

Angelina Aversa

Public participation in local government decision-making

This thesis explores public participation in local government decision-making and more specifically the extent to which public participation under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* (“EP & A Act”) is able to influence the assessment and determination of development applications (DAs). Whilst the current planning system provides certain legal obligations of local governments/planners to notify and advertise DAs, invite public comment and ‘consider’ public submissions, there are no legislative provisions which indicate the extent to which public submissions or any other form of public participation should influence the assessment and determination of a DA. These decisions are made first hand by planners and local governments exercising discretion. The communicative-collaborative planning theory suggests that inequalities of power and knowledge institutionalised through legislation such as the *EP & A Act* can be balanced through ‘collaborative’ processes that encourage open dialogue and debate between stakeholders. Three local governments were selected as case studies based on the extent to which their assessment and decision-making processes resemble the ‘ideals’ of the communicative-collaborative planning theory. Using these case studies, and in reference to the literature, this thesis explores how public participation is facilitated in development assessment, and whether ‘collaborative’ processes enable the public to play a more active role in decision-making, or whether these processes simply reinforce the power inequalities that already exist.

Daniel Cavallo

Land Use + Light Rail = Effective Nexus?

Light rail has been selected by a number of cities around the world as part of the solution towards achieving sustainable land use and transport. However, the success of this mode has varied in each city. This thesis explores the reasons for this mixed result and suggest a way forward in maximising the role of light rail in the nexus between land use, transport and sustainability. The initial focus is on the concepts, models and themes of this relationship. An international comparison of selected cities and a case study of Sydney is undertaken to investigate the success of light rail. The analysis of the findings is then used to develop best practice guidelines in facilitating the role of light rail with sustainable land use and transport.

Irene Hiu Wah Chan

Conservation by Design

Shanghai: Conservation by Design is a multi-media presentation concerning the current status of Shanghai in preserving historically significant environment, and how urban design

can assist the process of preservation. The presentation uses variety of medias, including images, digital videos, sounds and animations and adopts an interactive approach to present the content of this thesis. This thesis presents a critical analysis to the current conservation policy in Shanghai and provides recommendations to the policies through urban design methodologies and techniques. The thesis includes the background of Shanghai which includes her history and how history has produced Shanghai's unique urban image and culture. It also concerns lilong, which is a special form of housing settlement in Shanghai. It represents the era of foreign concession in Shanghai and contains the largest scope of housing type which the writer believe should be preserved and enhanced. The third section is about the current conservation policy in Shanghai and its associated problems and criticism. The forth section is about how urban design can improve the city image, focusing on the urban design techniques and methodologies which are suggested to use in Shanghai. The last section considers a redevelopment project in Shanghai, Xintiandi, which has received a high reputation. The development provides some solutions to the contemporary Shanghai's conservation strategies and emphasizes again on how urban design can assist to achieve better outcomes to historical development.

Christophe Charkos

Airports and their effects on land use: a case study of Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport

One of the most significant advances in global transportation has been the evolution of commercial air travel. Wide body jets are able to transport passenger and freight to a global market. The increased global nature of the world's economy has led to airports emerging as key economic gateways that signifies the strength of both regional and national economies. Airports are therefore able to have significant effects on cities. These effects can be planned for, or develop according to market forces and can have local or regional consequences. Hub Airports require a high level of government commitment to enhance capacity, encourage competition ensure the development of high quality infrastructure Sydney Airport has developed into a dominant hub in the South Pacific region. Sydney Airport has had a significant effect in influencing planning for airport-related land uses. The airport has directly influenced large-scale infrastructure projects, which have stimulated other forms of development. This thesis analyses the effect airports have on their city, in the context of a detailed case study of Sydney Airport.

Jacqueline Connor

Urban Growth Management and Ssydney's Metropolitan Development Program

Urban Growth Management attempts to direct the development of cities to overcome problems linked with increasing car use, low density suburbanisation and high development costs. It is linked with Compact City theory, promoting the containment of development to minimise urban 'sprawl'. This thesis presents a range of tools used throughout the United States, United Kingdom and Australia to address problems of unsustainable urban growth, and a history of Sydney's residential development as guided by its five metropolitan policies from 1948. A major case study of Sydney's Metropolitan Development Program (MDP) (formerly the Urban Development Program [UDP]), the primary land monitoring program operated by PlanningNSW to facilitate coordinated urban development, forms the core aspect of study. Focusing on the management of suburban

land development as a way to manage urban growth, an analysis is undertaken of the accuracy of the lot production forecasting aspect of the UDP, and the role this forecasting plays in the attainment of the metropolitan policy goal of 'compact city' by the UDP/MDP.

Silvia Correia

World Expositions: Planning for World Expo 88

World Expositions have evolved to become a mechanism for cities to reinvent themselves. Expos are catalysts for urban change and regeneration. They impact on host cities socially, physically and economically. The onset of globalisation, the growth of global tourism and the notion of competitive cities are key themes that have played a significant role in propelling the status of World Expositions as a mega event. The challenge however is how cities capitalise on the opportunity for revitalisation. The motivation for cities to host mega events is connected to perceived benefits for the region. The impact on host communities however is not always considered. The key consideration for this thesis is how Brisbane, host to World Expo 88 has used the event as a catalyst for the renewal of South Bank.

Maria Divis

SEPP 65 - Reforms to the development assessment process in NSW

Premier Bob Carr organised a forum, inviting participants to comment on ways to improve the level of urban design achieved in the development of Residential Flat Buildings (RFBs). As a result, State Government departments produced *State Environmental Planning Policy No. 65* (SEPP 65). Consequently, consent authorities are required to refer all applications for RFBs to an Urban Design Review Panel (UDRP), in the hope of achieving high quality urban design outcomes. This has added an additional layer to the development assessment process. The system has not yet proved as successful as expected by the State Government. Instead, it has caused for much upheaval in the development and building designer industries. The introduction of SEPP 65 has created numerous problems in the development assessment system that did not previously exist. Local Council is required to contend with ambiguous planning regulations that override site specific policies which are in most instances superior to the SEPP. Consequently, the community is in no more of a better position than before.

Kate Freedman

Defensible Cities: Responding to Urban Terrorism

As a result of the recent terrorist attacks on urban centres, there is an increasing realisation of the vulnerability of cities and their need for effective defence. Throughout history, urban centres have been vulnerable to warfare but it was not until the latter part of the twentieth century that terrorism has become a significant threat. The unpredictable and devastating nature of terrorism has created the need for urban planners to consider defensible development mechanisms. Drawing on theories of urban defence such as target hardening and surveillance methods, mechanisms have been adapted and implemented in cities to defend against terror. Different cities have responded to terrorist attacks in various ways. The experience of terrorism in the urban centres of Israel, England and New York City is examined in depth. Whilst the defensive measures used in these countries have varied, they

collectively provide possible defence solutions for urban centres against the threat of future terrorist attacks.

Carine Ghostine

Development control and government responses in implementing energy efficient controls

This thesis considers the significance of energy efficiency in Australia and Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) commitments as required under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW). The thesis aims at showing how local governments are leading the way in energy efficiency and also how councils need to work towards introducing controls and best practice advice in relation to energy minimisation. In the past there has been a major emphasis on houses (and rating their efficiency) to achieve the most energy efficient home. However, there are still many changes that need to be made to control and improve the levels of efficiency in all types of buildings. Furthermore, the thesis considers where the problem of implementation lays. Responses by the State government, SEDA and other authorities are examined concerning local government needs to work towards introducing controls and best practice advice in relation to energy minimisation that will lead commercial and industrial development along the path towards sustainability. The thesis aims to find out the reasons behind why some councils have not yet adopted an energy efficiency plan for residential and non-residential buildings. The study of a survey that was designed and distributed to all NSW councils is analysed as part of the thesis to show the current position of NSW in relation to the performance of energy efficient measures used.

Andrew Gough

Freeways, People and Places: The Evolution of Modern Freeway Planning

The invention of the private automobile is one of the greatest disasters to have befallen the human race ...the car imposes such diseconomies on the community as a whole that should be abolished altogether. Plowden, 1971:414

The planning of freeways has changed considerably over time. It is a practice that is responsive to the demands and opinions of society. When emerging into the urban environment freeways promised efficiency and symbolised modernity. Yet as society progresses such benefits are questionable and should be scrutinised in light of environmental and social concern. Cars and freeways have a profound influence upon the urban form and structure of cities. Such change is however accompanied by an array of negative externalities that affect people and places. Local impacts were not a priority in early freeway planning. A shift in public perception has seen such variables enter the planning framework. The rise of resident action has forced freeway planning to look past the economic benefits of freeways and consider local impacts. The question remains: how much should the interests of local communities be heard against the needs of the region?

Daniel Govers

Planning for Bushfire: A disaster for local government?

Undeniably, one of Australia's most devastating natural disasters is bushfire, which has ravaged and transformed the continent's landscape since Aboriginal settlement. With people increasingly becoming vulnerable to disaster due to lifestyle desires to live in bushland settings, urban sprawl and an uncertain climate, bushfires will inevitably continue to devastate the south-eastern region of Australia, arguably one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world. The opportunity exists to protect life, property and the environment from bushfire disaster through effective planning policy. But can we actually plan for bushfire? Is it a paradox? This year saw the release of the Planning for Bushfire Protection 2001 document in January and, in August, the Rural Fires and Environmental Assessment Legislation Amendment Act 2002 commenced. The study aims to critically evaluate the document and the new regulations by testing the likely impacts through the use of case studies of three bushfire prone local government areas in the Sydney Region. This evaluation forms the basis for developing a set of key recommendations that policy makers and planners can consider to improve bushfire protection measures at a local government level.

Fiona Heretis

Sex and the Planning Process: 'Ethics and Morality Vs A Legal Land Use

Brothels have always existed within society whether they have been apparent or not. Brothels were once a recognized but overlooked part of society. As time progressed the brothel was seen as a corrupt and unfavorable land use. A rise in community disapproval led to the passing of the Crimes Act 1900, which rendered the common law misdemeanor of keeping a common bawdy house or brothel illegal. With the passing of the *Disorderly Houses Act 1995* in New South Wales, brothels were decriminalized and a legitimate commercial land use regulated through planning instruments was fabricated. Whether people approve or disapprove with such a land use, is irrelevant to how an application for the conversion of a suitable site into a brothel is considered. Over time legislation and planning regulation has changed, to ensure an equitable society, however the majority of attitudes and perceptions of such a land use have in some circumstances remained stagnant due to an unchanging sense of traditional ideals.

Andrew Jordan

Blow Up the Pokies: Local Gambling Venues and Planning Responses

The rapid development of the gambling industry in Australia since the early 1990s and the proliferation of local gambling venues across urban and regional communities, has been cause for growing concern. Shadowing the often highly visible expressions of concern about gambling policy and impacts delivered through the media by political, social welfare and religious groups has been the emerging planning responses to gambling, which seeks to develop local responses to the impacts of gambling. The incredible expansion of commercial gambling in Australia has prompted local communities, often led by local government, to explore ways to manage the local impacts of gambling. This thesis discusses and evaluates the possible use of planning policies and instruments to regulate the gambling industry, describing the relationship between concentrations of electronic gaming machines (or poker machines) and socio-economic disadvantage in Sydney, and the adverse consequences of the distribution of thousands of suburban gambling venues across towns and cities in Australia. The attitudes of planners towards gambling and the

possibility of taking a more active role in regulating gambling is also discussed, with the conclusion that planner can and should take a greater role in regulating the gambling industry.

Danijela Karac

Urban Environment for All? The experience of wheelchair users

This thesis examines whether the urban environment is designed for all by considering the access needs of wheelchair users. In identifying what a 'public' place is, it becomes evident that the public place excludes wheelchair users. A number of both social and physical barriers exist in the provision of equitable and dignified access in the urban environment. This thesis reflects on the historical experiences of people with disabilities. It indicates that exclusion of people with disabilities from the public realm is a result of negative social perceptions designed to exclude the 'unfavourable'. This has been achieved through the development of social and physical (design) barriers. A critical examination of current legislation responsible for the provision of continuous, equitable and dignified access is reviewed in this thesis. Through participatory research, the theory and literature come to life. Personal experiences of using a wheelchair in the public environment are used to highlight access issues when participating in everyday duties including using public transport, accessing a leisure activity and doing grocery shopping. The conclusion of this thesis is that increasing public awareness on the access needs of wheelchair users will result in the breaking down of the social and physical barriers in the urban environment.

Asanthika Kappagoda

Conserving World Cultural Heritage Sites in Developing Countries: Sri Lanka a Case Study

Modernisation has often seen to the destruction of many culturally important sites, monuments and landscapes in industrialised countries. As a consequence there has been an increasing awareness of the need to protect cultural heritage around the globe. Developing countries have some of the most unique and irreplaceable cultural heritage in the world. However such countries, whose goals are often geared towards development and becoming 'modernised', are in danger of losing their built cultural heritage and identity, by repeating industrialised countries' past mistakes in the name of 'progress'. Developing countries often face constraints such as economic, social and political factors that determine the importance of cultural heritage and its priority in relation to the countries' social, political and economic agenda. This thesis is a study of heritage conservation of World Cultural Heritage Sites in developing countries through the experience of Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle-an International Safeguarding Campaign. Sri Lanka has a civilisation, spanning over two thousand five hundred years, which has left a wealth of culturally significant monuments and sites. The most significant of these are the five World Cultural Heritage Sites, which constitute the Cultural Triangle. Whilst Sri Lanka has an equally long history of cultural heritage conservation, the country today faces economic constraints resulting from a civil war that has continued for over two decades. The sites of the Cultural Triangle were visited to identify any onsite risks and threats. It is evident that financial constraints together with the civil war and associated terrorism threats have a significant impact on the long-term conservation of the sites.

Jonathan Knapp

Ecological Urbanism: The Rise of Urban Water Sensitivity and Sustainability

Through processes of revolutionary thinking and innovative design new perspectives and preferences for our urban landscape have been developed, forging an ongoing debate between preferences for form or function. It has only been in recent decades that a new consideration and concern has entered the urban theoretical debate, a result of continued environmental degradation and realisation that our urban areas are becoming increasingly unsustainable. The response has been the development and implementation of ecologically sensitive design and management perspectives, at a variety of scales, dealing with a myriad of environmental issues. Green Urbanism and Landscape Urbanism represent the concerted effort being made throughout Europe's cities to deal with issues of urban water management and treatment, along with several other urban ecological problems. While these efforts mark a turn around in the perspectives of the urban decision-makers and shapers their applicability to the Australian context is limited. Accordingly, in dealing with the issues of urban water a paradigmatic shift has started to take place, being led by a series of water sensitive and sustainable urban practices and techniques. The benefits, opportunities and challenges faced in the holistic acceptance of these practices are highlighted in this thesis.

Jennifer Masson

Masterplans: Creating Development Certainty in New South Wales.

This thesis considers the rising phenomenon of masterplanning and its current role in the NSW planning system. As the nature of development over the past decade has shifted to large-scale projects masterplans have increasingly been perceived as a significant tool that are able to manage the array of complex issues associated with these forms of development. Masterplans can be used both in the plan making process and the development assessment process and are produced by both the public and private sectors. They strategically set a framework for the long-term development of a site or area and due to extensive work in the pre-development application stage, are able to provide many benefits. Some of these benefits include greater stakeholder input into the design process, creation of design outcomes that are better suited to unique or specific areas and greater certainty for the council, developer and community. Until now masterplans have generally enjoyed an uncritical acceptance. However part of this thesis investigates the rising concern in New South Wales about the limited legal status within the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 afforded to masterplans and the impacts this has on the planning system.

Briony Mitchell

Fostering Ecological Consciousness: The Role of Water Authorities in Natural Resource Management

This thesis represents a fresh and original approach to urban water conservation. This research argues that natural resource organisations and individuals need to adopt more of an ecological consciousness (beyond Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) principles) to truly realise sustainable resource use. Water resources have been chosen as

the topic for this thesis. The focus is refined from the global to national context and further from NSW to the metropolitan water authority. Sydney Water Corporation is used as a case study to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of the Demand Management Strategy and Recycled Water Strategy to achieve water conservation targets set by the State Government. The ESD approach which has been routinely adopted in Australia is identified as insufficient to achieve the type of behavioural revolution required to ensure a sustainable water supply in the future. Ecological consciousness is offered to natural resource management organisations, such as Sydney Water, as a means of fostering sustainable practice amongst individuals. Sydney Water is recommended to foster three layers of ecological self in households and communities to engage them wholeheartedly in sustainable practices and identify water conservation at the heart of their being.

Rita Nakhle

Golf Course Estates: Breaking Par on Environmental, Social and Economic Issues

Representing a new type of residential development, Golf Course Estates have become a popular choice for people looking for a unique lifestyle experience. The concept of combining golf and real estate originated in the United States in the 1950s, where it is currently most common. Australian developers have embraced Golf Course Estates only in the last decade with thirty currently under development across the country. This thesis considers the originality and benefits of combining golf and real estate to create high quality living environments. The three main considerations of the thesis are the environmental, social and economic issues as they are associated with the construction and operation of Golf Course Estates. In attempting to grasp a clearer understanding of the association between the issues and the Estates, three Australian case studies are featured, they are: Sanctuary Lakes Resort in Victoria; Macquarie Links Estate in New South Wales; and the proposed Kooindah Managed Resort Facility in New South Wales. Communication is made with key personnel related to each of the three case studies, further providing information in regards to the way the three main issues together influence the construction and operation of Golf Course Estates. As developers constantly seek to create competitive and innovative residential products, and as real estate purchasers continue to demand better lifestyle options in housing, based on environmental, social and economic benefits, a significant increase in the development of Golf Course Estates in Australia and overseas is almost guaranteed in the future.

Georgie Nalder

Urban Rural Drift: The issues and the impacts with a case study of Berry

Over the past 30 years Australian's have embraced a settlement pattern, which promotes the coastal countryside and its adjoining rural hinterlands. I refer to this ever-increasing phenomenon as urban rural drift (URD) - the process involving a net outflow of people from large, urban metropolitan areas to smaller rural settlements based upon concepts of leisure, lifestyle and retirement. URD can have major and varied implications for urban systems particularly rural towns and communities. The impacts and effects will however vary amongst different community groups and what one group considers detrimental may be beneficial to another. The thesis focuses upon Berry, a rural town contemplating the issues and impacts associated with URD. Berry has predominately been a dairy town meeting the subsistence needs of the community. In recent years Berry has evolved into a fashionable tourist destination and retiree hot spot. Not only has tourism become an

important part of the economic base but people are relocating to towns like Berry for lifestyle reasons. I believe that Berry's town character, dairy industry and natural and built environment is under serious threat from tourism and a growing population but how does a thriving rural town balance development and its externalities?

Alex Ngai

Stadium in the City

“Sporting stadia act as important landmarks in the city and form a significant part in the urban fabric.” The research explores and aims at providing an understanding of stadia focussing on various factors that contribute and form the integral relationship between stadium and the city and its significance as part of the urban fabric. The study is divided into 4 chapters: chapter 1 searches into the historical nature of stadia in the city; chapter 2 and 3 discusses and explores various factors in contemporary stadia in the city; further analysis will be dealt with in the evaluation of the hypothesis in chapter 4 where two case studies will be conducted to determine whether the stadium is a landmark that forms a significant part in the urban fabric. This study will present and identify factors that have possibly been neglected or have not been considered by stadium designers when planning for such significant monuments to the city and the community as a whole.

Larissa Northridge

The Compact City: Friend or Foe of the Natural Environment.

A fundamental aim of urban consolidation is to increase residential densities in the established areas of cities. Since the early eighties the New South Wales State Government has implemented urban consolidation policies to accommodate additional urban growth in the Sydney region. These policies were originally implemented as a cost saving mechanism as high infrastructure provision on Sydney's periphery had become a significant financial burden on the State Government. However by the early nineties urban consolidation policies began to be underpinned by environmental objectives. Some of the environmental benefits of urban consolidation included: the protection of water catchments, reduced air pollution, and the protection of agricultural and bushland areas on the urban fringe. These environmental benefits of urban consolidation have been increasingly challenged especially as public opposition to increased residential densities has intensified. Therefore this thesis has investigated the relationship between residential densities and environmental quality. The impact of the various development controls on mitigating potential environmental impacts of multi-unit development has also been examined so that the effect of the compact city on the natural environment can be determined.

Jake Poole

Fiscal policy, power and planning: A discussion of reform

Urban planning originates as a reformist movement committed to controlling and coordinating the negative externalities of capitalist development with the aim of social betterment. Modern town planning is born of the interventionist welfare state, and as such is directly implicated in the critical nexus between government, economy and society. In the contemporary climate of neo-liberalism, planning has become a rather routine

regulatory practice and has reconstructed itself primarily in the milieu of environmental law and development control. Yet planning policies, for the most part, still claim a reformist discourse in their desire to achieve social, economic and environmental improvements. This thesis asks how planning can achieve its objectives with limited support from the larger fiscal policies of government which primarily determine the entire system of capitalist relations. It further questions the decline of government social spending and the concomitant reduced role of planning. It explores ways in which fiscal policies, and other aspects of governance could be restructured to support broader social and ecological ideals.

Stefan Press

Sydney's Expansion: Conflict at the Rural-Urban Fringe

In response to the pressures of a rapidly growing population, Sydney has spread inexorably across the Cumberland Plain, to the valuable agricultural belt which presently supplies the city with much of its fresh produce. This urban expansion is threatening to engulf prime agricultural land, a rare commodity which Australia can ill afford to lose. Not only is there the problem of losing vital agricultural land but the community at the rural-urban fringe has become divided and engaged in conflict over issues which arise from the juxtaposition of incompatible land uses. The ensuing conflict is proving difficult to resolve as each of these stakeholders have legitimate claims and contemporary planning and policy is being challenged by this dilemma. Issues arising from this conflict have been examined and analysed through the study of the Baulkham Hills local government area which is currently experiencing the conflicts associated with the introduction of non-traditional land uses. Further, a number of initiatives, applied to solving the problem, are critiqued and some suggestions based on first hand consultation with the conflicting stakeholders are offered.

Nicola Reeve

State in conflict: The creation of conflict caused through SEPP implementation

State Government intervention into local planning matters and decision-making has always been prevalent in NSW; after all the State has the legitimate right to intervene in issues and projects it deems as being of State significance or requiring State attention. Whilst intervention into local government affairs is a legitimate use of constitutional power, the mode, means and occurrence that intervention takes is often questionable and a considerable catalyst for conflict. The focus of this thesis is to explore one particular mode of intervention by the State into local level planning, the use of State Environmental Planning Policies, examining both how and why this method of State intervention commonly results in the occurrence of conflict both between the tiers of government and between government and its constituents. This thesis explores the multi-faceted implementation of State policies, examining how the formulation of policy is devised around producing a State desired result. The identification of the situations in which conflict can arise as a result of implementation allowed for several commonalities in the form and cause of conflict to be drawn, particular within the key areas of politics, power and policy. From an examination of policies that have been subject to some form of conflict and through a detailed case study investigation into SEPP 5, this thesis is able to conclude that policies subject to some form of conflict tend to suffer implementation problems at the local level and that the achievement of the State desired outcomes

(expressed as objectives of these policies) are therefore hindered or unobtainable. It is concluded that the existence of conflict during SEPP implementation is an indicator of the ineffectiveness of this form of State intervention, with this thesis suggesting mechanisms and alternative models of power distribution to minimise the degree of intergovernmental conflict from developing in the future.

Jennifer Richardson

Performance based planning – towards a better future!

This thesis takes the assumption that performance-based plans are a better approach to statutory planning than traditional prescriptive or numerical approaches. Today's planning system must be committed to providing consistency and predicability within planning controls while offering fair and astute decision making. In order to attain these higher goals, the planning system must develop superior planning tools than the traditional prescriptive approaches. Performance-based plans are one such tool that has been introduced to facilitate improved planning outcomes and redress a perceived lack of discretion within the planning system. Performance-based planning is an outcome-orientated approach, which relies on compliance with set criteria and objectives within planning documents, rather than numerical controls. Whilst performance-based plans have benefited the planning system, it has not been as successful as first hoped. The provision of discretion eroded fundamental elements of certainty and regulation within statutory planning. Furthermore inherent problems with drafting and implementation of performance-based plans has caused frustration throughout the planning system. Initial problems with performance-based plans have already led some planning professionals to reconsider a more prescriptive approach to statutory planning. However as this thesis argues, initial teething problems with performance-based plans can be overcome. The introduction of discretion and performance-based assessment into the planning system has been vital to ensure more sophisticated planning outcomes and should be not prematurely dismissed.

Stephen Roseland

Urban Design: A local government perspective

The costs, both economic and environmental, of continuing the urban sprawl development pattern on the outer fringes our cities have long been realised. Higher housing densities in inner city areas was the proposed solution thereby reducing the cost of infrastructure, the impact upon the natural environment and allowing new residents to take advantage of existing public services. Examining the impact that urban consolidation policies have had, and will continue to have upon the local streetscapes, built form and visual amenity of local government areas is of extreme importance if our cities are to thrive and remain liveable spaces in the future. Randwick City Council Local Government Area has been used as a test case.

Lorraine Sarayeldin

The missing dimension: planning, space and urban form

This thesis investigates contemporary planning practice with regards to the theoretical and design processes which shape urban space. It aims to highlight the relevance of alternative paradigms to planning practice and theory. It intends to provide a theoretical insight into the missing dimension of planning. This is society and space. Four various paradigms are chosen for discussion and comparison. Each paradigm is representative of various ideals. An outlook of the approaches are discussed and critiqued. Some approaches prove to be more effective than others, developing a dimension which is not considered in contemporary planning practice today. Planning theory and practice today needs to shift its focus from legislation and policy making, to effectively consider these dimensions. This thesis aims to encapsulate the approaches and ideas expressed in response to the importance of spatial analysis of the organisation of urban space.

Susana Pui Shan

Social Planning in Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta Region

On 1 July 1997, Hong Kong entered a new era in history, transforming from a British colony to a “Special Administrative Region” of China. Relationship between Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta (PRD) region is largely strengthened. With the increasing cross-boundary activities, Hong Kong and PRD region integration become a popular topic in the future planning of Hong Kong. Hong Kong and PRD region can be developed into a great megalopolis in the world. Most analysts of the transition process after 1997 focused the economic and other physical aspects of reunion, but seldom talked about socio-cultural impacts. However, because of many historical consequences, Hong Kong and PRD region obtain different social and cultural characteristics, which slow socio-economic integration between the two places. While different public voices complain on government’s slow response, cross-boundary planning should be efficient, but also effective. Economic integration is important, but social integration is equally important to the cross-boundary planning. This thesis examines the changes in Hong Kong-PRD relationship before and after 1997. Barriers to integration are identified from the interview findings. Current attempts to cross-boundary planning are reviewed and assessed. Recommendations to the future cross-boundary planning in the PRD region are expected to raise public awareness to the importance of social integration in the regional context.

Katrina South

Conserve or consent? Planning for urban native vegetation

Historically, bushland has either been protected by increasing the conservation reserve network, or requiring bushland to be considered in environmental assessment processes. Many valuable areas of bushland occur outside the reserve system, on private land, and their contribution to the values of natural and built environments are not often recognised. This thesis examines conservation outcomes for native vegetation outside existing reserves, and explores the way objectives can be achieved for bushland environments when subject to development pressure. It considers the role of decision-makers, landholders and the community, and examines ways to balance conservation and development in urban and peri-urban areas of NSW. Legislative and voluntary mechanisms for bushland conservation are central to the topics explored and these are outlined and evaluated to provide a tool-kit for decision-makers and stakeholders. In addition, it examines the experience of the landholder, of local government, and the challenges faced by the State.

Finally, it makes recommendations on ways to better integrate outcomes for conservation at the development stage, and provides a strategic focus on bushland management. In this way, this thesis represents a practical planning approach to vegetation management and conservation issues, in a form accessible to a wide range of stakeholders.

Dominic Stefan

Reflexive Modernity: Planning and the dialectic of modernisation

Recent decades have seen the modern state and its institutions – including planning – become the subject of a relentless critique by reform movements which have sought its re-composition according to their own values. These forces for change include radical democratic critiques, environmentalism and neoliberalism. More recently, a new set of theories regarding the ‘crisis of modernity’ has emerged which argues for the renewal of modernity through the key Enlightenment values of doubt and critical self awareness. Theories of ‘reflexive modernisation’ can provide a framework for understanding the forces which have informed Australian urban governance and in particular land use planning. This thesis presents several interlocking levels of theory and applies them to the NSW context to discern the direction in which planning theory and practice are moving.

Antonia Stuart

Community Cohesion in Urban Planning: The Evolution of the Neighbourhood Paradigm to Date and Its Role in Residential Development

This thesis examines the concepts of neighbourhood and community in urban planning. Guiding this thesis is the question of how and why such concepts have been used in the design of new residential areas to foster community life. This thesis examines if such concepts have assisted planners and developers in creating successful communities that are cohesive. In addition, successful and unsuccessful characteristics of established planned residential developments are investigated. It is argued that although residential community developments are physically planned to promote resident satisfaction, a successful neighbourhood design does not necessarily mean a community coheres. In order to explore this concept, this thesis examines the factors determining resident satisfaction and community cohesion. Consequently, two further areas are examined. The concept of whether a cohesive community is desirable in urban neighbourhoods, and the extent to which community cohesion in highly planned urban neighbourhoods is the result of the social or physical attributes provided by planners and developers in design. In order to demonstrate this, an examination of the ways in which the neighbourhood paradigm has evolved in urban planning is undertaken. In addition, how the neighbourhood paradigm is perceived today in theory, design and development of residential areas is discussed. In recent years, this issue has become more important due to rising globalisation. New planning theory and urban design paradigms aim to create community cohesion in an effort to encourage social interaction and discourage social disintegration. The number of master-planned residential communities that have been developed in the last ten years needs to be acknowledged as they are now shaping the way that urban development is evolving. In response to the changes that are occurring, it is important to recognise the effect that new residential developments are having on residents and community behaviour. A case study of Cape Cabarita is used to understand how to best develop and manage new highly

planned residential communities. Furthermore, identifying whether community-promoting development does result in higher levels of resident satisfaction is examined.

Simon Tai

The Influence of Urban design on Airport Planning and Airport Design

An Airport is a place where aircrafts land and takeoff. Most airports provide terminal buildings for the arrival and departure of passengers, as well as maintenance and repair facilities for aircraft. Airports are considered as a major transport hub providing connection and communication between cities and countries. As a place of public amenity, the planning and design of an airport should be based on the principles of good urban design to achieve the objectives desirable for the making of a valuable public space. In the aspect of planning and design of a new airport, it is necessary to conduct studies on the existing airport to determine if the airport has reached its maximum capacity. The new airport must be planned to meet the future needs and the forecast demand of aircraft movements. In the planning and design of a new airport, site selection and assessment of the surrounding environment is crucial. Therefore, it is important to develop a master plan which provides detailed analysis of the planned new airport and stages of development. Urban design has a major influence on airport planning and design. Quality urban design principles can provide a distinct character to the place and ensure it will be identified as a landmark. The design must provide a sense of cohesion and continuity. This thesis will investigate urban design and how this can influence and contribute to the better design principles.

Simon Taylor

Whose Shout Is It? Accommodating Hotels in the Changing Urban Environment

Hotels have played a significant role in Australian development. From the outset in Sydneytown, the establishment of a community was built around the drinking of rum. It was this English bred and influenced fascination with drinking and taverns that has ingrained a way of life, possibly a stereotype, within the Australian culture that still exists today. This culture will most likely remain part of Australian psyche even as we become more 'multiculturally defined'. Nevertheless, with Australia increasing in population and mixed-use zonings becoming increasingly popular, hotel and pub development has become more susceptible to converse elements. As people change, it is important that society adapt to best accommodate the hotel, particularly for its heritage and architecture aspects, and its role in social and entertainment life. There are a range of avenues to do so – from adapting social initiatives, establishing liquor legislation, learning from planning dilemmas, increasing community awareness, creating tighter building codes or to the ultimate extreme, prohibition. The best outcomes involve a combined strategy but often with varied success. It is just as important to maintain the hotel whilst not neglecting the residential amenity of the surrounding community. The process is, more than ever, a precarious and uncertain undertaking.

Brent Thompson

Business Parks: A transport perspective

Over the last quarter century, western economic systems have undergone profound restructuring characterised by a decline in the relative importance of traditional fordist manufacturing and the prodigious growth in sectors dependent on the application of knowledge and information. The urban spatial outcomes of metropolitan restructuring have been complex with the crystallisation of sub-regional employment nodes, inducing a shift towards a truly multi-nucleated model of urban form. One form of suburban employment centre to emerge throughout the urban landscape has been the business park. Whilst assuming a variety of forms, common characteristics include a ‘campus’ environment, low to medium rise architect-designed buildings, impeccable landscaping and signature ‘gateway’ features. Based on a case study of Sydney’s Norwest Business Park, this thesis explores the extent to which business parks support public transport. If targets of reducing vehicle dependency in our metropolises are to be seriously pursued, a rethink of the planning and development logic of business parks is necessary. A new approach to business parks is presented to achieve a greater proportion of journey to work trips by more sustainable transport modes.

Kasanita Vave

Sustainable Approaches to Urban Growth Management: The Case of Suva, Fiji

Urban growth management is a contemporary land use approach applied to shape or limit the growth of cities. The implementation of growth management strategies has had very little relevance to planning and management in most Developing Countries. This thesis aims to examine the ways in which the growth of cities affects planning and land management, with particular focus on potential growth management strategies for Developing Countries. With the inclusion of Pacific Island Nations the lack of familiarity of effective growth management is evident despite the increasing urban problems pertaining to urbanisation. In Fiji, the reality of growth has been experienced primarily in the peri-urban areas. The city of Suva has demonstrated patterns of growth that relate to the trends experienced in larger cities. It is an area experiencing continual growth in its urban population and nearly exceeding the limit to which it can be further developed. The research findings concluded that inadequate growth management planning is generally attributed to the lack of recognition and emphasis of a growth management focus in national objectives. Rapid urbanisation tied with administrative and economic shortcomings are the inherent problem and constraint necessitating effective growth management practice. This study concludes with suggestions for specific strategies and principles that can be incorporated to planning and land management.

David Waghorn

Regional Planning in New South Wales: the Region, PlanFirst and Governance

The enigma that is regional planning is many things to many people, dependent on background and field of expertise. Regional planning in NSW has suffered from the inability of governments and their lead agencies to comprehend the scope of regional planning afforded to them under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EPAA) of 1979. The PlanFIRST reforms to Part 3 of the EPAA gives NSW the opportunity to create a best-practice planning system with a renewed focus on regional planning. NSW will be divided into 13-15 regions each with their own regional strategy and regional forum. A whole-of-government approach, which will be supported by the

NSW Treasury, is required for planFIRST to be successful. NSW is jumping from a fragmented system to significantly more centralised and streamlined one, even with the creation of a regional level of governance. The theory of regional planning has been generally accepted by commentators and local council managers of planning. However, the planners craft is built on experience as well as theory, and it will be up to planners in NSW to respond and implement the regional level of planning under the PlanFIRST reforms.

Christine Watson

Internal Reserves - Hidden Potential

The provision of public open space has been an important aspect of planning to improve the quality of life within residential environments. The concept of the internal reserve emerged in the plans of early twentieth century residential areas. Today they can be seen in various historic and contemporary forms. The term internal reserve is used to refer to public open space characterised by minimal street access and enclosure by residential allotments. Due to relative lack of visibility and access, awareness of these spaces is often limited to immediate property owners. The duality of being both intimate and communal spaces represents challenges to traditional management, but it also presents potential for innovation. *Internal Reserves - Hidden Potential* explores contemporary approaches to the management of open space through literature review and case studies. The issues that arise form the basis for recommendations for future management of internal reserves and other public open spaces.

Amy Webb

The Influence of Local Government Structure over the Social Role of Town Planning

This thesis supports postmodern arguments that town planning must understand and address the complexity and diversity within the social environment. It explores the conceptual divide between town planning and its social role, arguing that this has led to inequitable social outcomes. In order to ensure that town planning manages the social implications of its actions, the conceptual divide needs to be challenged and dismantled. To understand how this might be possible, the study examines the influence of the structure of local government in NSW over the role of town planning.

An extensive literature review, the compilation and categorisation of local government structure charts and the distribution of a questionnaire to councils within the Sydney Greater Metropolitan Region, were conducted as part of the research methodology. Three councils were also investigated to demonstrate how a variety of structural arrangements influence the role and function of town planning. The thesis reveals that historically, town planning has assumed a central physical focus relegating social role of planning to the margins of the discipline. It is shown that the traditional organisational structures of local government are influential in maintaining this position. There are however, newer more innovative structures which are breaking down the divide and forging a productive relationship between social planning and town planning. The thesis concludes with a set of recommended structural arrangements to enhance the relationship between town planning and its social role.

Anthony Williams

Viticulture and Counterurbanisation

For the past 25 to 30 years Australia has experienced counter-urbanisation. This phenomenon has been observed in a number of regions across non-metropolitan Australia and appears to be most prominent in coastal and peri-metropolitan settings. At the same time, the Australian wine industry has experienced a period of substantial growth and change. Existing regions are reaping the rewards of wine tourism and export success and new wine regions have come to prominence. Many of Australia's most established and best known premium wine regions are located in close proximity to a capital city and are often inside commuting distance to a city, or within its peri-metropolitan region. This thesis explores the interaction of the wine industry, particularly that of grape growing, wine making and wine tourism, with counter-urbanisation. It examines the emergence of a pattern of development involving people residing in the peri-metropolitan region, establishing a small vineyard and commuting to the city for work. While this lifestyle is not a major force on the peri-metropolitan landscape, it commands attention in that it embraces the phenomenon of counter-urbanisation without the necessary loss of agricultural land and the possibility of adding value to regional economies.

Renée Wirth

Consuming Culture: identity and tourism in the built environment

This thesis investigates the interaction between culture, tourism and consumption in the built environment. Culture and the culture of cities is an emerging topic in academic discussions as both a form of social meaning and as tool for economic growth and revitalisation. Promotional, marketing and tourism campaigns have sought to capitalise on the distinct cultural landscapes of places to encourage business investment and tourism. In an attempt to provide new markets for tourists, places of cultural significance are re-imagined as experiences for visitors to enjoy. In the case of Sydney culture and consumption are very much intertwined. The premier tourist activity is shopping and cultural precincts within the city are being marketed as not just interesting places to see and experience but places to shop, eat and be entertained. There is an increasing blurring of the line between the consumption *of* cultural places and consumption *in* cultural places. This has implications for the built environment as consumption is both a place creating and place altering force. The visual and physical consumption of places shapes the built form and the cultural meaning attached to spaces and places. From this context this thesis considers the authenticity of constructing culture as resource for consumption and as a tool for economic growth.

Phyllis Wong

Chasing the Pedestrian Power: A study on the fundamental factors that contribute to an attractive and friendly environment in a pedestrian mall

The pedestrian mall is a place where shoppers and pedestrian can enjoy a pleasant and safe environment. This thesis analyses the fundamental factors that contribute to an attractive and friendly environment in pedestrian mall. All great places have their own unique sense of place which reflects their history, culture and character. The literature review on the sense of place provides idea on for creating friendly public spaces. An understanding of pedestrian mall development is achieved by findings and research on the definition, functions, hierarchy and traffic planning of pedestrian malls. Understanding and

appreciation of urban design and pedestrian behaviour will provide advancement in planning and design knowledge and technique for ensuring attractiveness and friendliness of pedestrian malls. Case studies examine and evaluate the planning, urban design and cultural background of four different pedestrian malls – Pitt Street Mall, Nanjing Road East, City Walk and Wangfujing Avenue. These successful pedestrian malls have been developed in four different modern cities – Sydney, Shanghai, Canberra and Beijing. Each of these four cities has its own unique character, culture, history and political background. Pedestrian behaviour in such different settings is also studied.

Kristy Wyatt

Parking policy as a strategic planning tool

Over the last decade, there has been a major shift in Government policy towards reducing private vehicle usage and encouraging more sustainable modes of transport including public transport, walking and cycling. Studies have shown that parking policy can be an effective tool to manage travel demand and achieve mode split objectives for higher public transport use. However, much of parking policy practice in Sydney both at the State Government and local Government level is based on meeting parking demand rather than managing parking demand. This only promotes the use of the private vehicle thus undermining current State Government policies. A new Metropolitan Parking Policy is required to guide local Councils in the management of parking to ensure a more strategic approach. It may perhaps be modelled on South Sydney City Council's *Transport Guidelines for Development* which sets maximum parking requirements instead of minimum, restrains car ownership and parking supply to encourage public transport use and includes all modes of transport in the assessment process not only motor vehicles. Councils will then be in a position to adopt parking policies of a strategic nature that aim to reduce parking demand while improving public transport to achieve mode split targets.

Vanessa Zalunardo

Planning for Places of Worship

Religious diversity in Australia is manifest in part through the establishment of non-Christian places of worship. Conflicts may arise in the planning process between minority religious groups and the established local community. Tensions evolve due to perceived environmental, economic and social impacts to the built and social environment. In particular, tensions may occur due to residents' fear of social changes to the locality, including anxieties over cultural changes in the built environment. Racism can enter into the planning system through public submissions, some overtly demonstrating intolerance and prejudice towards the religious group and the associated place of worship. This thesis examines the difficulties and challenges planners encounter in dealing with such objections. Stated reasons for opposition to applications for non-Christian religious developments in Sydney are identified and discussed. Planners face difficulties in addressing the needs of a culturally diverse society and negotiating competing claims to citizenship. This thesis analyses how planners respond to tensions over religious developments and examines the extent to which the planning system and planning controls accommodate the needs of minority religious groups in the planning for places of worship.