

REFEREED PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

2nd Bi-ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

The State of Australian Cities

**THE AUSTRALIAN SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND
REGIONS NETWORK**

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Preface

The 2nd Bi-Annual National Conference on the State of Australian Cities, hosted by the Urban Research Centre of Griffith University, was held on Brisbane's South Bank from 30th November to the 2nd December 2005. It was attended by over 250 academics and researchers from Australia, New Zealand and, even, South Africa.

The overarching conference meta-theme was: *The Sustainability and Vulnerability of Urban Australia*. The purpose of the conference was to report on current research into issues of urban and regional sustainability, to discuss the research with practitioners and public servants, to identify research gaps and to improve our understanding of the state of Australian cities.

Papers to SOAC II were produced in a process of integrated peer review.

All conference proposal abstracts were reviewed by the Academic Convenor, Professor Patrick Troy, AO who assigned those deemed suitable to one of six conference theme Panels. Each panel comprised noted scholars from a range of disciplines and regions grouped around a substantive area of urban research. In addition to deciding which abstracts to accept, panels also offered advice on how potential papers could be improved. The Chairs of each theme panel provided a summary of comments made by the Panel on each of the reviewed proposals. Those not selected were given an explanation of the Panel decision.

On receipt of the full papers each Panel read draft copies of the papers and suggested amendments.

Following presentation at the conference authors were required to revise their papers in light of the general discussion and in response to the specific suggestions of the rapporteurs of their theme and the review panel.

The papers were then re-submitted for final review by the Academic Convenor acting as proceedings editor (in consultation with the relevant Panel Chairs).

There were originally 235 papers proposed, 130 were invited to present and 89 were finally published.

Copies of the proceedings are available on the Conference Website: <http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/>

Introduction

The aim of the SOAC conference was to highlight and debate the best Australian urban scholarship, and to improve thereby the understanding of the nature of Australian cities and urban regions. The conference focused on empirical scholarship, not on academic theory, and aimed to attract contributions from a wide variety of researchers working in a range of professional sectors, including consultancies, professional organisations and all levels of government.

The Conference had four specific aims:

1. To review the condition of the contemporary Australian City, based on the latest empirical evidence, in order to better understand current patterns, processes and drivers and how they are related to the range of pressures produced by population growth and change, environmental pressures, market liberalisation and globalisation.
2. To identify research gaps and to suggest priorities for future research funding.
3. To identify and showcase policy relevant research.
4. To provide a forum for dialog between researchers, practitioners and policy makers.

The conference proceedings were grouped into six key sub-themes, each the focus of one of more conference sessions and each with its own multi-disciplinary Editorial Review Panel:

- *The city economy* - economic change and labour market outcomes of globalisation, land use pressures, changing employment locations.
- *The social city*– including population, migration, cultures, immigration, polarisation, equity and disadvantage, housing issues, recreation.
- *The environmental city* - sustainable development, management and performance, natural resource management, limits to growth, impacts of air, water, climate, energy consumption, natural resource uses, conservation, green space.
- *Changing city structures* – the emerging morphology of the city – inner suburbs, middle suburbs, the CBD, outer suburbs and the urban-rural fringe, the city region.
- *City governance* – including, finance, taxation, provision of urban services, public policy formation, planning, urban government, citizenship, accountability and the democratic process.
- *Infrastructure - the connected city* – transport, mobility, accessibility, communications and IT, water supply and sewerage and other urban infrastructure provision.

The conference ambition was to produce focussed discussion in each sub-theme. These discussions were chaired and recorded by Rapporteurs. Their reports are reproduced below.

City Economy - Rapporteur Summary (Pauline McGuirk)

The City Economy sessions yielded papers that can usefully be grouped under four main strands. First there were a series of theoretically oriented papers that

problematised our understandings of the nature and drivers of urban economic change. Several took generalised theoretical propositions about the conditions and trajectories of urban economies in the context of globalisation and tested them empirically against Australian cities to raise important questions and to demonstrate critical departures. The second strand dealt with aspects of the ‘new economy’ and the multifaceted implications of new patterns in the social organisation of work, new work practices and locational factors that appear to shape and reflect ‘new economy’ processes. The third strand involved a vibrant series of papers that presented fascinating and empirically rich investigations of ‘old chestnut’ issues of the urban economy—labour markets, mobility, housing markets, affordability— but took on the new complexity and spatiality connected to their contemporary manifestations. Finally, the fourth strand focused on the development of tools and techniques to assist urban economy management—spatial modelling and economic risk assessment tools specifically.

I want to highlight two core, overarching issues that arose in various ways through several of the strands and suggest some important research gaps: the question of spatiality and the problem of data. First, to spatiality. As a geographer it seems self-evident to me that questions of spatiality rise to the surface when dealing with contemporary transformations of the urban economy, but this was a concern across the disciplinary and practitioner groups represented in these sessions. The importance of having a spatialised understanding of urban economic processes *at many scales* emerged as a central question time and time again. At the fine scale, attention focused on the cluster, as a means of accommodating innovation, information exchange and face-to-face transactions, and its role in maintaining the entrenched centralisation of urban activity particularly in the advanced financial and business services. Attention was also focussed on significant respatialisations of key economic activities, notably office work. Careful reflection was also given to the spatially uneven impacts and outcomes of macro-economic policies.

Particularly important in our discussions of labour markets was the over-powering evidence that proximity of workers to jobs does not equal accessibility: in labour markets proximity and accessibility are not the same thing. The strong inference here was that we need to wed our analyses of proximity to analysis of access to the infrastructure of social reproduction: to affordable housing, to flexible, reliable public transport and transit arrangements, to childcare and support services.

These discussions suggested, then, two major research gaps. First is the relationship between labour markets and housing markets; their integration and interaction. Second is the complex frameworks of behaviour and decision-making that shape the residential choices of the household and locational choices of firms and corporations. There is a need for much more widespread research to unpack the economic, and the social and cultural factors shaping decision-making and configuring the trade-offs that are made within households with multiple attachments to labour markets and multiple journeys-to-work, as well as multiple other, multi-direction intra-urban movements to be accounted for. These are not easily standardised nor routinised. We need to move towards multi-method quantitative and quality research that can give us deeper insight into these imbrications of labour markets, housing markets and consumption choices. In short this research is needed to give us more robust insights into the increased complexity of what the urban economy is.

Second, then, to data issues. Across the papers we dealt with the issue of a seemingly expanding mismatch between generally available data sets, the geographical scales at which they are available, and emergent data needs. We need data both at finer, unit record scales and at larger scales to capture both the quite localised complexity and the

global connections and flows that shape urban economies, a facet plagued by the persistence of ‘state-istics’ unable to account easily for cross-national flows. Specifically, there is an acute absence of available data on information flows and telecommunications flows at a variety of scales.

In particular on the issue of data availability, intense concern was expressed about intended changes to the availability of census data at the CD level. It appears that in future, the ABS intends that CD data will no longer be made available, meaning the loss of spatial continuity across time-series data at that scale. So for those for whom that has been a critical scale, the end of CD level data means a ‘year zero’ of sorts. The implications of this for understanding the fine grain of urban change over time, right at the point when increased urban complexity means that a coarser scale misses the actual patterning of change, are very serious. It is fundamentally important that we communicate more effectively with the ABS on the necessity of maintaining public access to CD level data.

The city economy sessions offered several calls to action regarding data, methodologies, spatiality, theoretical and empirical focus points. It is clear that urban economies are growing increasingly complex in their spatiality, driving forces, and patterning and that we need to develop new empirical and theoretical frameworks to enable our understandings to keep pace with their transformations.

The Social - Rapporteur Summary (Daniela Stehlik)

Nineteen papers were part of the Social City stream, with a fairly even spread between macro, meso and micro analyses of issues confronting cities. Two papers from overseas (Auckland/Johannesburg) were included. Australian cities included: Sydney; Melbourne; Adelaide; Brisbane; Newcastle and Geelong. It was disappointing that there was nothing received from NT, ACT, Tasmania or Western Australia. The major focus of papers was on public housing, although there was a small, but important, component looking at the impact of large scale developments. Little work is being done on ‘elite’ housing or the impact of gated communities in wealthy areas particularly in regard to sustainability in design and planning.

There was a reasonable spread between ‘theory’ perspectives and descriptive papers on projects completed. There was also a strong interdisciplinary component – which is important – as the issues facing the social city are complex and should not be assigned to one particular discipline. Having said that, it is important that those researchers moving into an area for the first time make themselves aware of the history of research in that area, and not present their work as something essentially ‘new’ when in fact it has been covered by other disciplines and is simply ‘new’ to the researcher, but not necessarily to the knowledge community.

The other positive factor was the number of papers from students that gives hope for the long term research outcomes.

There was a comment from the workshop that the Social City was in a state of ‘renaissance’ in terms of research, and it is important that this energy be captured and leveraged into the future.

What have we learned?

- That place matters – as both a physical and social experience.
- That locating public housing in resource rich neighbourhoods is likely to enhance their residents' life chances
- That social interventions are more effective than physical/spatial interventions in reducing crime in public housing areas
- Where there is social mix, there is an alleviation of the 'grim circumstances' of people's lives in public housing estates.
- Place is contested and place-based partnerships are not 'easy' they need effort and energy. It is one of the great challenges of the social city.
- We need to know more about place and its meanings for all citizens – not just assume from our 'Anglo' perspective that we just 'know'. (The recent Sydney unrest is spectacularly indicative of this).
- We have some spatial data now regarding race and racism – we need more detailed 'ground truthing'.
- The impact of the media on place and stigma associated with place needs to be more fully analysed.

What can we do?

Some of the early lessons from preliminary work in suburban development in western Sydney can inform planners and developers about future proposals. We need to link our research findings to enable action.

Assumptions about place and stigma associated with place/s need to be continually challenged by us all.

The complex social city requires rigor in methodologies to research and interpret.

While the statistical analysis is important it often misses the micro analysis.

We need to look at the city and health in a more holistic way.

The subtleties of change are important. Even neighbourhoods are complex and require more detailed analysis.

The complex city needs good interpreters. We need to ensure that we play our individual part in all the debates.

Future Research

We need to do more research on climate and the social city – we don't yet know enough about both trends and impacts.

The local area scale of sustainability has yet to be fully developed within a social equity framework.

The recent nascent interest by Federal government – both parties – needs to be better leveraged.

The Environmental City - Rapporteur Summary (Grace Karskens)

The Environmental City stream explored and discussed a range of topics – many of which of course overlapped and also related to the other streams at this conference. The main headings were

- climate change
- critiques of the *idea* of sustainability and its translation into policies and procedures
- the problems of assessing and measuring both environmental change and the impacts of sustainability policies
- greenspace in cities
- urban farming, human health and obesogenic urban environments
- education and community involvement
- alternative sustainable housing and communities; sustainable ideas and policies in practice (or not) at local government level and in master-planned estates
- and finally a rather alarming paper on the threat termites pose to our cities and other infrastructure.

This paper tracks and summarises the session discussions, findings and recommendations and identifies a number of overarching themes, as follows:

Climate change: Vulnerable cities

There is now little or no doubt that climate change is happening and that its impacts on cities in particular could or will be catastrophic. Even if we could stop all CO₂ emissions tomorrow, it would take 200 years for the ocean to cool and CO₂ levels to fall. Cities are deeply implicated in climate change, major contributors to greenhouse gases, but also highly vulnerable to the impacts. Some of these impacts, expected to occur over the next decades, include:

- temperature increase and heat islanding – which will make city centres unliveable
- biodiversity dieout - for example 25% of eucalypt species will not survive even the 1° increase in temperature expected by around 2030
- faster windspeeds and more frequent severe weather events
- the spread of certain damaging species – the Giant Northern Termites which at present only live as far south as Brisbane will be marching southwards to newly tropical Sydney and Melbourne. These insects ringback trees and can devour a timber house in a week.

Although I think we are resigned to the idea that cities ultimately cannot be totally sustainable, they can be seen as ‘moving towards’ sustainability– or rather survival-strategies. There are a great many practical and ingenious strategies to both mitigate these impacts on cities and reduce CO₂ emissions, and our discussions concluded that these had to go hand in hand. The questions therefore are no longer ‘Is climate change happening?’ or ‘What can we do about it?’, but *how* the body politic can be convinced to take it seriously, to develop the necessary policies and to begin putting them in place.

These conclusions overlapped with our explorations on education, particularly the idea of connecting governments and people with the outcomes of actions. Some discussants suggested that only an extreme event – a disaster, such as a cyclone wrecking a couple of densely populated coastal cities - would convince and galvanise us into action. Others countered: why wait for such a disaster to occur – *we* need to move this urgent message beyond the bounds of this conference. Further, while such events are so often called ‘natural disasters’, as though beyond human control, this term is misleading. The causes and impacts of such disasters are inextricably linked with human activities, politics and economics.

Rethinking Sustainability – words and priorities for urban country

The primary importance of climate change was also reflected in the discussions about the current language and thinking on sustainability. These days, it seems, everything must be sustainable – environment, economics and society as equal players. Nick Lowe and Phil MacManus argued in different ways that we may be losing sight of the main game here – that bike paths and community festivals are very nice and good to have, but counting them as sustainability measures in the face of the coming crisis trivialises the whole idea of sustainability. It’s not about quality of life, or ‘liveability’, but ensuring the very survival of cities *because* they ultimately depend on the environment. Nick similarly also critiqued triple bottom line accounting, which led to some lively discussion, with some discussants defending this now common practice as a useful reporting tool. However I think we agreed that we must be more careful and critical in our use of language, particularly language which insidiously makes its way from the world of business and growth into environmental discourse. Language shapes ideas and practice, language is a battleground, it can be a cloak for the very interests who are causing environmental problems, it can be deployed to postpone any real action.

However, discussion in the final session in this stream strongly suggests that the problem lies not in calling for sustainability in environment, economics and society, but *in the way this is seen* – as though these are separate arenas, and as though achieving sustainability in one is as good as achieving it in another. This is emerging as the comfortable, business-as-usual, greenwash approach. The way they *should* be seen is for what they are: interrelated aspects of the whole. To achieve environmental sustainability, it is necessary to look at economics and social impacts and factors, and vice versa. Daryl McKay showed fairly conclusively the sad failure of some great ESD policies in Newcastle because of economic funding problems and the hypocritical withdrawal of support from state and federal governments

Measuring environmental change and the impacts of sustainability policies

The means and methods of assessing both environmental conditions and change, and sustainability measures and their impacts, were also critically reviewed. The basic maxim here is: if we can’t measure it we can’t fix it, so we need to know about both change (for better or worse over time), and whether policies are working.

This led to some very interesting discussion on, first, the collection of information – for State of the Environment [SoE] reporting for example – and, second, on how to make the information useful and relevant to the audience that needs it. For example, there are strong arguments to use the ecological footprint approach for cities, but it needs to be

refined so it is meaningful in local areas. At the moment this approach assumes that landscape in cities is generic, when we know in reality it's all different. And if one area is problematic and needs to be targeted, it makes no sense to spread the blame over whole city, to see the city as a single entity.

This related to the idea of producing *localised* profiles of, say energy and water use, so that councils can see how they are performing (or not) . The ironic thing is that most of the information for SoE comes from councils in the first place, and here Peter Maganov was highly critical of the wasteful, time consuming practice of local council personnel having to chase up data on water or air quality when this should be made available by other bodies. Council boundaries after all are artificial and have little to do with these factors. There is also evidence of 'fudging' reporting, manipulating figures, adapting targets to make performance look better and so on.

Another suggestion was that there are too many indicators. In the attempt to be comprehensive, the priority areas get lost in the lists. There was some support for 'headline' indicators to simplify and target, say, CO₂ emissions and water quality. Again the theme is one of communicating results to the people who need them – especially policy makers.

Finally a suggestion which gained strong support from delegates was for an independent auditor to enforce and oversee SoE and environmental reporting at all levels.

Greenspace, urban ecologies and people

Another important focus in the Environmental City stream was urban greenspace, with five papers taking a diverse range of interesting approaches. The importance of greenspace for countering heat islanding, for urban biodiversity, for urban well-being and for sheer aesthetic value was underscored in these papers and the discussions. And then there is the fact that greenspace provides 'eco-services' for cities – purifying water and air, for example. Some discussants were concerned that the fact that eco-services can be measured and given a 'dollar value', that it too must 'work' and 'produce' might privilege this kind of assessment over the many other values of urban greenspace.

However greenspaces are also complex human places, tied in with and interpreted through all kinds of ideas about nature and how we relate to it. For example, although cities are so often seen as the environmental villains, Aidan Davison's paper suggested that in fact even the most committed green activists love and enjoy their suburban environments. We should be able to tap into latent and semiconscious enjoyment of urban life – to link up concern over wilderness and translate it into concern over cities and all the species that live there. With regard to biodiversity in greenspaces, our cities are in fact are not only human habitats, they are now refuges and habitats for many wild animals and rare plants – they are their homes too. But how do people relate to this? Here there was some contradictory evidence too– few people in Guy Barnett's survey of Melbourne people knew anything about biodiversity – they like it, but mostly failed to name/identify species. But should scientific knowledge and names be the yardstick? Aidan Davison reported that 27,000 people around Australia logged onto an ABC website to report the wildlife in their own backyards. We *know* our cities are also homes to plants and animals of all sorts.

Greenspace is also inseparable from immensely complex planning procedures and issues about public/private ownership and access. So there are inevitably also tensions in its usage and management – it's not enough to simply have the green bit on the map. As one discussant commented – it's not just gross provision, but how to facilitate access and movement equitably. And the divergent requirements of people and other creatures are going to clash sometimes – people may want barbeques and boat ramps and somewhere to kick a ball, while National Parks wants to prioritise ecology and recreate pristine, human free environments – as though these ever existed. There are also class and ethnic differences in the way people use and see greenspace, and these are in turn related to issues of social and environmental justice.

Understanding the past is essential in the project of understanding the meaning and values of greenspace (and cities as a whole). It is important to see that what is there now was not necessarily always there and to see how and why people used, fought for and defended their commons/ greenspace/recreational areas in the past – history unravels and reveals the deep links between people and country. It also demonstrates that grassroots support and a sense of responsibility we talk so much about fostering today in fact already existed in the suburbs, and has been discouraged and belittled by modern ecocentric and ahistoric policies.

And, while on the subject of urban commensal creatures : termites are a largely unremarked urban threat. They were there on our suburban blocks long before we moved in and they have the potential to do \$4billion of damage per annum because the protective/poisonous organochlorines treatments are reaching the end of their lifespan. Research is underway on better ways to deal with the termite threat – but interestingly it gets very little funding compared to pest threats to rural agribusiness.

Urban farmlands /foodways

The discussants agreed upon immense importance of better urban foodways, the maintenance of urban farming and the links with urban health. These overlapped with the sessions on greenspace – in terms of health and amenity and the fact that greenspace and farmlands will mitigate heat islanding caused by climate change. Urban farming reduces the need for energy and production of waste, supports farmers, provides fresher, healthier food and counters what Rob Dyball calls 'obesogenic environments'. On the other hand, environmental issues which can be problematic include irrigation and chemical inputs.

Despite years of lobbying by activists and some scientists, the food councils and other organizations, the fact that urban areas produce a significant amount of Australia's fresh food (around 25% of total production), and the basic fact that cities need food security, one discussant pointed out that urban agriculture is often not taken seriously. Perhaps the idea of 'urban farming' is seen as an oxymoron, in the same way that 'nature' and 'city' are so often (incorrectly) assumed to be opposites. Further, the tide of urban expansion over productive farm land shows little sign of letting up. Planners still see the edges of the city as 'blank spaces', as though there is nothing there. However, speakers and delegates generally agreed there was room for optimism with the 'mental models' provide by the food councils, the spread and growing popularity of farmers' markets, and hopes of a generational change in attitudes and habits with regard to food, shopping

and diet. The question of whether and how urban farming itself will be passed on to the next generation was raised as an area which needs urgent research.

Suburbs

Suburbs were a constant presence in our discussions, but apart from one paper on master-planned suburbs, it was a more oblique theme. That image most emblematic of the city's ills and obesogenic environments, the McMansion, or Start-up Castle, was used several times, but more as a symbol of urban greed and waste than as a real place where real people live. We have to be careful of class and regional stereotypes here. Remember, it's always the homes the middle and lower class aspirants of the western suburbs which are held up in this way, and never the gargantuan mansions of the great and good of Potts Point or Vaucluse. Their greedy houses and lovely gardens are 'beautiful' and 'elegant' and once they get to be 50 years old they become heritage and are protected.

It seems however from Morag Gamble's paper, and also to an extent in Ned Wales', that suburbs can be well-functioning, interesting self-sustaining and sustainable communities without packing everyone into Manhattan style high-rise apartments, as recommended by some commentators, such as *Herald* writer Elizabeth Farrelly. However, the perennial problem of distance to work and schools remains, so information networking, home offices, transport and decentralisation remain as equally important parallel concerns. Another problem lies in the sheer inertia of local government planning legislation - it seems it is still much easier, quicker and cheaper to do a business-as-usual development than to do something different and more sustainable. However, some councils have introduced measures encouraging sustainable development – Brisbane City Council, for example, has established a merit certificate system to this end.

Education/Communication

The theme that tied a lot of these discussions together was education – encompassing conveying information to target audiences, reshaping community behaviour and reconnecting individuals with the outcomes of their actions. Cities, it seems, make us too comfortable, they insulate us from environmental outcomes. The importance of the 'seeing, feeling, touching' ways of conveying knowledge or scenarios (for example, in Tony Fry's paper) was remarked upon several times. One problem pointed out was that the scientific story of climate change has not been taken up in the cultural sector, and so it is not taken seriously by the community or politicians. It is still seen as an obstruction, something that is not or should not be 'in my backyard'. One would hope 'education' would not have to consist of an extreme weather event or other disaster.

The irony, as Lyn McLoughlin pointed out, is that urban people are causing more problems (for various reasons – the list is long) but at the same time demanding better-quality, cleaner environments. I've found this in my research on Penrith – people hate suburban sprawl, but their favoured form of housing is the detached house on the suburban block. Perhaps this contradiction can be directly addressed and these desires and concerns harnessed. Lyn's paper demonstrated the extraordinary success of the Department of Environment and Conservations education program for cleaner water and littering. Surely if it worked there, it would work elsewhere.

In short, as many speakers pointed out, we need to reconnect public and private discourses through our many institutions and media. And such programs should include those who *create* the urban environment - from professionals to bulldozer drivers – as well as the general public. Again, context, culture and history are important here – diversity is a key. Urban behaviour is not just about consumption driven by greed and self-interest. We *must* recognise that these actions are deeply culturally bound and historically constructed. They are drivers – therefore we should study them. Hence conferences like this should foster more communication across disciplines, including those which deal with cultural patterns, for example, history, anthropology and sociology.

To close on a slightly optimistic note, then, remember the aftermath of the Canberra fires? People in one area were asked not to put grey water down their sinks, so as to avoid a sewerage plant failure. As one, they did it. The grey water level plummeted to almost zero and the disaster was avoided. It seems that urban people can and will help if they see a common, urgent goal which they believe they can do something about.

City Governance - Rapporteur Summary (John Minnery and Stephen Dovers)

The theme of the conference was the sustainability and vulnerability of Australian cities. Sustainability focuses on the economic, social and environmental realms as they are found in cities. Vulnerability deals with the economic, social and environmental risks facing cities. So where does governance fit into these themes? The question was asked but not fully answered through the papers and discussion in governance stream. It did not appear even to have been asked in the other streams.

It is now widely accepted that the idea of Australian urban governance incorporates the roles of the three tiers of government in urban areas but extends beyond this to include the roles of the private sector, civil society organisations and the community. The sustainability ‘triple bottom line’ should really be a ‘quadruple bottom line’ because it is through urban governance that solutions to urban problems are proposed and implemented. Governments, private industry and the community all have substantial roles to play in the future of Australian cities.

Given this general orientation, three main themes arose out of the papers and discussion in the governance stream:

- **Change** – Governance relationships have changed considerably recently. Many old assumptions about the role of government, or the role of the market or the role of the community have been overturned. Government has been ‘hollowed out’, the private sector is now a joint partner in many programs, and greater expectations are being loaded onto civil society.
- **Complexity** – These changes mean that the relationships are becoming more complex. Past maxims may no longer apply. New ways of addressing urban governance issues are needed.
- **The old is still new** – Yet many of the hoary old issues still remain unresolved: how do we coordinate and integrate activities? How do we deal with short-term

political and social time-frames when the problems have long-term implications and require long-term strategic research and policy responses? What about the role of financing and resources in getting things done? And so on. These questions have been with us for a long time. Why have they not yet been solved?

The focus of most of the papers and discussion was on Australian capital cities rather than Australian cities as a whole. Much of Australia exists outside the capitals. There are areas of substantial growth and of decline in regional areas. The issues of sustainability and change and vulnerability should be applied there as well as to the metropolitan capitals.

Research themes

Governance

What actually is governance? There were several dimensions to this question. There are clear links between governance and planning, including new approaches such as in Metropolitan Sydney and South East Queensland. The role of community participation and participatory democracy needs to be better understood, especially in relation to the old question of the public interest (Whose interest? What scales are important for this? What about equity and diversity?). In relation to representative democracy there are questions about leadership, how to deal with matters outside statutory competence, and the potential roles of new technologies such as e-democracy. The democratic deficit in metropolitan planning is clear, so how can this be overcome? But equally we don't often enough use private sector information (such as property-related market research) in trying to understand what is happening in Australian cities. An overarching theme is that of appropriate scale and the question of subsidiarity.

Learning from experience

There have been a number of experiments in governance, including public-private partnerships, intergovernmental agreements, participatory planning experiments, and so on. How do we best learn from these experiments? What works and what does not? What are appropriate institutional forms and policy instruments? The importance of these experiments for governance is how they can support approaches to 'good governance' – how do they add to accountability, to transparency, to sustainability? A related question is the role of non-regulatory mechanisms – we keep turning to regulation to improve integration, to get things done better, but over-regulation does not work. A related under-researched question is the role of the various Courts in the planning and policy systems – what about questions of proprietary rights and jurisprudence; how do judges think, what have been the impacts of the Courts on land uses? Moreover, other roles of the law (defining decision making processes, transparency requirements, statutory objects, etc) are under appreciated. Australia is potentially an excellent laboratory for research into this, because there are different approaches in the different States and Territories. Potentially international comparisons could also be pursued, for example in areas such as how to best govern for privately owned infrastructure, or how to improve collaboration in governance.

Barriers

We keep trying to improve collaboration, to improve integration, to develop better partnerships. But we do not seem to be doing this very well. What are the real barriers to better integration? Is it merely the ‘tyranny of inertia’? Do we really know what the barriers are and how they might be overcome? Does the form and substance of the barrier depend on the focal issue? How do we recognize the impact of politics, opportunities and context in identifying barriers?

Time frames and change

Big changes have already occurred in cities and more big changes are coming. How robustly can we look at drivers for the future and plan for them? How best can we plan for the long term? Government can look to the example of the private sector here, where there are examples of really long term thinking. A serious difficulty is the differing time scales involved: political time frames related to electoral cycles, climate change over the very long term, annual budget cycles, and so on. Are there examples of the good use of a strategic view, of long term commitment that has worked, even with short-term changes? Some of the drivers of change are external (climate change, neoliberalism, globalization, etc) but some are not. We can learn from history in terms of path dependency, the way approaches have been adapted and so on.

Urban vulnerability

We need to understand urban vulnerability better. It relates to exposure, and is exacerbated by denial of the environment. But there is social and economic vulnerability as well. What is really meant by this, and how does it relate to urban governance?

Fiscal and constitutional resources

There is a fiscal and resource side to governance, raising questions about tax raising and vertical fiscal imbalance, as well as about how well principles of subsidiarity are being applied. This also raises the question of what the real role of the Commonwealth government is in cities when it is not constitutionally obliged to be involved and following considerable time when the Commonwealth has avoided close involvement in urban policy.

Regional planning

The failure of regional planning (both within and outside metropolitan areas) in relation to sustainability is something that needs investigation. Regional governance fits poorly between local and State governments, the Commonwealth’s commitment has fluctuated. What is its future?

Modes of intervention

What are (or should be) the links between governance and planning, between policy and modes of intervention? Redevelopment authorities and land corporations, for example, are problematic. Why do we have to hasten evolution in redevelopment areas

through accelerated intervention? Are there not ways that change can work better over a longer time frame with less direct intervention?

Research itself

Research itself is an issue. What is impeding research into urban governance? There are currently problems of transparency, poor sharing of information, problems of data access, privatization of data, and so on. Related to this is how we fill the looming demographic gap in university researchers – capacity-building is urgent. Perhaps conferences like this should more purposefully include post- and undergraduate research.

Research and policy

Research results should be connected to urban policy but they should also support public debate. Research results should be accessible to government and the wider community; however this is at times restricted by the increasing frequency of contracted research with associated confidentiality issues. What is the role of researchers in helping shape opinions about cities? How do the media report city issues? This is both a research issues and a call to action. Perhaps we should get journalists and politicians involved in research so that research is really effective and has direct input into policy.

City Infrastructure - Rapporteur Summary (Sue Haertsch)

Papers presented within the Infrastructure stream of the conference covered a range of topics and interest areas. The quality and depth of analysis and research that was covered in the papers reflects a strong interest in the sector. The papers generated healthy debate in all sessions.

A number of the papers reflected contemporary perspectives on the city, particularly in terms of infrastructure planning and delivery. While we live in an era where there is serious disconnection and frustration at times with metropolitan plans, and yet massive funds are available for infrastructure through public private partnerships, GST dividends, superannuation funds and new financial instruments (some of which are being led by Australian based companies).

The range of topics covered in papers included:

- Transit oriented development in various guises
- Papers about the links between transport infrastructure, land use and sustainability
- Critical thinking about transport capacity questions, including an instructive (if counter-intuitive) examination of Melbourne's rail network
- A session covering water provision from three differing perspectives
- An account of infrastructure provision in metropolitan planning
- New patterns of transport and mobility disadvantage.

Reflections from the Infrastructure Workshop during Session 6 identified areas for possible future research. The summary below brings these ideas into five core areas

that seek to identify possible research areas that serve to bridge the gap between academic endeavours and practice.

1. There appears to be an emphasis on transit-oriented development in the current generation of research. However, this is poorly reflected in the policy context in many of our major cities and may represent an opportunity for further work to reduce the “policy perspective” gap.
2. The implications of freight movements within the city were not well represented at the conference. While it might be covered in other forums participants felt that freight movements are an important area for research because they require significant investment (often public money) and have the potential to substantially impact on urban structure.
3. There is a need for better understanding of changing technologies, particularly in terms of what they mean for infrastructure and flow-on effects for city structure.

For example, what are the possible implications and opportunities arising from new technologies to achieve future sustainable (green) city structures.

4. There is a need for studies into how the public interest is faring in our current approaches to infrastructure provision.

What structures or conditions are critical to ensure transparency of process and protection of the public interest where private sector funds are involved.

5. There is a need to think about inter-generational questions. Are the assumptions about Generation X and Y valid, and how might the attitudes of the coming generations impact on city structure or built form, particularly in terms of component elements like transport infrastructure. Are these considerations adequately reflected in current research and policy?

Have cars, for example, become so cheap and desirable that the current generation should be called “Generation V8”? What would be the implications to city structure?

In conclusion, the Infrastructure stream confirmed that there are many areas for interesting and practically driven future research. The area will remain a key contributor to future city debates and should be given a high priority for research and study.

The collegial effort that characterised the SOAC II conference may be read between the lines of the above summaries. It remains only for me to thank all the people for the hard work that made the conference a real success; and to look forward to seeing as many people as possible in Adelaide in 2007 – where will once again take up the many issues of Australian cities in the 21st Century.

Professor Brendan Gleeson
Conference Host
2nd Bi-Annual SOAC Conference

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The City Economy

http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/city_economy.html

Reference

Brian H Roberts <i>Australian Cities at Risk: Approaches to Urban Economic Risk Management</i>	ce01
Marcus Spiller <i>Models of Innovation and Implications for Australian Regional Development</i>	ce03
Anthony Kent <i>Labour Market Issues in Melbourne's North</i>	ce05
Christian A. B. Nygaard <i>A Tale of Three Cities: Labour and Housing Market Development in a Post-Industrial Era</i>	ce10
Gavin A. Wood and Alice K. Stoakes <i>Long Run Trends in Victorian Housing Affordability and Tenure Shares</i>	ce11
Dick Bryan, Pauline McGuirk, Phillip O'Neill and Frank Stilwell <i>Understanding Sydney as a Global City</i>	ce12
Phillip O'Neill, Pauline McGuirk, Frank Stilwell and Dick Bryan <i>Basing economy on materiality: an analysis of Sydney's freight flows</i>	ce13

Anthea Bill, William Mitchell and Martin Watts ce14
*Examining the relationship between commuting patterns,
employment growth and long term unemployment in the
Sydney Major Statistical Region*

Bruno Parolin ce16
*Employment Centres and the Journey to Work in Sydney:
1981-2001*

Carmel Herington, Bill Merrilees and Dale Miller ce17
*A socio-economic analysis of social inclusion and lifestyle
factors in South-East Queensland*

The Social City

http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/social_city.html

Reference

Bruce Judd, Robert Samuels and Jack Barton soc 01
*The Effectiveness of Strategies for Crime Reduction in Areas
of Public Housing*

Robin Kearns, Damian Collins and Catherine Bean soc 04
*Children's freedoms and promoting the 'active city' in
Auckland neighbourhoods*

Liza Hopkins soc 06
*Competition and cooperation: coordinating services to
establish a lifelong learning hub*

Carolyn Whitten and Susan Thompson soc 07
*When Cultures Collide: Planning for the Public Spatial
Needs of Muslim Women in Sydney*

Therese Kenna soc 10
*Exclusive suburban 'villages': Master planned estate
development and sociospatial polarisation in Western Sydney*

Susan Thompson and Tinalee Gallico soc 13
*Are Metropolitan Planning Frameworks Healthy? The
Broader Context*

Iain Butterworth, Josephine Palermo and Lauren Prosser soc 14
*Are Metropolitan Planning Frameworks Healthy? The case
of Melbourne 2030*

Scott Baum soc 15
Socio-economic Disadvantage in Post-Fordist Cities

Anthea Bill <i>Neighbourhood inequality – do small area interactions influence economic outcomes?</i>	soc 16
Kathy Arthurson <i>Residents’ Perspectives about Social Mix</i>	soc 18
Deborah Warr <i>There goes the neighbourhood: the malign effects of stigma</i>	soc 19
Lyn Harrop <i>Tests for Liveability: Keeping pace with change</i>	soc 23
Jun Tsutsumi and Kevin O’Connor <i>International Students and the Changing Character of the Inner Area of a City: A Case Study of Melbourne</i>	soc 24
Brooke Wildin and John Minnery <i>Understanding City Fringe Gentrification: The Role of a ‘Potential Investment Gap’</i>	soc 25

The Environmental City

Reference

http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/environmental_city.html

Nicholas Low and Brendan Gleeson <i>If Sustainability Is Everything, Maybe It’s Nothing?</i>	env 01
Tony Fry <i>Two Scenarios of the City and the Coming Age of Climate Adaptive Design</i>	env 03
Caroline Jane Noller <i>Economic Impact of Carbon Prices on Commercial Office Construction for Embodied Greenhouse Gas Emissions</i>	env 04
Phil McManus <i>Sydney sucks (chews and spits): Defining and measuring vortex cities and sustainable cities.</i>	env 05
Peter Maganov <i>SoE What? Has ten years or more of SoE reporting across Australia created or contributed to any environmental improvements or outcomes?</i>	env 06
Aidan Davison <i>Urban Nature and Australian Environmentalism: The urban experience of members of environmental groups in Hobart and Perth</i>	env 08

- Darryl Low Choy env 09
How Green Was My City Region: The relevance of past open space planning experiences to contemporary planning for the Brisbane metropolitan region
- Heather Goodal, Allison Cadzow, Denis Bryne and Stephen Wearing env 10
Making the city green: the creation of public greenspace in suburban Sydney, 1940 - 1992.
- Lynne McLoughlin env 11
The role of community education in developing environmentally sustainable cities
- Linda Corkery and Catherine Evans env 12
Park-City Edge Effect: mapping the social and environmental ecotones of three Sydney parklands
- Guy Barnett, Michael Doherty and Matthew Beaty env 13
Urban Greenspace: Connecting People and Nature
- Robert Dyball env 14
Understanding Obesogenic Urban Environments from the perspective of Human Ecology
- Rebecca Schiff env 17
Public policy and planning for sustainability in the urban food system
- Ned Wales env 20
Achieving Sustainable Designs within Master Planned Communities
- Darren McKay and Ray Rauscher env 21
ESD Strategies at the Local Government Level: Case Study of the City of Newcastle
- Morag Gamble env 24
Local and international examples of how sustainable communities can and do work
- Barry Noller, Dale Gilbert, Ross Sadler, Rowan Truss, Myron Zalucki , Des Connell, Barry Chiswell, Aaron Stewart, Sharad Rajendran and Amanda Hasthorpe env 25
Urban Australian cities under termite attack

City Structure

http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/city_structure.html

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- Greg Bamford str 02
How Should Housing Densities be determined? A comparative analysis of Brisbane and Copenhagen
- Michael Bounds str 03
Meso and micro governance in urban consolidation : The role of UDC's and bodies corporate in inner urban developments.
- Michael Buxton and Jan Scheurer str 07
Density and Outer Urban Development in Melbourne
- Ron Danvers and Michael Drapac str 08
LAURIMAR: a town like no other
- Kim Dovey, Ian Woodcock and Stephen Wood str 09
What is Urban Character? The Case of Camberwell
- Robyn Dowling and Pauline McGuirk str 10
Situating Master-Planned Estates
- Peter Walters str 12
Growing Old on the Suburban Fringe: Master Planned Communities and Planning for Diversity
- Ted Rosenblatt str 13
Lakeside living: Commodifying community in a master planned estate
- Anne-Marie Willis str 14
From peri-urban to unknown territory
- Steve Hamnett str 15
Ten Years of Metropolitan Strategic Planning in South Australia
- Stephen Carthew and Margaret Allan str 16
Strategic Planning in Regional Cities – New Conceptions
- Tony Dingle and Seamus O'Hanlon str 20
The inner city transformed: industrial and postindustrial Melbourne in pictures c1970-2005

- Robin Goodman str 22
Sustainable urban form and the shopping mall: An investigation of retail provision in new housing subdivisions in Melbourne’s growth areas.
- Ian Knowd, David Mason and Andrew Docking str 23
Urban Agriculture: The New Frontier
- Eddo Coiacetto str 26
Urban social structure: a focus on the development industry
- Mike Gillen str 27
Tapping the potential or cramming them in: Developing new tools to assess the suitability and capacity of densification for South East Queensland

City Governance

<http://www.griffith.edu.au/conference/soac2005/Governance.html>

Reference

- Steve Dovers and Will Steffen gov 02
Implications of abrupt environmental change for urban Australia
- Barbara Norman gov 04
Managing Urban Growth in The Geelong Region 1965-2005
- Carolyn Whitzman and David Mayes gov 05
Community Safety Indicators: ‘what works, what doesn’t, what is promising’
- Peter Trainor gov 06
Innovative Governance in a Metropolitan Context? The Case of the Office of the North, Adelaide
- Suzanne Lawson gov 08
The Post Justice City? Spatial Targeting, Social Disadvantage and Rescaling Urban Governance in Australia
- Jago Dodson and Eddo Coiacetto gov 09
Corruption in the Australian Land Development Process: Identifying a research agenda
- Jenny Cameron and Katherine Gibson gov 11
Representing Marginalisation: Finding New Avenues for Economic and Social Intervention

- Jan Scheurer and Annette Kroen gov 12
A Marriage of Convenience? Rail-Supportive Transport Policies and Urban Consolidation in Station Precincts in Australia and Europe
- Helen Gilbert gov 15
Public lands, process and public policy: The links between government asset disposal programs and planning for redeveloping urban areas – Is something missing?
- Alex Gooding gov 16
“In the saddle or the burr underneath” – the role of Regional Organisations of Councils in metropolitan planning.
- Glen Searle gov 17
The Redfern-Waterloo Authority: Sydney’s Continuing Use of Development Corporations as a Primary Mode of Urban Governance
- Elizabeth Rice gov 18
Linking Urban Regeneration And Community Renewal: The Redfern-Waterloo Example
- M I Burke and A L Brown gov 20
Planning by rating scheme: genealogy, scales of application and ways forward for the formalised rating approach to urban development approval
- Rolf Fenner gov 21
Learning from the Past Research Central Coast, NSW
- Vicki Dunne gov 22
The Potential and Limitations of Sustainability Policy: Modest Proposals from the Garden City
- Susan Oakley and Matthew Rofe gov 23
Global Space or Local Place? The Port Adelaide Waterfront Redevelopment and Entrepreneurial Urban Governance
- Ronald Aspin gov 24
Can Good Legislation Be Overregulation For Public Private Partnerships?

City Infrastructure

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A L Brown, Joseph Affum and Andrew Chan <i>Transport Pollution Futures for the City of Gold Coast: SoE Reports for 2011 and 2021</i>	inf 01
M I Burke and A L Brown <i>Building an area-based travel sustainability tool: rating the residential travel performance of new urban developments</i>	inf 02
Jago Dodson, Brendan Gleeson, Rick Evans and Neil Sipe <i>Transport Disadvantage in the Australian Metropolis: Towards new concepts and methods</i>	inf 03
Jodi Dong <i>Splintering Urbanism and Sustainable Urban Water Management</i>	inf 04
Sue Haertsch <i>Sydney's water supply and the press</i>	inf 05
Bruce James <i>Institutional Arrangements for Land Use and Transport Integration</i>	inf 08
Bhishna Bajracharya, Shahed Khan and Matt Longland <i>Regulatory and Incentive Mechanisms to implement Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in South East Queensland</i>	inf 09
Paul Mees <i>Rail infrastructure capacity constraints in Melbourne: An engineering problem or a political problem?</i>	inf 10
John Quiggin <i>Urban water supply in Australia: the option of diverting water from irrigation</i>	inf 11
Tan Yigitcanlar, Jago Dodson, Brendan Gleeson and Neil Sipe <i>Sustainable Australia: Containing Travel in Master Planned Estates</i>	inf 13
Ali Soltani and Caryl Bosman <i>Evaluating Sustainable Urban Form: Comparing Two Neighbourhood Development Patterns in Adelaide</i>	inf 14

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David Wilmoth <i>Urban Infrastructure and Metropolitan Planning: Connection and Disconnection</i>	inf 16
Michael A P Taylor <i>The City Logistics paradigm for urban freight transport</i>	inf 18
Laurel Johnson <i>Big Roads, No Transport - Community Mapping for Transport Improvements</i>	inf 19