have become both the source of and the solution to economic, environmental and social challenges.

Australian cities are underdeveloped by almost any international comparison, our cities will not escape these transformative trends of the twenty-first century, and our cities must continue to grow to remain globally and economically relevant.

There are countless models and approaches for delivering growth, however this presentation makes the argument that there is no need to reinvent the wheel, and some of the best lessons can be learnt from existing European cities.

Many European cities have densities several times greater than their Australian counterparts, yet they rank highly in liveability indices, have relatively low carbon emissions, and are desirable places to work and live. Australia has the opportunity to learn from the mistakes and the successes of these existing European ‘city laboratories’, and while no city is perfect, this presentation offers insights into how Australia could tackle managing growth, delivering density, and achieving sustainability, using valuable lessons and tools borrowed from our European cousins.

Australia stands at a cross road, will our cities of the future look like Seoul, Tokyo and Los Angeles, or more like London, Rome and Paris?
Mr Peter Fryar
Director, Key Urban Planning

*Greater Sydney Commission - Draft North District Plan (Hornsby Region - Case Study)*

The NSW Government recently released the vision for the future growth and direction of the Sydney Metropolitan area in a document titled ‘A Plan for Growing Sydney’ forming part of the Greater Sydney Regional Plan. The NSW Government has established The Greater Sydney Commission and has placed on exhibition the first time ever 20 year draft District Plans one for each of the Greater Sydney’s six districts. Sydney, like many cities, is suffering a housing crisis particularly in the provision of affordable housing. Better integration of transport with housing and jobs is a key to addressing the crisis.

Hornsby is located within the northern fringe of Sydney & the presenter was recently involved in a Planning Proposal for land close to the Hornsby CBD as well as a development proposal for a 27 storey shop-top housing development within the Hornsby CBD (Westside) that ultimately went to Appeal in the NSW Land and Environment Court. These two case studies aim to provide participants with a challenging insight into the difficulties in achieving the broad strategic planning outcomes outlined by the NSW Government from the perspective of an experienced Town Planner.

The ultimate objectives and desired outcomes for the future growth of Sydney is challenging for the planning profession having to deal with a complex planning system in NSW. The situation is compounded with current Local Government amalgamations and a planning system that operates under stress, uncertainty and at times can be obstructive to facilitating development outcomes.
Dr Marjan Hajjari  
Senior Project Manager, Fishermans Bend Taskforce, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

**Toward a responsive community infrastructure plan**

A Community Infrastructure Plan is an evidence-based document that aims to assist decision makers to formulate strategic directions, planning and delivering timely and adequate community facilities in the right locations. A Community Infrastructure Plan is one of the crucial planning documents for the development of both greenfield and urban renewal areas. The plans often use fixed approaches to identify needs and plan for the future population in growth areas, however, the complexity and challenges that face urban renewal areas requires a more flexible approach.

Fishermans Bend is Australia’s largest urban renewal area. It is envisaged as a high-to-medium density development accommodating 80,000 residents and 60,000 jobs in the next 35 years. Land ownership in Fishermans Bend is fragmented and the government has very limited land in this area. Uncertainties in the projected population and demographics, and also the future of service delivery models, are the main challenges for developing the Fishermans Bend community infrastructure plan.

Employing Fishermans Bend as a case study, this paper presents a framework for generating a responsive community infrastructure plan that innovatively responds to opportunities that arise, and is robust enough to ensure community services and facilities are delivered in an adequate and timely manner. This paper provides a greater understanding of the consequences of a fixed approach to community infrastructure planning, and the advantages and challenges in developing a flexible and adaptable approach.

This paper also explains how adaptability and flexibility should be considered throughout the three main stages of planning, designing and delivering community facilities. This paper argues that employing multi-level analysis and multi-dimensional assessment will enhance the plan’s responsiveness. Provision of design guidelines and specifications for each type of community facility as part of the community infrastructure plan will assist in creating spaces which can accommodate services that will best meet current and future needs.
The key to implementing the New Urban Agenda is small, incremental change, not masterplans

Creating thriving, resilient and inclusive neighbourhoods is a cornerstone objective of the New Urban Agenda. As the building blocks of cities, neighbourhoods are critical for maintaining the socio-economic function of the city, mitigating urban inequality and improving health and sustainability [New Urban Agenda (NUA) 35, 36]. However, traditional top-down models of neighbourhood planning, characterised by zoning and regulation, offer little opportunity for immediate citizen engagement and certainly not control. The resultant plans are then not flexible enough to accommodate the changes in social structure, economic change, digital disruption that stem from rapid urbanisation.

We want to change this.

Thriving neighbourhoods are most likely to result when shaped by active, engaged citizens. Citizens are most likely to be active and engaged when they are given meaningful opportunities to influence decisions about the places where they live. The key to fixing our broken patterns of urban development therefore does not lie in grand plans but rather in small scale, citizen-led initiatives.

The New Urban Agenda’s (NUA) central focus on cities for all, localism, city-control and citizen participation outlines a paradigm shift towards a model of small, incremental urban change, where everyone can be a city-maker and a city-changer. This offers a new lens through which to view urban development and policy making in Australia.

This presentation will identify 5 key paradigm shifts that are critical to the NUA’s implementation in Australia. These 5 areas are:

1. Focus on local leadership: The NUA reinforces the importance of decentralised, local leadership for delivering the agenda’s priorities.
2. People-centred planning: A shift away from centralised long-term planning toward dynamic, responsive initiatives which can respond to the needs of local neighbourhoods over time.
3. Inclusion of women and youth: The NUA seeks the full and effective participation of women and youth at all levels of decision making.
4. Participation: Whether its public space, slum upgrading or affordable housing, participation one of the key mechanisms suggested for driving change.
5. Partnerships for change: Build collaborative networks for success, particularly between government and civil society.

Lucinda Hartley has been actively involved in shaping the New Urban Agenda over the past 5 years: first as an elected youth advisor to UN-Habitat, then as a member of the UN World Urban Campaign Steering Committee and the UN Future of Places process. She was also one of the keynote speakers in the Professionals Forum at Habitat III in Quito last year. This presentation will draw on these first hand insights gained from active involvement in the NUA process.
Promoting the New Urban Agenda in Australia’s Metropolitan Regions

The draft New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III in Quito in 2016 is inevitably lengthy and complex, implying a need to adapt its application to the circumstances of particular countries and regions around the world. This paper examines some implications for Australia; in particular how to apply it to Australia’s four largest metropolitan regions, which in the last two decades accounted for 76% of Australia’s population growth.

These four regions are the venues not only for major population growth but also substantial economic change as jobs growth in the new economy focuses in the central parts of these regions. The paper will examine the challenges this poses for the planning of land use and mobility in these metropolitan regions, related to repeatedly mentioned New Urban Agenda themes of “inclusivity, accessible, resilient, and sustainable cities; prosperity” (Clause 11).

These themes were also addressed in Grattan Institute’s five-year cities research programme, reported in ‘City Limits: Why Australia’s cities are broken and how to fix them’ (2015) and further examined by the author in ongoing research. Four generic responses are discussed, to address metropolitan structural problems, namely central city brownfield redevelopment, residential redevelopment in mid-ring suburbs, optimising local employment in outer suburban locations, and fourthly, improved public transport from the edges to the jobs-rich middles of these regions. More attention needs to be applied to the fourth of these generic solutions, an approach that has been inadequately emphasised in recently released metropolitan plans for Melbourne, Sydney and South-East Queensland. In each region it is important to develop priorities for integrated land use planning and transport investment to optimise outcomes; it will be discussed how consideration of the relevant issues should play out in South-East Queensland.

Relevant of the 175 New Urban Agenda Clauses include: 2, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 43-45, 51-56, 60, 61, 66, 94-98, 112, 114, 117-8, 131.
Ms Suzette Jackson
Executive Director, Bioregional Australia Foundation

**Disrupting the paradigm - transitioning to one planet communities**

Thinking outside our current paradigm to enable new ways of living requires strong leadership, innovation, partnerships and community engagement. However it will take a shift in mainstream thinking for Australian communities to meet the challenges we face.

More than ever we need to be developing communities, with the infrastructure and resources to accommodate the needs of the community today and for the future. Australia’s biggest cities are projected to see more growth over the next 30 years than the biggest cities of the developed world. While Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney have high projected growth of 81 percent, 69 percent and 56 percent respectively, Perth’s projected growth is 127 percent in a thirty-year period (UN 2016). Australia will also see further growth in regional cities, as capital cities face the challenges of providing affordable housing, infrastructure and sufficient food and resources for the growing populace.

One Planet Living is a way to make it easy and attractive for everyone to lead happy and healthy lives within the environmental limits of our planet. Developers, housing cooperatives, eco villages, communities, governments, organisations and education providers use the international One Planet framework. This includes the One Planet vision, ten guiding principles and recommended targets for transitioning to One Planet Living.

Research and industry partnerships assist with piloting new initiatives, with the potential to minimize risk while providing research assistance.

Stakeholders seek national or international recognition from Bioregional through the One Planet Program. One Planet Communities recognised at national leadership include The Commons, Melbourne, and Marrick & Co. and Inner West Community Hub, Sydney. One Planet Communities recognised as international leaders due to their ambitious One Planet Action Plans include WestWyck EcoVillage, and WGV at White Gum Valley. One Planet Communities globally provide examples of continuous improvement initiatives to create more sustainable communities and challenges.
Where does it stop? Defining project scope in an increasingly connected world.

Capital Projects increasingly need to integrate more and more ‘external benefits’ in to their scope. Urban densities and highly engaged public are demanding projects are delivered in a way that don’t just minimise the impacts of construction but provide legacy benefits above and beyond direct delivery itself. In many cases, the primary facility is becoming the easy part of the project build.

A new education facility, sporting stadium, airport or office block must contribute to improving culture, mobility and aesthetics of the locality in which it’s placed. As technology and mobility advancements provide opportunities for a new urban design agenda, how can space be reassigned to maximise wider benefits?

Turner and Townsend’s (T&T) facilitation of Queensland University of Technology’s (QUT) Science and Engineering precinct delivered a ‘living building’ and a gateway for 60,000 weekly active transport users travelling between the CBD and South Brisbane. A ‘whole of system’ view ensured every opportunity was taken to showcase sustainability, engineering challenge and innovation design.

From these learnings, the vertical schools development in the Melbourne suburb of Richmond, is building on the anchoring role that schools play in promoting connection between place, people and daily life. The presentation will address the challenges that project managers face in promoting best practice urban design at the concept, business case, funding and delivery phases. Australian and International case studies will be used demonstrate the spectrum of success.

Matt Johnson is an Associate Director with Turner and Townsend, an independent management consultancy, specialising in strategic planning, advisory and management of projects.
Toward an age friendly region: Showcasing the development and achievements of the Age Friendly Illawarra Alliance

The creation of an age-friendly region that is inclusive, barrier free and designed for diversity is a goal worth aiming for. Age-friendly environments enable people to stay active, connected and positively contribute to economic, social, and cultural life long into their senior years.

To achieve this goal, the Age-Friendly Illawarra Alliance (AFIA) was formed. AFIA is a coalition of Illawarra business, government, education/research, and community organisations. The steering committee has members from Edmiston Jones GBB Architects, IRT Foundation, the University of Wollongong Global Challenges, Illawarra Pilot Joint Organisation, Healthy Cities Illawarra and NSW Family and Community Services. AFIA aims to reduce barriers and create opportunities for older people to lead active, engaged lives that contribute positively to their communities in the Illawarra region.

As resources and political mindsets focus urbanization as the panacea, the result is that inappropriate city-centric solutions are often transposed to a regional context. While many individual Councils have specific age-related strategies, AFIA believes that a cohesive, regional approach to an age-friendly environment will provide efficiencies that capitalise on the assets and expertise across LGA’s. Community participation underpins the ethos of the AFIA recognizing that it is our seniors who are the experts on their needs and, if genuinely engaged, they will give invaluable insights to inform the development of a genuine age friendly community.

This paper will outline the development of AFIA and identify the strengths of collegiate partnerships, the initiatives, and the challenges, to date. The presentation will showcase how community engagement and social development contribute to active roles for the elderly in our communities. The aspiration is that the journey, the lessons learnt and successes achieved, will inspire other regions to embrace this vision.
Rethinking the urban transport continuum: A policy and infrastructure approach for liveable and functional 21st century cities

Cities that are both liveable and functional, it is argued, are where personal mobility for work, education and social purposes are efficient for people in terms of resource allocation (time and money) and where urban amenity is enriched.

Increasing rates of urbanisation, the growth of larger and denser cities and increases in complexity and size of labour markets means that the liveability and functionality of cities is under increasing and continued pressure. Cities benefit from larger labour markets and continue to grow where the agglomeration benefits outweigh the dis-agglomeration dis-benefits. In well managed cities the agglomeration benefit margin is high creating liveability and functionality. In poorly managed cities the benefit is marginal creating liveability and functionality complaints and issues. Liveability and functionality can therefore be seen as the ‘canary in the coal mine’ for the overall performance of cities.

The traditional urban transport policy and infrastructure focus has been vehicle/capacity centric and not people centric. There is repeated talk about ‘congestion busting’ strategies yet a failure to deliver strategic solutions that address the underlying liveability and functionality requirements of increasingly larger and denser cities. This approach leads to infrastructure and policy failures which result in misallocation of scarce resources. This in turn places further pressure on the liveability and functionality of our growing cities. This paper proposes a new people-centric way of understanding urban transport through recognition that all modes across the urban transport continuum - from active transport in local neighbourhoods to motorway planning - are being impacted by a series of intensifications. These intensifications are: time or social acceleration, economic activity or agglomeration, knowledge intensification in human capital and ICT, and Spatial characteristics of transport.

To achieve increased liveability and functionality urban transport planning across the transport continuum needs to be rethought in the context of these intensifications. This paper proposes a set of urban transport principles that seek to provide a new people-centric approach to urban transport planning.
Dr Rosemary Kennedy  
Director, Subtropical Cities Consultancy

*Greening the interactional space between building and street in new multi-storey apartment buildings in the subtropical city*

Private plantings can make important contributions to public streetscapes in the subtropical city. The space of interaction, usually a transition zone on the primary frontage that links the private space of multi-storey residential buildings to the public realm of the street, is important in this discussion in the context of Brisbane’s rapidly densifying neighbourhoods.

A critical review of a sample of recently-approved apartment buildings from five to thirty storeys in Brisbane’s inner urban areas studied developments’ performance in terms of quality design for subtropical living. This paper addresses their affect on the surrounding public space, particularly the streets that they frame. Data were collected from documents submitted for development approval to the Local Authority’s online system. A 65-year-old apartment building recognised as an Australian significant building of the 20th Century was also analysed.

Brisbane City Council’s Multiple Dwelling Code (MDC) unequivocally links the city’s character and identity, and residents’ way of life, to the endemic subtropical climate and landscape. The MDC provided objective evaluation measures. Performance outcomes for code assessable apartment developments that pertain to interactional spaces promote landscape that: provides shade to pedestrian pathways; presents an integrated neighbourhood and streetscape character; and contributes positively to the amenity and the subtropical microclimate of the site, the streetscape and surrounding public spaces.

The research identified significant performance gaps between planning policy and actual outcomes. Overall, the sample delivered an overwhelming impression of a lack of greenery, with interactional spaces dominated by hard surfaces and services, and no meaningful plantings to provide shady relief over front setbacks. These findings are an example of Carmona et al’s ‘implementation gap between principles and local delivery’. The paper discusses competing objectives of different participants in the development process that prevent or encourage better outcomes for nature in urban areas.
Ms Annie Kentwell
Active Living Coordinator, Heart Foundation

Co-authors:
Dr Anthony Burton, Canberra Urban and Regional Futures

Active Living Professional Development Workshop Series; Walkshops, a practical education program for Government employees.

Background - The vision for Canberra is to be a healthy, active city that is well connected, compact and equitable. To deliver this vision and improve the long term health of the community, the Minister for Planning and Land Management is incorporating six active living principles into Canberra’s statutory planning framework (the Territory Plan).

Description - The Heart Foundation (ACT) was commissioned to deliver a series of professional development workshops to ACT Government practitioners on the incorporation of active living principles into their daily work practices. Workshops were delivered in the form of a series of practical, in the field, ‘walkshops’.

Each of the six ‘walkshops’ focused on a different principle identifying the importance of urban design and planning in supporting the implementation of that principle. ‘Walkshops’ were held in different locations throughout Canberra and were led by active living experts, supported by government officials.

Participants were asked to make their way to the ‘Walkshops’ using an active travel mode such as walking, cycling or catching a bus. This was coined the ‘Active Travel Challenge’.

Lessons Learned: There are three specific lessons learned.

- Applying theory into practice through ‘walkshopping’ is an ideal way for Government practitioners to learn through experience with 100% of participants identifying the series as effective and educational,
- The ‘Active Travel Challenge’ is an excellent tool for participants to identify the barriers to active travel, and
- There is a clear need for on going professional development within the Government and likely the private sector and general community.

Conclusion - It is possible to incorporate health and active living outcomes into the work practices of Government employees. Professional development ‘walkshops’ are a popular, successful, cost effective tool in the education of government professionals.

Support/Funding Source - This education program was undertaken with the generous support of The Australian Capital Territory Government.
Ms Joanne Kyrkilis  
Team Leader Social Policy and Planning, City of Whittlesea  

Co-author: Mr Chris Bracher, Mirvac  

Transformation through partnership  

New communities on the urban fringe of every city in Australia face enormous challenges including social isolation and the lack of adequate infrastructure, services, public transport and local employment opportunities. In particular the first residents who buy and build in a new development are most affected. The old model of waiting for significant investment before services and infrastructure are provided has been most detrimental to those new residents. New models are required. A process to guide the development of new models has come in the form of an online Growth Areas Social Planning Tool (GASPT) (www.socialplanningtool.net.au).

A key aspect of the Tool is the establishment of partnerships that pool the resources of relevant stakeholders with the common goal of facilitating community wellbeing. One such partnership has been established between the City of Whittlesea and the land developer Mirvac that will endeavour to create a best practice model of new residential development, guided by the Tool’s social planning processes and principles.

Mirvac’s Olivine development is located in the north of the City of Whittlesea in the heart of one of Melbourne’s newest residential development fronts. Notwithstanding the fact that the area will yield approximately 30,000 homes and potentially 80,000 residents within two decades, at present the site is somewhat remote from traditional service outlets.

Mirvac and the City of Whittlesea have recognised that an early and ongoing focus upon the facilitation of sustainable and self-supporting community is a critical plank in mitigating downstream well-being challenges. Mirvac’s Olivine Community Development Plan overlaps heavily with the principles of the Growth Areas Social Planning Tool which has been driven by the City of Whittlesea. Significantly, the value of working collaboratively from inception to build meaningful connections WITH residents is prominent. Moreover, Mirvac has committed to a human resourcing response inclusive of a specialist community development presence to facilitate best practice outcomes. The shared ambition is that through practical championing of the GASPT, an Olivine City of Whittlesea partnership will set new benchmarks for all developers within Melbourne’s northern development corridor and beyond. Ultimately, the partnership may yield a widespread uplift in the residential development industry’s commitment to the development of genuine social capital and the associated development of a sustainable sense of place.
10 great ideas for an active Australia

Parks and Leisure Australia is the industry peak body for parks, sport and recreation. We have a network of professionals and academics which help the organisation develop research objectives and advocacy positions. As ‘the people behind the places’ our members and our industry, recognise the importance of investing in the future health of Australians by not only encouraging them to be active, but ensuring the urban environment is one which enables activity.

We believe this is an argument of economics, investment brings returns and nowhere is the need greater than investing to reduce future costs of health. If health budgets are only considered in the context of treating illness and injury then they will continue to grow unsustainably. New thinking is needed and all urban policy, infrastructure spending and other investment should be considered in the context of the health dividend that is returned.

This presentation focuses on 10 great ideas to get Australians active and improve the social, economic and physical health of our communities.
Mr Dean Landy  
Partner, ClarkeHopkinsClarke

Empowering people and building community in the digitised world

In today’s digital world there is still a strong desire for people to connect locally and be part of a close community, which in many places is not being met as a result of social exclusion. There is a ground swell of people, young and old, who want to effect a positive change in their community but have no clear platform empowering them to access all the resources required to enact real change.

While governments are grappling with the ‘digitisation’ of their services and community engagement strategies, we are seeing a growth in the number of socially minded companies seeking positive ways to contribute to communities.

Motivated to improve the quality of people’s lives around the world Dean is developing a new digital platform called Tribus which is solely aimed at improving the livability and engagement of local communities. Tribus is a unique digital platform that will improve the way councils, companies and communities connect, and will provide a new platform for community led projects in collaboration with council. It is all about empowering people, building social capital and breaking down the barriers that exist between councils, companies and communities, and in doing so encourage people to get more engaged and connected to the community around them.

Dean will explain the unique difference of how Tribus can enable individuals and community based organisations to launch their own ideas to improve their neighbourhoods, and then helps make it happen. Tribus will allow councils to better engage and communicate with the heartbeat of local communities on issues that will affect them. Going one step further Tribus connects with companies to get them more involved at a local level and ‘give back’ to the communities around them.

When you put it all together in one platform, it becomes a powerful tool to make cool stuff happen!
Planning inclusive and diverse places for women

In 2008, an article titled Demographic change and the lives of women: what is the planner’s role? was published in Australian Planner. The article was authored by Jill Hannaford who was then a Principal Community Planner with GHD and mother of four young children. The article highlighted the important role of Australian planners in shaping our built environments to be more inclusive of all women, while recognising that women are leading increasingly varied lives. The article demonstrated that women in Australia are working and living longer; choosing not to marry or marrying later; and/or have children later in life or not at all. Jill argued that planning for housing, public transport or social infrastructure had not kept up with these demographic trends.

Recently when discussing the article and its original intent with some young planners and social scientists, the question was raised ‘does planning as a profession consciously respond to the cultural diversity in Australia and specifically to the needs of women from these groups?’. Jill put the challenge of an updated article to Carmen Lau (a second generation Australian-born Chinese female planner) and BJ Jordan (a Wiradjuri woman from Central West NSW who currently works as a stakeholder engagement consultant).

Our presentation will explore current socio-demographic characteristics of culturally diverse women in Australia, drawing comparisons to the findings of Jill’s 2008 article. We will focus on opportunities for the participation of culturally diverse women in planning and community engagement practices. We will draw from examples of Indigenous engagement programs that have achieved positive community outcomes.
Mr Guy Luscombe  
Director, Architects Johannsen + Associates  

**Age’n’dem: Age and dementia friendly streetscapes toolkit**

With around 95% of older people opting to live at home as they age and some 70% of people with dementia staying in their home environments, more needs to be done to enable aged and dementia (what we might call ‘Age’n’dem’) friendly communities. The evidence supporting the benefits of walking for is widespread and seemingly incontrovertible but how do Government and policy makers use this information to practical benefit in the community?

The evidence base, supported by over ten years of research; has resulted in few ‘end user’ practical tools being developed. As a local government with a high percentage of older people, Moonee Valley City Council sought and received funding to develop a ‘toolkit’ to help them (and others, ultimately) to implement more Age’n’dem friendly streetscapes and encourage more walking. Based on available evidence and working closely with Council and their reference focus group, the toolkit developed guidelines and techniques to assist those tasked with the responsibility of looking after the public realm for increasingly Age’n’dem communities. It was developed with four possible end goals in mind.

1. For use by Council staff and contractors when designing, constructing or upgrading new and existing infrastructure
2. To inform various stakeholders about the importance of aged friendly streetscapes and how to create them.
3. For use an audit tool for existing streetscapes to guide improvement programs.
4. As a planning tool

Age’n’dem aims to provide practical evidence based tools to help those with the responsibility of providing outdoor public urban places make local neighbourhoods more robust and user friendly for older people and people with dementia.
Mr Christopher Mahoney
Founder and Director, VERDè Design Group

**Delivering Vitamin G: An examination of the importance of green space in sustaining our well-being and ways we can address the growing shortfall in our urban centres**

It has long been recognized that exposure to green spaces offers a myriad of social, psychological and physiological benefits. Humans have a biophilic response to plants. We have evolved with and within the natural environment and the connection to nature has become hard-wired into our DNA. We feel better and respond positively in the presence of nature.

Researchers are amassing a body of evidence that indicates the far-reaching benefits of being surrounded by, and connected to, natural elements. Recently, the term “Vitamin G” has been coined when relating the many benefits of being connected to nature and greenery.

But approximately two-thirds of the world’s population is now being deprived of regular access to nature or green spaces. As populations in urban centres rise, the opportunities for the integration of green space are becoming limited.

From suburbs to cities, the drive towards higher density, vertical living and working environments, access to green space is becoming increasingly vital in sustaining our “green” needs; our desire for nature. Now, forward thinking design professionals and envisioned city planners are developing creative ways to integrate nature within our built environments; often without the need to utilise developable land. The Gardens by the Bay Supertrees in Singapore, the High Line in New York and La Linea Verde in Mexico all provide innovative green spaces, whilst the proposed Cato Square development in Melbourne and the Pavements to Parks program in San Francisco turn car parks into cultural and recreational destinations. Whilst the more typical examples involve the integration of podium and rooftop gardens, greenwalls and pocket parks, it is often the unconventional solutions that have the biggest impact.
Cities are vibrant and exciting places, but they are getting hotter and more crowded year by year. Green infrastructure is becoming better understood as part of the solution, creating shaded and cool urban environments for the community and providing environmental outcomes such as urban habitat and stormwater management.

However, the basic requirements for creating this living green infrastructure in urban centres is often overlooked and can result in the vision not being delivered. On-ground realities and real (or perceived conflicts), such as underground services, can result in sub-optimal outcomes for city landscapes. This presentation explores how water and vegetation can be successfully integrated with the civil infrastructure requirements in our urban areas, creating living city assets which deliver multiple benefits from investments. The benefits will be quantified and practical solutions will be presented which demonstrate how green infrastructure can become standard practice in our cities.
Mr Carles Martinez-Almoyna  
Research Associate & Teaching Fellow, Victoria University of Wellington

From big ideas to small interventions: achieving feasible changes through design-based university-community partnerships

The processes of landscape and urban change are long and complex. Communities are not capable of changing their physical environment by themselves due to the intricate complexities. Partnering with universities, communities experience participatory design processes and attain a variety of design solutions that can potentially fulfil their needs. Communities obtain from universities new visions and long term projects, but at the same time the empowerment to transform their physical environment through realistic and feasible changes.

Using a case study approach, this paper documents the collaboration between Victoria University of Wellington and two rural communities on the outer fringe of metropolitan areas of New Zealand. The projects were developed within design courses of landscape architecture following participatory design and Action Research methodologies. Subsequent partnerships provided a substrate for cycles of doing, reflecting, proposing action and doing, in an ongoing process.

The first case-study highlights the limitations of university-community partnerships and the influence that stakeholders can have within the long and complex processes of landscape and urban change. The second case-study shows the capacity of these partnerships to generate real changes for communities through the implementation of small and feasible projects.

This paper assesses the capacity of the design process to serve communities and universities by exploring the threshold between long term projects and short term needs. Reflections show how partnerships help communities understand and improve their physical environment while faculty gets research opportunities and students experience civic engagement.
Planning for health: Barriers and enablers for healthy planning and design at the local government scale

The rise in prevalence of various ‘lifestyle diseases’ or noncommunicable diseases has been associated with an overall decline in the walkability of Australian cities since the second half of last century. This has implications for Australians’ health and lifestyles, and there are increasingly louder calls for upstream or preventative community health measures rather than a predominantly treatment-based approach. One such way this might be (and is currently being) addressed is through urban planning and design initiatives.

This paper firstly adopts a socio-ecological perspective to examine the role of the various scales of governance and government in the Australian planning context. In taking such an approach the importance of local governments as significant shapers of and stakeholders in the built environment becomes apparent, and so, by extension, does their role in providing environments that enable and promote community health. Additionally, a multiple streams framework (MSF) is adopted to examine the agenda-setting process regarding healthy planning and design at a local scale. MSF enables conceptual analysis of policies and politics associated with a particular problem (such as prevalence of lifestyle diseases), and presents a novel conceptual framework for use in Australia and at the local government scale.

Data from surveys and interviews undertaken with built environment practitioners and healthy planning advocates is then explored, allowing for an outline of barriers and enablers for healthy urban planning initiatives at the local government scale to emerge. This knowledge, particularly how the framing of the lifestyle disease ‘problem’ and prevailing policies and politics can act as either barriers or enablers to healthy planning and design is hoped to be transferrable and of relevance to health or urban planning practitioners and healthy planning advocates across Australia, and particularly those operating at a local governance scale.
Big Data? Start your civic innovation experiments faster and put community value first with 'Small Data'; the data you already have!

This presentation advocates for 'Small Data'. Big Data is certainly interesting, but insights are not often immediately actionable and local government operates in a ‘just get on with it’ environment - that’s what our communities value. For innovation to happen in the way we want our communities to play active roles, being able to fail is critical to success ‘¦ but in local government, coming up short or failing to deliver is uncomfortable. In that environment, its ‘small data’ that becomes local government’s friend: it’s there already, it is all around, and it’s ready to be collected. To make good local decisions local government has to really understand its communities and neighbourhoods and see through their eyes. Data driven decision-making in local government is a way of putting community value - customer value - first.

This presentation features four rapid-fire practical case studies using ‘small data’ with ‘how to do it’ takeaways and ‘mistakes to avoid’: (1) layering data visually so local government can see where it can deliver the most impact with the least, (2) feeding Council’s existing service request data into Council’s existing GIS system every 24 hours to create near-live visual maps of what’s happening in the LGA, (3) an affordable new type of web-based community engagement that’s social media integrated to target the under 35’s (whose voices are traditionally under-represented), and democratic (community members can comment upon and up vote other community member suggestions), and (4) how to be a ‘data guerrilla’ within your organisation and be the change you want to see by starting a journey to data-driven, evidence-based decision-making by using with the data already donated by your community.
Mrs Michelle Milton  
Senior Planner, Strategic Planning & Economic Development, Toowoomba Regional Council

#imaginetomorrow - early engagement in the West Toowoomba land use investigation

Regional cities have a lot to offer – job opportunities, affordability, health and sense of community. Toowoomba, the ‘garden city’, was voted Queensland’s most family friendly town in a Suncorp Bank family friendly city report. When the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport opened on the western outskirts of Toowoomba in late 2014, it was the first greenfield public airport built in Australia since 1970. It is a catalyst for major growth and change. Responding to these challenges Toowoomba Regional Council has been planning West Toowoomba as a major greenfield growth area.

Thinking strategically about the future requires a different mindset – a broad, long-range, place-based and collaborative approach to problem solving and decision making. We needed innovative engagement in the planning of West Toowoomba to understand local values and balance that with the needs of future residents. This has led to the establishment of Imagine tomorrow as a project brand that has become the umbrella for strategic land use planning engagement in Toowoomba. It has set a new benchmark for how we engage, communicate and educate on planning issues – creative, collaborative, visionary and inclusive.

Using a place-based approach that emphasized best practice urban design, we embarked on collaborative and early engagement.

We developed locally a new techniques and tools including ‘plan gaming’ to harness local knowledge and creativity, a youth day and documentary, and new online engagement platforms. Being creative, interesting, and open to new ways of engagement are the keys to getting everyone more excited about and involved in their city’s future. It has contributed to a shared understanding existing local values and what makes a future West Toowoomba community liveable.

This paper shares our story of early engagement in a regional greenfield context and discusses some of the lessons learnt during this process.
Re-imagining urban life to deliver liveable neighbourhoods

At Mirvac our mission is to ‘Reimagine Urban Life’. In doing so, we want to create developments that have a sense of community; a sense of safety and security, are healthier and promote active living and have a sense of place. We therefore created the Mirvac Liveability Survey to allow us to ask our communities how they feel and how they behave to better define, value and achieve our corporate vision.

This presentation will outline Mirvac’s approach to defining liveability and its approach to developing the Mirvac Liveability Survey. It will also provide an overview of the results of two recent pilots: a masterplanned community in Western Sydney and an Inner-City apartment. These pilots showcased that while there were some differences in community values, there are also many core elements of liveability that are common to both developments and from which we can learn.

The Mirvac Liveability Survey measures our customers’ sense of community, safety, connectivity, health and wellbeing. It also measures how they value public spaces and social infrastructure along with their sense of work-life balance. Through the survey we’re able to get a picture of what our customers’ value, what they actually use as well as what they wish for.

By understanding these customer values, we are better able to make design decisions that create stronger, more resilient communities, give us a better return on our investment and enables us to track whether this translates in our customers’ willingness to pay for these attributes.
Shaping Future Cities - above and beyond the technology

Smart cities of the future are not single projects but trusted relationships among city stakeholders built over the years, working collaboratively to bring innovative solutions to citizens.

At the City of Helsinki, over more than a decade, ideas and projects that work together have steadily built a smarter city. Some of these ideas are in the transportation area — improving public bus consumption and citizen experience, others in public safety — emergency response systems, others in social care — better elder care with less costs.

Dutch Municipalities & Law Enforcement have created a system called Burgernet, which enables greater collaboration between citizens and police - now with over 1.6m users. Having operated the system for several years, it is now the core of a Europe-wide architecture project for Community Policing. This case shows the power of Citizen Engagement, particularly in building a safer society.

We believe the major challenges in creating Future Cities are not technical but cultural, organizational and governance challenges.

Often cities work in organizational silos with departments not exchanging information and ideas. One of the big advantages in establishing smart cities projects is these silos can be reduced and gradually eliminated. The right ecosystem must be created to support smart city initiatives. Bringing together start-ups, SME’s, universities and other local institutions with relevant global industry partners is crucial to facilitate cross-pollination of ideas and businesses to other locations at the national or international level.

Better engaging citizens, creating conditions for their active participation through public consultation, open data initiatives, hackathons, etc. is a fundamental part of any successful smart city program.

In diverse, multi-cultural urban environments, a Digital Inclusion strategy is key to make sure we maximize citizen engagement. The real life human experience of the public domain and the urban realm must be the priority; the technologies and infrastructure are in service of that.
Ms Rayoni Nelson
A/Manager Physical Activity, Sport and Healthy Eating, VicHealth

Co-authors:
Ms Alice Woodruff, Active City

Change to walking: using ‘nudges’ to encourage walking for short trips

With our lifestyles becoming increasingly sedentary, integrating physical activity into our daily travel routines is vital to support our health and wellbeing.

This presentation will share the journey of five trial projects that designed, implemented and evaluated the use of behavioural insights (or ‘nudge’) methods, to engage those who are less active, to change their behaviour and walk for short trips.

The Change to Walking program, a partnership between VicHealth and Victoria Walks, worked with five councils in Victoria to deliver projects, trialling behavioural interventions to increase walking to and from schools, workplaces, a public transport hub and a community hub. Each project aimed to increase walking behaviours and embedded real-world testing and evaluation to build the evidence base for ‘nudge’ interventions in encouraging walking for short trips.

While behavioural insights have been employed successfully for interventions in health settings there have been very few examples of well-evaluated ‘nudge’ interventions to increase levels of walking. In supporting councils to pilot and test a new approach to behaviour change, VicHealth and Victoria Walks have expanded the evidence base on the use of ‘nudge’ theory for future programs to increase physical activity.

Over 1,800 people were engaged through events as part of the five projects, with more than 1,000 people actively participating in interventions intended to stimulate changes in walking behaviours. Across the five projects, two-thirds of respondents reported positive intentions to walk more for short trips as a result of participating. Four out of five projects indicated an overall increase in physical activity levels by participants.

This program provides valuable learning of how small changes or ‘nudges’ can support choosing walking as an active travel option for short, regular journeys across a variety of settings.
Engaging beyond the usual suspects: Developing a regional plan for Cairns

In late 2016 Articulous Communications worked with the Cairns Regional Council to engage the local community as part of the development of a long term plan for the region. The aim of the Our Cairns project was to deeply engage beyond the small number of loud and consistent voices in the community.

From a base of 300 randomly selected community members, the combination of face to face and online engagement activities led to a record number of more than 6,000 responses. Previously the most responses received of any community survey in the Cairns region was 600. The aim of Our Cairns was to actively engage the community to provide insights into the Cairns five-year plan incorporating City planning, Cultural planning, Environmental planning and Corporate planning.

This engagement project had three phases - these surveys were a critical element that helped to build data to feed into other components to provide richer data and more detailed decision making ability.

The avatar survey tested values and provided a really rich and data-driven insight into the community. The survey produced an avatar (character) that can be shared.

The full survey gave an insight into community preferences from Council, the community's willingness to pay additional fees for service and insights into topical issues never before asked.

By comparing the two surveys, we could look at the gap or similarity between values and behaviours / opinions.

Our Cairns was the result of an engagement project, activated by the Queensland Government’s Smart Cities program, which involved a number of events across the state also facilitated by Articulous team members. The intention of the Smart Cities’ events was to identify priorities, opportunities and gain a genuine understanding of issues impacting on regional Queensland communities.

Articulous is a Brisbane based communication and engagement consultancy working across Australia.
**The Activity Based City**

The Activity Based City (ABC) is a new way to think of the city.

A city that is designed to evolve with purpose and direction to achieve a clear Brand objective. The growth of Activity Based Work, ABW means our cities are extensions of the workplace, essentially becoming, Activity Based Cities.

We explore the ABW mode of analysis at the city planning level. No longer driven by the title boundary or office security. We work anywhere. Our technologies allow us to separate but we come together, we like the cities complexity and as social beings we want to belong, work, develop and share. How do we develop the right mix, place, culture to achieve success? Does this create the BRAND of the city? What do we need to satisfy and attract new generations for whom collaboration and exchange between fellow participants is now normal from early learning to PHD. Are we designing the right cities? How do we achieve the right mix of control and experimentation and provide the soft spaces or OFF zones to give us the healthy mix. This is the next wave of workplace +city innovation. What might this new city look and what are some of the challenges?
Activating communities through innovative transformation of local places for physical activity

This presentation will share the journey and outcomes of five Victorian local government projects that transformed an under used space into a place that engaged the local community in a range of physical activities and created opportunities for social connection.

Under VicHealth’s Community Activation program, the five projects transformed a range of spaces including parks, streets, civic spaces and car parks, within both metropolitan and regional areas.

Using principles known as tactical urbanism or place making, the fast, low cost, temporary and dynamic site transformations included elements of arts, discovery and play.

Over several months the sites became a focus for a range of physical activities that aimed to engage and inspire local people to be more active as well as strengthen social connections. Participatory arts was a focus across each site, with strategic partnerships formed with major arts organisations “including Circus Oz, The Australian Ballet and Arts Centre Melbourne.

Two local government projects have continued to focus on integrating and building upon the outcomes of their initial program through policy and practice change and by creating and embedding community engagement and capacity building approaches to support residents and community groups to activate their own local community.

This presentation will highlight the key outcomes and learnings from the projects, including their legacy in influencing longer term change for creating community spaces which support active living and socially connected communities.
Associate Professor Roel Plant
Associate Professor and Research Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney

More trees please: towards an Australian set of urban green space metrics

There is mounting evidence that urban vegetation can offer a range of benefits to urban populations. How can we drive demand for increased urban greening in Australian communities through urban planning? Measurement is an obvious critical factor. This project seeks to ‘blueprint’ a nationally consistent tool for quantifying performance metrics for greening in Australia’s urban environments. Our research seeks to align Australia with global best practice for healthy, biodiverse and cost-effective green spaces. The project is led by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology Sydney under Horticulture Innovation’s Green Cities fund.

Qualitative research methods were combined in two research phases between January and July 2017. 15 phone interviews and 5 half-day focus groups with stakeholders across Australia (state and local government and industry) determined what instruments are currently used, what is desired, and what is still missing. Secondly, a comprehensive literature review surveyed current urban green space metrics and categorisations at different spatial scales, bolstered by internationally representative case studies. From the combined results, a ‘blueprint’ will be built: a visual artefact demonstrating how Australia’s current and future urban green spaces can be measured, mapped, monitored and reported.

The 15 completed stakeholder interviews determine the ‘state of play’ for metrics, definitions and approaches to design and plan for urban green spaces. We are currently conducting focus groups with potential end users of the ‘blueprint’ in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane. So far we found there is no ‘silver bullet’ set of metrics used consistently. Nevertheless common instruments and measures exist across stakeholder groups. Findings will be enriched as we complete the research between now and June. We will present the final version of the ‘blueprint’, format, suggested evolution and eventual application by end users to drive future demand for urban greening in Australia.
Ms Gabriela Quintana Vigiola  
Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney

**Understanding the boundaries and inclusiveness of urban spaces of Caracas’ barrios through territorial transferral process**

When delving into community dynamics and people’s relationship with urban spaces in Caracas’ barrios, several questions arise regarding the nature and use of public and private spaces. How are the private and public defined in barrios? Who owns the urban (public) space? Do public spaces really belong to everyone?

The aim of this paper is to present the concept of territorial transferral process (TTP) and its link to the community-urban space relationship. This concept arose as an outcome of my research about placemaking. Through interpreting the underlying processes of the activities in the urban space of barrios, it became evident how TTP deeply affects the use and construction of the meaning that people give to the urban space, also impacting the inclusiveness of public spaces.

By applying a qualitative approach to understand the participants’ perspectives on the interaction between the barrio community and their urban space, this research showed that the conception, appropriation and use of urban spaces are flexible. These depend on experiences, activities and social relationships. Also, through this research the concept of TTP and its two components, emotional and boundary transferral arose, explaining the complex tangible (physical and use) and intangible (psychological) boundaries that barrios’ urban space embeds.
**Liveability, lifestyle and choice in Toowoomba**

Toowoomba is one of Australia’s smallest cities, on a national population ranking it comes in at 16th. On a global ranking it would not register and yet the little city is starting to get increasing levels of attention for being a highly desirable place to live.

Toowoomba’s desirability is built on a number of key factors.

Unlike unsustainable boom towns, the growth of Toowoomba is steady and based on a diverse economic base. While it has always been a key regional centre connecting the rich agricultural land of the Darling Downs to the economic coastal cluster of South East Queensland, it is relatively new on the city stage and is both revelling in and worrying in the spotlight.

Recent and planned improvements through major infrastructure investment will see economic growth continue if not accelerate into the future. The side effects of economic investment in Toowoomba has been a revitalisation of the CBD, an increase in building approvals, and a greater level of complexity in city planning and community engagement.

The community of Toowoomba is changing and residents are concerned that it will impact on liveability. Toowoomba Regional Council has undertaken community visioning to inform growth management and local planning. When asked about what they love about their city the community rates ‘lifestyle’ as highly important. Lifestyle is the way we choose to live. Liveability is focussed how well the places where we live support the quality of our lives.

The successful management of growth in regional centres as they transition from town to city is contingent on good planning including good listening. What works in a big city might not work locally. The measure of success should be locally relevant even as we compare ourselves to other cities through indices of liveability.
Ms Natalie Rayment
Co-Founder, YIMBY Qld

Can I be your neighbour?

It’s the century of the city, a decade of densification in an urban millennium. In the space of a New York Minute, cities are growing up fast. We are living closer together like never before: In 2007, the world’s urban population overtook that of rural dwellers. In the next twenty years, the United Nations predicts that the urban population will double and that ‘More than 60 percent of the built environment needed to accommodate these new urban dwellers by 2030 has yet to be constructed’.

The two largest demographic groups in our history (millennials and baby boomers) both desire urban environments to live, work and play. Our cities are growing and most of that growth is no longer welcome at the edges but focused right in our backyards, as infill development. Yet the media overwhelmingly sympathises with the NIMBYs, the not in my back yard naysayers, all too often protecting their property values with a sense of entitlement rather than what’s best for the whole community. Community groups are increasingly well resourced to object to new development. West End’s new Councillor is teaching his community how to protest. Housing is fast becoming out of reach for many Australians, with the affordability gap increasing to nearly $100,000 in Queensland according to Matusik Property Insights.

There’s never been a more important time to have a community conversation about the community benefits of density done well. This paper will present the YIMBY (yes in my back yard) Qld platform, established to bring back some balance to the urban policy debate, to dispel urban myths and to celebrate and encourage development that makes for better living. This is a global movement in response to the escalating cost of housing and development in major cities around the world. YIMBY Qld is spearheading the movement in Australia.
Caring for an ageing population and community heritage

In an environment where many Councils have reduced or ceased their involvement in the provision of aged and disability services, Kiama Council has chosen to expand its presence. Kiama Council operates Blue Haven Care Village, comprising 200 independent living units and Blue Haven Care, which provides in-home age and disability services and an 82 place residential aged care home.

In an exciting time of expansion, Council is commencing the construction of a replacement home that will be expanded to accommodate 134 residents and aims to be a Centre of Aged Care Excellence. There will also be another 59 independent living units, offices for the community based staff a community hall and meeting rooms. However, the most exciting part of this development is the overall intent. Council has purchased the under-utilised and contaminated site that was the ageing Kiama Hospital. Together with the Local Health District, funding was obtained to construct a new building for the out-patient facilities that had been delivered from the hospital site, ensuring the community does not lose access to important health services such as physiotherapy, dental, ante-natal services, podiatry and audiology. The proximity of this health service to the aged care facility will promote collaboration and improve access for aged care residents. The site will be remediated and all activity will be influenced by the knowledge gained from Council’s Dementia Friendly project.

The hospital site also incorporates a heritage listed home that has fallen into disrepair and not suitable for any use for a number of years. Council intends to restore the home and provide public access through the incorporation of a café and art workshop. This aims to increase the opportunity for community members and aged care residents to interact and encourage people to consider the aged care site as part of the overall community.
Ms Paula Saad Antonio
Architect and Urban Designer, Arup Pty Ltd

Community engagement and participation in the master planning process - lessons from Brazil

Many cities recognise the benefits of embedding community participation in the early stages of a masterplanning project to ensure the absorption of its community’s opinions, aspirations and needs. For the past few years, Latin American countries have adopted community engagement in the planning process, and cities around Brazil and Colombia have now incorporated this as a one of the first steps in developing plans for urban transformation. Latin American countries are witnessing the interest of organized communities and the public sector has opened the dialogue about what is the city should be for its residents.

My presentation will be based on my experience as a practicing architect and urban designer on two major projects in Brazil, in which citizens and developers worked together to accomplish a successful outcome and how this enabled the achievement of a greater ease of implementation when aligned with its end users. In Sao Paulo, a major slum regeneration project called Favela do Sapé, in which almost 2,000 people were benefited with 700 new dwellings and a new public open space connected with the city network, demonstrates a participatory process between the technical team, the city council and the leaders of that community.

The initiative from the city council was to ensure that the project outcome was in line with the needs of those who live and work in that place – and consequently the commitments with the new housing units, commercial and public areas that were generated with the proposal.

The second project is located in Foz do Iguaçu and involved the revision of the City Masterplan and Zoning based on the aspirations of the city council and through workshops, in which citizens from different sectors across the city were able to express their ambitions for major changes and the main weaknesses that they were current experiencing within the city. The outcome of these workshops was the actual return to the masterplanning team on how to advance on the development of the Strategic Plan that should govern the city’s growth over the next 20 years.
Ms Carley Scott  
CEO, Developing East Arnhem Limited

Towns in transition: From policy to practice, and success

In 2014, the township of Nhulunbuy was facing a halving of its population following the suspension of production at the Gove alumina refinery. Mining was facing a downturn, and so too were many mining and manufacturing towns across Australia. The story of towns in transition is all too common, but, stories of integrated efforts and innovative approaches that address transition challenges are much rarer.

In this presentation, Carley Scott (CEO of Developing East Arnhem) will share stories about the strategic approaches that have shaped one town’s future against all odds. They are stories of innovation, collaboration, and measurable outcomes that are now influencing the way that governments and industry across Australia, and internationally, are approaching planning for towns in transition.

Following considerable efforts by government, industry and the local community to understand what opportunities and challenges may lay ahead, all groups agreed that an independent company would be well placed in identifying, and driving desperately needed economic development opportunities for the region. In November 2014, Developing East Arnhem Limited was established with $4M in total seed funding Rio Tinto and the Northern Territory Government, and a commitment of up to 250 Rio Tinto housing assets to support the company ongoing. The structure was going to be a first, with autonomy to make tough decisions and focus on priority projects that would help the region grow.

In 24 months, entity made over $1M cash available to local business growth projects, attracted new start-up ventures, supported outreach to over 35 Indigenous entrepreneurs, commenced discussions on 20 major projects worth over $200M, advocated for adjusted research methods that could be applied across Northern Australia, and, supported the growth of over 230 jobs in the region. It’s a story with significant, measurable outcomes, and a one that is worth sharing as government and industry continue to work on delivering increasingly livable, resilient and sustainable towns across Australia.
Ms Louise Sureda  
Director, Planning & Environment Services, Transport for New South Wales  

Co-authors: Mr Tim Green, Transport for New South Wales

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**Light Rail - a catalyst for change in Western Sydney**

The re-introduction of light rail is becoming an ever increasing trend across Australia. Major cities are seeing the benefits light rail brings to the revitalisation of places within communities. Light rail brings a more efficient form of transport that reduces congestion and promotes gentrification of urban environments and form.

Light rail in general is a more local/regional system of movement within a community that appeals to a wider demographic of customers for reasons of safety, frequency and local accessibility to services, facilities and attractions. Light rail is more than a commute to work and the user profile has a more 24hr vibrancy of social connection and encouraging the night time economy.

Light rail requires an integrated solution with other modes of transport, promoting active transport with bicycle infrastructure, increased walkability and stimulating urban renewal areas.

Greater Parramatta is undergoing rapid growth and change, with an additional one million people set to call Western Sydney home in the next 20 years. In response, the NSW government is developing a new light rail in Parramatta, to service the Greater Parramatta to Olympic Peninsula. Parramatta Light Rail will support the growth area by connecting people to jobs, education and leisure opportunities and helping to create new communities. It will also support the government’s focus on revitalising the wider Greater Parramatta to Olympic Peninsula area.

Planning for the Greater Parramatta to Olympic Peninsula priority growth area will provide opportunities for new community facilities, vibrant public spaces and homes close to transport links and jobs in the Parramatta CBD.
Mr David Matthew Taylor
Director, Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects

Co-authors: Dr Iain Brammer, Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects

A basis for sustainable evolution

The connection between place and historical memory is a powerful and enduring one, one that people derive a sense of identity and pride based on place. In this age of high paced evolution, how does the past inform and inspire the new diaspora and cities of the 21st century?

Matthew Taylor will investigate a sense of place by providing a broad overview of the evolution of cities from the Middle Ages to the concept of the 21st city. By recognising and valuing existing fabric, the incorporation of new city concepts can seamlessly tie these two together.

In understanding the evolution of cities, a basis for sustainable evolution is formed by visualising cities as high performance ecological machines while respecting the heritage of place. The engagement of community in the project ensures a social sustainability matrix. By instigating the reconnection of nature in cities, strategies can be created that reduce global warming and increase wellbeing for the community. Successful projects that utilise low energy consumption include a cultural, social and physical framework. These frameworks are under an ever increasing pressure to provide a sustainable living environment through the effects of global warming. The presentation will demonstrate how Taylor Brammer Landscape Architects have successfully utilised principles such as those to provide us with a viable future for our cities. This design approach is exemplified in works at the UOW Innovation Campus for the Illawarra Flame house. The project was a collaboration between students, design professionals and the community and was awarded top prize in the 2013 Solar Decathlon, an international competition held in Datong, China.
Dr Simon Toze
Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO

Adaptive cycles of Australian cities

To understand emerging opportunities and challenges in Australian cities, the CSIRO initiated a project to explore the resilience of Australian cities for the 21st century. The team embarked on a series of workshops to develop scenarios, building on a process similar to that used for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. To this point, workshops have been carried out in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Darwin and Sydney. In each of the workshops, participants have worked through critical uncertainties and mapped four plausible futures along two axes. On reviewing the narratives the various scenarios, it is very clear that participants have been thinking of cities as going through adaptive cycles (i.e. boom-bust cycles). The progression of the storylines tends to follow this pattern:

- Progress continues until the city reaches a point where challenges are being increasingly difficult to deal with and this situation is built up to a point where the city phases some kind of hardship. We refer to these as pressures.

- In response to pressures crossing a threshold, the city has to deal with a range of negative consequences and thus the status quo is challenged. This triggers the innovation cycle where a city considers its options and implements new strategies.

- The reorganisation phase tends to be followed by wellbeing and success in achieving a number of goals; but as the ensuing exploitation continues, new pressures build up again and the cycle keeps going.

This project has been able to map out a range of pressures, and innovation cycles; including any associated benefits and unintended consequences. The outcome of this project underscores the importance of futures thinking as a critical element of strategic planning for cities. It is not strange that a similar methodology is now being adopted by key urban stakeholders. We are currently in the process of making the scenarios relevant for strategic planning, and to create a new definition of urban resilience.
Mr Peter Vollert  
Manager, Ecoflo Wastewater Management

**Low cost low tech infrastructure solutions: a place for waterless composting toilets**

As our cities grow, so does the demand for essential infrastructure to support this growth. Funding growth to achieve sustainable outcomes is critical. How do we balance the demands for infrastructure with supply? And how can we do this such that urban growth is sympathetic with the natural, cultural and social demands that underpin a healthy and vibrant community?

We need to think outside the box and seek out clever and innovative ways to address the challenges that make our cities liveable. A ‘one solution fits all’ approach is not the answer. Planners and practitioners need the flexibility to tailor solutions to fit budgets, satisfy demand and meet community expectations. Human waste management is a case in point.

Often, traditional technologies for managing human waste become the default solution in the first instance. While these technologies are highly effective in transporting and treating waste, they often lack synergy with contemporary philosophies in water conservation and recycling. To this end, alternate systems are available and have been used successfully for centuries. These systems can have broader appeal and should be included in the mix of options available for managing waste. One of these options that deserves consideration are ‘waterless composting toilets’.

Waterless composting toilets are not new. They utilise natural processes to breakdown material like the back yard composting bin. The bi-product can then be used as a valuable source of fertiliser. There is no requirement for costly treatment plants, chemicals or elaborate plumbing works to setup. Therefore, the start-up costs are low, and when working correctly, are inexpensive to run and maintain. A recent study by Anand and Apul (2010) comparing composting toilets with 4 other toilet technologies through a lifecycle analysis, suggest composting toilets are far superior economically and environmentally.

Waterless composting toilets are ideal where the costs of installing conventional toilets are prohibitive. In addition, the green credentials of waterless composting toilets are a logical fit with water conservation and recycling initiatives.
Mrs Jaymie Webster  
Principal Planner Strategic Planning, Central Highlands Regional Council  
  
Co-authors: Mrs Michaela Huelin, Central Highlands Regional Council  

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**Beazley Park and the Rolleston Coffee Cart**

The story so far… in 2012 Central Highlands Regional Council (CHRC) prepared the Central Highlands 2022 Community Plan. We have been continuing to work with and deliver on our community plan and as a result in 2014 and 2015 CHRC established community reference groups (CRG’s) across our thirteen (13) identified communities. Each CRG provides representation of a cross-sector of the community to ensure that a wide sample of the community population is represented. Council is represented on the CRG through a local councillor and member of the community development team.

Rolleston is a small town with a population of approximately 109 persons and has a broader rural population of 291. The Rolleston CRG was established in 2015. The next step in the process of the community plan is implementation. The Rolleston 2022 CRG have been working through the Rolleston action plan where it was identified early on that the local park, Beazley park, was the central focal point of the town, which needed some beautification to revitalise this space for residents and tourists/visitors.

Since this time the Rolleston CRG have taken advantage of knowledge and skills available internally within council, through the planning and parks and garden teams, and worked collaboratively to create a concept plan for Beazley Park and numbered priorities to stage the delivery.

The community of Rolleston have started the ‘Rolleston coffee cart in the park’ (check out their Facebook page!!). The cart itself has been decorated and donated by a member of the community and the cart is run by dedicated bunch of volunteers. All funds raised from the operation of the coffee cart are going towards the beautification of Beazley park project “the coffee cart started operation in March 2016 and operated during the drive-tourism season, which concluded in September 2016, and raised over $30,000.

CHRC, in this year’s budget, has allocated $20,000 to each CRG. This combined with the fundraised amount and successful grant applications will mean the beautification project will be able to be delivered earlier than if Council needed to plan and budget for the project to take place.

The Beazley Park beautification project is a great example of council asking, listening to and working with the community to deliver outcomes the community want. The Rolleston CRG, and the CRG’s as a whole, are helping to develop relationships and trust between CHRC and the community.
Dr Marci Webster-Mannison
Architect, Melbourne Design Studios

Co-authors: Ms Irina Anastasiu, PhD Candidate, Urban Infomatics Research Lab, Queensland University of Technology & Mr Taylor Redwood, Honours Student, School of Historical and Philosophical Inquiry, The University of Queensland

An urban phenomenon is taking place in the streets of Brisbane

The Right to the City is at the heart of the New Urban Agenda adopted by the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in October 2016. This paper explores the theory and practice of grassroots urbanism focusing on the Right to the City (RttC) movement in Brisbane. Questions are raised about the nature of cities, what we want cities to be, and how we can remake the city through community-oriented practices and direct action.

With the creeping privatisation of urban space, there is a growing backlash against the loss of public space, overcrowded schools, ineffective public transport, dangerous pedestrian and cycling conditions, inappropriate and unsustainable development, and unaffordable housing, along with many other issues.

Right to the City Brisbane is engaged in a range of social and environmental justice campaigns including tactical urbanism projects, such as guerrilla gardening, and public street performance art, and supporting opposition to inappropriate urban development schemes, such as the Queen’s Wharf Integrated Resort which involves the privatisation of some 7% of the CBD.

In the process of re-imagining the city, we start to change not only the city, but how we relate to each other within it -- the places where we meet and the places we care for. By inviting residents to put forward ideas about development, the RttC’s ‘people’s urbanism’ is starting to expose the biases of the Brisbane City Council which are revealed in its planning processes and outcomes. Paralleling this movement, one inner-city Council ward has implemented a community voting process through which residents directly decide how to spend the local Parks and Footpaths budget.

The paper concludes with a discussion of how urban planning might use collective voices to conceptualise and nurture social and ecological justice in cities.
Bring nature and children back into the neighbourhood

Nature Play Queensland believes that there is solid evidence supporting the worldwide movement to urgently have children spending more time playing and being in nature. The evidence indicates that time spent in natural environments is vital to children’s physical, social and mental wellbeing and development. Unstructured play outdoors, in natural areas and with natural materials is the particular focus of NPQ which is a State wide and funded advocacy service that provides a range of activities and resources that encourages families, educators and service providers to consider children’s right to play and the benefits of playing outdoors and in natural settings.

Three years of partnership building, advocacy, events and gathering hundreds of ideas to involve children in nature play, NPQ is ready to embark on a new era of service delivery and will share with you a vision for getting children back into nature to play.

Nature play can start in your yard and emanate to footpaths and open spaces in your neighbourhood. Schools, kindy’s and child care centres are moving to bringing nature back at a suburb level. Local and State Governments should move towards making natural areas safer, more accessible and playable particularly in neighbourhood natural areas, parks and open spaces. NPQ will explore a range of options for making nature more accessible and playable in people’s neighbourhoods.

NPQ is, along with hundreds of other organisations around Australia, part of a worldwide movement to get children off screens and reaping the benefits of playing outdoors and in natural environments. The presentation will present facts, figures and ideas to stimulate your imagination and help you remember the best parts of your childhood - which are likely to be outdoor ones. In doing so, you may want to become part of something transformative particularly for the lives of children.
Beyond Placemaking: How to inspire active citizens to shape neighbourhoods that people love and feel connected to.

Everyone wants to live in a thriving neighbourhood: A place where you know and like your neighbours, with a vibrant local economy; inclusive places which reflect the diversity of the community they’re built around. Urban planning rhetoric is littered with visions for such neighbourhoods. Yet so many projects fail to live up to their promise.

Why? Poor-quality high-rise towers lead to mono-functional placeless estates that lack diversity of tenants, increase social isolation and diminish participation in public space (Goad, 2015). While on the fringe, low density suburbs are correlated with increased in chronic illness and lower levels of social connection (Whitzman, 2006). Placemaking is often heralded as the solution to this problem. But does placemaking go far enough to address community resilience, and more importantly - is it sustainable?

The Tactical Urbanism Guide: Australia and New Zealand (Hartley, Lydon 2014) highlights more than 30 case studies of temporary placemaking activities across the two nations. While all of the projects demonstrated strong community participation, few were community-led (Hartley, Lydon, 2014). This is in stark contrast to similar studies in the USA and Latin America where the majority of projects were run by citizens (Lydon, 2015).

Without engaged local leadership, placemaking activities are unlikely to achieve the long-term social benefits for which they were intended, and may require unsustainable support from council. The Neighbourhood Project, an initiative of CoDesign Studio, tackles this problem with new approaches to citizen-led placemaking. This approach works with councils to cut red tape and regulation to enable local action while strengthening local leadership.

The Neighbourhood Project has pioneered a three-part People-Process-Place paradigm which challenges traditional top down city-making and offers an improved, collaborative model. Using these three Pillars, this presentation will respond to three bold questions:

1. People: What’s required to enable community groups to shape local public spaces?
2. Process: How can local governments work for, rather than against, community action?
3. Place: How can we create and sustain public spaces that promote resilience?

Backed by the Myer Foundation and Resilient Melbourne (part of the Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities initiative), The Neighbourhood Project is now Australia’s largest placemaking program. Its impact model offer a key insights for scaling up community-led placemaking in neighbourhoods nationally.
**Ms Josephine Raftery**  
Principal Planner, Toowoomba Regional Council

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**GreenIS - A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Toowoomba Region**

Toowoomba Regional Council has recently undertaken community consultation on GreenIS: A Green Infrastructure Strategy for Toowoomba Region. The purpose of the Consultation was to inform, consult and collaborate with the Toowoomba community to understand what living assets are valued and why. Toowoomba City is a centre known for its gardens, parks and street trees. The components of Green Infrastructure will be illustrated and described through a series of infographics that aim to represent the range of green infrastructure through relatable urban landscape typology.

This includes urban forests, living architecture, water sensitive urban design and linear movement corridors. The benefits represented will include general and local examples of how Green infrastructure provides improvement to health and well-being, better social connection, Economic and environmental enhancement and underpin the unique connection to landscape and place character.

A snapshot the outcomes of the community consultation including an evaluation of values choice and examples of the strength of storytelling as a means to test values will also be displayed.

**Ms Jasmine Roberts**  
Ecological Sustainable Design Engineer, Arup

Co-authors: Dr Anne Kovachevich, Arup

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**Australia’s first WELL Building**

The WELL Building Standard has made its first official appearance in Australia with Mirvac’s 200 George Street Headquarters - Australia’s first building to achieve certification under the WELL Building Standard. While the green building movement has been moving toward increasing importance human experience, building owners and organisations are now facing the challenge of how to do even more for their people. Similar to what Green Building Council Australia’s Green Star rating tool did to environmental sustainability, the WELL Building Standard hopes to accelerate the role of human wellbeing in the design of our built environment.

It sets a high benchmark for what makes up a healthy building and is already transforming the property market with most major developers registering their major commercial projects. The poster presentation will introduce conference participants to the ‘concepts’ of the WELL building standard - air, water nourishment, light, fitness, comfort and mind and some of the major ‘features’ that make up each. It will highlight design elements of 200 George Street fitout that lead to a Gold WELL building rating and aspects of the 6 Star Green Star rated base building design that enabled a healthy fitout. The poster presentation will also summarise the uptake of the standard in the Australian Property market since the launch of the tool in October 2014.