

**Bachelor of Planning  
Faculty of the Built Environment  
The University of New South Wales**

**Thesis topics - 2005**

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Rene Baker

**Planning for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Australia: A Case Study of the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement 1997**

Natural resource management has dramatically changed over the last 30 years. In particular, forestry management has altered due to multiple factors. These include the growing availability of appropriate research and technical data, privatisation, international trade pressures, globalisation, increased public participation in planning, together with the advent of ecologically sustainable development as a key planning mechanism. These factors have influenced the development of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Commonwealth and Tasmanian State Governments with the signing of the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement in November 1997. This thesis focuses on the ability of the Intergovernmental Agreement to achieve ecologically sustainable forest management. The public perception of the Intergovernmental Agreement has significant impacts on the functioning of the Agreement as a planning policy and its ability to achieve ecologically sustainable outcomes. Accordingly, policies need to appropriately address the public as a significant stakeholder in the process. Effective planning mechanisms are essential to ensure productive public participation in support of the planning instrument - in this case the Tasmanian Regional Forestry Agreement 1997.

Aaron Bowden

**Planning Across the Airport Fence: A Study of the Impacts of Non-Aeronautical Development of Major Australian Airports**

In approving the Sydney Airport Master Plan in 2004, the Minister for Transport and Regional Service stressed that the Commonwealth expected the Sydney Airport Corporation Limited (SACL) to continue to consult with state and local governments, as well as the community, in developing the airport site to ensure a balance between airport profit margins with community amenity. The legitimacy of the Minister's expectations was brought into question when SACL announced a \$46 million contract to the Abi Group Pty Ltd for the commencement of works for the introduction of the Airbus A380. Concerns regarding the planning and development assessment processes at Commonwealth leased airports are not however limited to Sydney, with community and political angst arising with respect to non-aeronautical development across Australia. How has this process emerged? Why is there such a push for commercial development of Commonwealth land; and who is protecting the public interest? This thesis considers these key questions by exploring the framework for the planning and assessment of development on Commonwealth leased airports, using Sydney Airport as a case study. Opportunities to mitigate land-use and community impacts of airport planning and development are considered and potential remedies proposed.

Jill Camara

**Place based planning....retracted or reformed?**

Place-based planning, comprising notions of place-making and place-outcomes, has recently been at the forefront of planning in Australia, particularly in New South Wales. Place-based planning utilises the ideas and theories of place to provide a holistic approach to planning. It emphasises processes described by John Mant (2000) as avoiding all places looking and feeling much the same as each other so that “rather than being anywhere and nowhere, then one could be and belong somewhere”. This thesis aims to unravel place-based planning theory by illustrating the impacts it has had within the NSW planning system. The focus is place-based development control systems with the primary objective being to analyse where place-based planning controls are heading. The thesis uses the Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2000 as a case study to highlight the consequences and reforms which the changes to place-based planning controls have provided. The thesis examines the role that the State Government has endorsed in relation to place-based planning controls within NSW. Further, it demonstrates practical examples that currently exist in Australia that encompass place-based planning controls. This research will assist in determining the possible directions which place-based planning controls in NSW can achieve.

Joel Carson

### **A Light Rail System for Parramatta Road**

Light rail is a rail-based public transport mode which has been successful in effectively and efficiently moving people in cities around the world. Light rail has potential applications along Sydney’s Parramatta Road - a major transport route linking the city centre with the western suburbs. This thesis focuses on that part of Parramatta Road between Strathfield and the Sydney Central Business District, investigating the viability of a light rail system. Currently subject to various land use and transport planning initiatives, but constrained by serious traffic congestion, public transport inefficiency and poor urban amenity, the need to find efficient public transport solutions in this area is urgent. The region is forecast to undergo population and employment growth, with a consequent increase in travel demand. A higher capacity transit system will undoubtedly be needed to cope with this future expansion. The thesis presents analysis of light rail transit to define the principles involved. A strategic land use and transport analysis of the inner-west identifies the land uses, densities and travel demand necessary to support a light rail system, as well as determining how the system could function as an effective component of land use and transport initiatives. The overall objective of the research is to develop an optimal proposal for a light rail system on Parramatta Road in Sydney’s inner west.

Gary Cheung

### **A Creative Canberra??**

Canberra is a planned city. It emerged from a conscious creation for a new nation. The Griffins envisaged a living Canberra - an Organic City. This was to be a place where urban living would sit comfortably with grand avenues and an optimistic vision – a city in which citizens would have great pride. Today, this vision is lost. Gone is the joy of Canberra’s achievements – lost amidst the rubbles of Modernist Planning. This thesis engages with the notion of the creative city and Richard Florida’s concept of the ‘Creative Class’. These are the people with creative minds motivated by achievements and a great thirst for challenge. These people are attracted to great cities – the cities which provide opportunities to develop their talents and ideas, along with the technology and capital to support such creativity. These cities are in fact cauldrons of the fire of creativity. Creative places generate synergy. They are incubators for creativity. They foster opportunities for interaction, inspiration and identity. This thesis considers the capacity to

imagine a different story; a different outcome; a different way of being; a reinvigoration of creativity – the capacity to imagine... A Creative Canberra.

Jared Clancy

### **The Mobile Telecommunications Conflict: Balancing Interests and Assuming Responsibility**

There are currently 17.7 million active mobile handsets in Australia for a population of 20.3 million. A recent Telstra study revealed that of the 1,100 surveyed, one in five Australians were 'stressed and uncomfortable' when separated from their mobile phone. In NSW the dependence on mobile phones has contributed to a rapid and largely unregulated development of mobile telecommunications infrastructure network. The construction of this network has had a significant impact on the amenity, particularly visual amenity, of urban NSW. This thesis critically analyses the role of the NSW planning system in appropriately regulating the rapid deployment of mobile telecommunications infrastructure. The legislative requirements associated with telecommunications infrastructure are scrutinised, including commonwealth, state and local environmental planning instruments and relevant non-statutory plans and policies. The analysis and evaluation in the thesis generate five recommendations to improve the governance of the NSW planning system in the development of mobile telecommunications infrastructure. These recommendations include amendments to existing industry codes and policies, the introduction of a register for mobile phone towers, and the preparation of non-statutory planning instruments to enable consistent development of mobile telecommunication infrastructure across NSW.

David Demer

### **Provision of Children's Play Spaces: Social, Environmental and Planning Barriers**

Play is one of the most complex shapers of human intelligence, competence, values and creativity. This thesis examines how primary school children aged from five to ten interact with the urban environment in free play and how planning policy and practice respond to the needs of children for creative play opportunities. Research is presented about the different types of environments which children select to play in when given a choice. Children are attracted to natural settings for play because of the interactive possibilities with environmental forms and processes. Unfortunately planners rarely recognize such opportunities. The thesis discusses the reasons for this reluctance. Examples of different play spaces in Sydney are provided, comparing and contrasting environments available within the city's inner suburbs with those further out. Factors that hinder children's activities in play settings are considered. Further, the ways in which different social and environmental factors constrain children's independent mobility are discussed. These include traffic, 'stranger danger', liability concerns and physical hazards. Urban sprawl, consolidation and increased private vehicle usage are also analysed in terms of their impact on accessibility to play spaces.

Tim Fung

### **The Impact of Resettlement on Residents Involuntarily Displaced by the Three Gorges Dam Project**

Over the last century, many thousands of dams have been built to serve communities in different ways. Dams have been built to provide water for irrigation in rural areas, to meet domestic and industrial needs, to generate hydropower, and to help control floods. But dams have also had

negative impacts on communities, particularly displacing many millions of residents who needed to be resettled as a result of dam construction. Relocation has often been far from these people's original homes. In the past, the restoration of lost livelihoods tended to be based solely on monetary compensation. This often led to problems as many new migrants were left in poverty after their relocation. With a view to improving resettlement outcomes following dam construction, the concept of 'Resettlement with Development' was created and is now generally regarded as an appropriate way to address community relocation, especially throughout the developing world. Nevertheless, few developing countries have included the concept in their national policies. The People's Republic of China is an exception. This study examines the application of 'Resettlement with Development' principles on the largest dam construction to date, the Three Gorges Project in the People's Republic of China.

Tinalee Gallico

### ***Smart Housing in Sydney?***

Whilst it is evident that Sydney's housing development is undergoing significant change, to what extent does this reflect principles of *Smart Growth*? Is housing being developed in a manner which is *Smart* given the planning policy frameworks and housing market preferences of the Sydney Metropolitan Region? To assist in answering these questions, this thesis examines some of Sydney's middle ring municipalities as locations where *Smart Growth* is, or should be, occurring. The detailed analysis of planning frameworks and broad understandings of housing markets has eluded the public policy responsible for shaping the region's growth. Such policy possesses serious weaknesses and faces notable challenges unless redefined. Factors stymieing the achievement of *Smart Housing* in Sydney are associated with the statutory planning system, governance and to a lesser extent, preferences of the general population. The nature and influence of these factors varies considerably from council to council. Consequently only piecemeal achievement of housing consistent with the principles of *Smart Growth* is occurring in Sydney. To counter this, planning practice needs to address co-ordination between tiers of government, complex development frameworks and processes, the influence of politics, and the development of public awareness and understandings.

Adrian Gilderdale

### **Consult the People: A Look at Developers and Government Consultation During Plan Making and Assessment**

The increase in popularity of community participation in plan making and assessment raises a number of important questions. Specifically, are developers and the government satisfying consultation expectations of the community during the preparation and assessment of development plans? Is pre-lodgment consultation during plan making working effectively? Does the approach to community consultation meet current best practice consultation standards? Using a development in Byron Bay as a case study, this thesis addresses these key questions. It is argued that traditional developer and government approaches to land use planning consultation need to be reconsidered to include greater opportunities for all stakeholders to become involved in the decision making process. Specific findings suggest that pre-lodgment developer consultation may not be working effectively because best practice consultation standards are not being applied. Developers may need to reconsider the way consultation is undertaken during major plan making in order to provide the community with greater opportunities for informed participation. This research has found that pre-determination consultation is growing in popularity. The reasons for this are linked to ineffective developer consultation and to

developers sometimes providing only narrow opportunities for the community to become involved in plan making. It is recommended that government planning agencies review the current range of consultation techniques in major planning policies in order to bring consultation provisions more in line with community needs and expectations.

Dean Golding

### **What Mechanisms are Available for Preserving Sydney's Agricultural Land and Are They Being Implemented?**

Agricultural land in the Sydney basin is a finite resource. It is coming under increasing pressure from urban expansion in the form of rural residential and non-urban 'lifestyle' developments. The popularity of rural lifestyle living has become a housing trend within Sydney and is having significant implications for the viability of the city's agricultural land. Instances of land use conflict are increasing as areas traditionally used for intensive agricultural purposes are being converted to residential related uses. Greater protection is required to ensure agricultural land is retained for its economic, social and environmental contributions to the Sydney region. There are a number of mechanisms available for the protection of agricultural land. Currently only strategic planning and land use zoning methods are being used with very poor outcomes. The protection of agricultural land therefore needs the implementation of a combination of mechanisms to ensure better outcomes. In particular, the use of incentives requires further investigation. It is anticipated that only through the implementation of a combination of mechanisms, including incentives, will meaningful protection be afforded to Sydney's valuable agricultural land resource.

Gillian Goldsmith

### **Planning for Generation Y**

Generation Y (people born between 1974 and 1994) is a new generation of Australians, expected to influence and change society more than the Baby Boomers. Those in Generation Y have grown up in a dynamic, high-speed world, sharing a different social, economic and technological environment than any generation before them. They hold an individual set of character traits and can be described as 'connected', 'diverse', 'experience-seeking', 'convenience-junkies', 'active', 'ambitious', 'lifestyle-committed', and 'green-ish'. Ultimately, these values are reflected in the choices they make and the lifestyle they desire. Whilst Baby Boomers relentlessly pursued the 'Great Australian Dream' during their young adult years, this thesis explores how Generation Y is generating a new set of realities, modernising their needs and desires, and creating a new 'Inner-City Dream'. The lifestyle desires of Generation Y are revealed through a consideration of current trends, a study of relevant theory and literature, and a series of qualitative in-depth interviews. The findings are drawn together in eight comprehensive 'Dream Factors' that embody the ideal inner-city lifestyle for Generation Y. Essentially these factors suggest an exclusive new planning tool that should be incorporated into urban consolidation and urban renewal initiatives to attract and retain these young Australians. Generation Y is the future of Sydney. It is essential that planners today plan for Generation Y's lifestyle future 'dream'.

Jonathan Goodwill

### **Public Interest: How it is Considered Under Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979**

There is no doubt that planning exists because it serves the public interest. As Australia has developed and people have become increasingly dissatisfied with the quality of the built environment, planning has become crucial to the achievement of quality outcomes. The assessment of development applications could be considered the last step in the planning process. From the Environmental Study to the preparation of Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans, the determination of the development application is the outcome where these policies are realised. Currently, consent authorities must make an assessment of a development proposal in accordance with the relevant legislation. In New South Wales one of the matters that must be considered is the public interest. 'Public interest' can be described as the awareness and knowledge that humans are not isolated beings, but are connected to nature and other people. The public interest is a complex concept that is difficult to grasp. This thesis examines the way in which the public interest is considered under S79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979.

Bertha Gunawan

### **The Practice of New Urbanism in the Established Inner Suburbs of Sydney: An Investigation of the New Urbanism Approach in Daceyville, Birchgrove and North Cremorne**

The concept of new urbanism challenges placeless urban sprawl, dispersion of economic growth, lack of social intercourse and community building. New Urbanism promotes a compact city with a diverse but strong and connected community, concentrated urban (economic) growth within a particular spatial context, and a sense of belonging within a locality. The concept is about creating a sustainable living environment for a diverse range of people. It attempts to bring back traditional neighbourhood structures which emphasized resident interaction, as well as employment opportunities and easy mobility within a local area. New Urbanists argue that such a spatial form makes a greater contribution to sustainable urban living when compared with developments which emphasize profitable economic returns at the expense of longer term environmental and social sustainability. Are the principles of New Urbanism found in existing older suburbs? And if they are there, what are they? This thesis investigates the existence of New Urbanism principles in the older and established suburbs of Sydney. The basis for the research is the exploration and identification of the elements of New Urbanism. The aim is to determine the practicality of New Urbanism principles in the selected older suburbs. Are the principles of New Urbanism a positive planning concept which will achieve long term sustainability?

Adrian Ho

### **Airspace Developments Over Railway Corridors – A Case For and Against**

The city of Sydney is plagued by urban sprawl and car dependency. This is an unsustainable trend which is recognized in the New South Wales Government's planning policies with their emphasis on maximising existing urban land useage and encouraging public transport patronage. Part of this is the integration of public transport facilities and other landuses within the metropolitan area. RailCorp, Sydney's railway operator and the landowner of the metropolitan rail network, has an important role to play in this regard but faces financial difficulties in achieving desired outcomes. Revenue from railway operations is unlikely to recoup the costs of railway construction. However, the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) in Hong Kong has development rights for its railway stations. This 'Rail + Property' development model has enabled the MTRC to achieve integrated and comprehensive planning of its stations and their surrounding areas. This thesis considers how the Hong Kong model can be adapted to the

Sydney situation. Various studies have highlighted the concerns of RailCorp about station airspace developments. However, analysis has shown that these concerns are not strong enough to prohibit such developments. In view of its potential benefits, the 'Rail + Property' development model should be explored further.

Sarah Hudson

### **Dire Stratas: The Redevelopment Problem**

Many of the 60,000 strata titled buildings in NSW are nearing the end of their useful lives. Even though a building may be in serious need of repair, redevelopment is extremely difficult because the unanimous approval of owners is required for it to proceed. To date, the implications of the inability of strata titled buildings to be redeveloped are largely unknown, even though this may well result in considerable urban problems. These issues are likely to include challenges to equity, the potential for 'urban blight', the challenge to the provision of decent living conditions for people on low incomes, as well as the aesthetic impact on Sydney. This thesis attempts to quantify the timing and scale of required future redevelopment. It uses empirical data collected from the Randwick Local Government Area as a case study, as well as analysing the barriers to redevelopment. Results show that in the next 30 years, 35 per cent of strata buildings in Randwick will require redevelopment. This research also reveals that market forces are likely to provide a potentially insurmountable barrier to the redevelopment of strata titled buildings. This poses a significant challenge to planners and government authorities. Not only will they need to prevent this from happening, they will need to find ways of addressing the problems that are likely to occur as a significant proportion of strata titled buildings deteriorate.

Peter Jobson

### **Reserved Land: Land Acquisition, the Right or Wrong Response?**

For the last 50 years, public authorities in New South Wales, through various environmental planning instruments, have been reserving land to ensure that open spaces are provided in accordance with state planning policies and the community's needs. As a result, most Sydney councils have areas of privately owned land reserved for local open space. The State Government, through the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, requires all Local Environmental Planning Instruments to contain an Acquisition Provision. This Provision requires a council, on receipt of an acquisition notice from the private landholder of land reserved for local open space, to acquire the land. The Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 requires the Valuer-General to determine the compensation payable for such land, an amount which the local authority cannot challenge. The compulsory land acquisition provision and current processes for acquiring reserved local open space land pose financial risks for certain councils. This risk relates to the fact that the land in question was reserved some 50 years ago when its value was much lower than it is today. As a consequence of escalating land values in Sydney, it is impossible for local councils to forecast and budget expenditure to acquire reserved land. Further, some of this land is no longer required by councils to fulfill their functions or to meet community open space needs. Therefore, the acquisition provision required to be included in all Local Environmental Planning Instruments, the current statutes regulating compulsory acquisition, as well as much of the land reserved today for open space, need to be reviewed and addressed to minimise the financial risks for Local Government.

Lee Kosnetter

### **Out of sight - Out of mind: The Cross City Tunnel**

The Cross City Tunnel is one of the most controversial private transport infrastructure projects in Sydney's history. The State Government and the Roads and Traffic Authority have been implicated in multiple cover-ups, particularly relating to the nature of agreements with the CrossCity Motorway, the owner of the tunnel. This recently resulted in the release of confidential documents to the public and a three week toll-free period for motorists using the Cross City Tunnel. Air quality is becoming an increasingly important concern for tunnel users. Medical and scientific evidence has linked exposure to air pollution with a number of life threatening ailments. Vehicle emissions from tunnel portals and ventilation stacks in Sydney have raised community concerns following the mismanagement of emissions from the recently completed M5 East tunnel. This thesis reveals that inaccurate air quality information has been given to the public. It is apparent that the air quality impact assessment commissioned by the owners of the Cross City Tunnel uses inappropriately situated monitoring stations, incorrect air modelling techniques and measures results against inadequate standards within an urban canyon. This suggests miscalculations and public deceit by the authorities regarding air quality impacts and negative health implications resulting from the Cross City Tunnel.

Kevin Kuo

### **Western Sydney Industrial Areas: Options for Maximising the Employment Potential of the Wetherill Park Industrial Estate**

There has been a major shift in the evolution of Sydney into the global economy. This is related to the value of a region increasingly determined by its concentration of knowledge rather than physical assets. This is evident in employment areas in Sydney's Baulkham Hills, North Ryde, Kingsford Smith Airport and CBD, which are typified by high concentrations of knowledge industries. It is these 'knowledge industries' that play an increasingly important role in shaping the city's economy. Although industrial areas in western Sydney continue to make major contributions to the local and regional economy by providing traditional labour intensive manufacturing, competition from lower wage countries and automation are causing these significant employment areas to decline. This has resulted in less full time jobs being created for each industrial site as the nature of businesses changes to embrace smaller workforce activities such as storage and warehousing. The Wetherill Park Industrial Estate, located within the Fairfield Local Government Area, is a prime example of this shift. Using Fairfield as its main case study, this thesis provides three strategic options to improve the employment potential of Wetherill Park. Options are based on employment and development trends, education, and new transport infrastructure in relation to broad metropolitan strategies, State Government policy and the existing local planning framework.

Kandace Lindeberg

### **Cognitive Planning: A Conclave of Congruence**

It is impossible not to be influenced by the environment. An individual's behaviour, choices and motivations are directly influenced by the built form, largely dictated by the environment's ability to be cognised by its users. Spatial cognition is a dynamic physiological process that suggests a method to plan and design communities, resulting in optimal spatial outcomes to shape behaviours, increase choices and enhance motivations. This thesis examines three underlying concepts which frame spatial cognition within the built environment - congruence, legibility and image-ability. These indicators support the ability of an environment to be easily cognised. A study of two neighbourhood districts within Canberra and Sydney's Sutherland Shire identifies the degree to which residents have cognised their local area. The research

involved an examination of the participant's cognitive representations communicated through verbal and written portrayals. This assisted an assessment of the degree to which each neighbourhood embodies the three concepts of spatial cognitive theory. The thesis attempts to ascertain whether the planning and urban design disciplines should embrace the major concepts of spatial cognitive theory. Interviews with planning and urban design professionals offer a likely explanation for why these principles have not been adopted. The potential scope for spatial cognition to be embraced is explored. A paradigm is created to assess how a built environment can be spatially cognised, in order to facilitate the planners' and designers' desire to provide built environments which meet the needs of the people who use them.

Natalie Lloyd

### **Facing into the Wind: Generating Wind Farm Developments in NSW**

Electrical energy has allowed cities and economies to evolve. It has enabled growing populations to take advantage of 'time saving' technologies as they have become more affordable. But demand for electricity has come with a cost in the unacceptable generation of greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal. Eventually the demand for electricity will increase beyond sustainable levels. Concern about this problem has prompted a shift in the energy industry to invest in renewable resources to generate electricity. Wind farms are one such source and have been developed across rural NSW, providing electricity for the national grid. Despite community concerns, the provision of electricity from wind farms has been efficient. Nevertheless, wind generation has its problems and entails, like most new infrastructure developments, a variety of land use conflicts including noise generation, visual pollution and environmental impacts. The development of wind farms is occurring in NSW without any State Government assessment guidelines. Nor are there policies outlining the role for renewable energy in NSW. This lack of policy direction poses serious problems for the planning assessment of wind farms. The role of the planner is to provide the best possible environment for existing and future generations. This thesis discusses the positive and negative issues associated with wind farms. It suggests that the State Government needs to appropriately guide the development of this form of electricity generation to provide a future sustainable energy source.

Kate Lyons

### **Terrace Housing on the Fringe of Sydney**

The pursuit of the Australian Dream of home ownership, together with the national ideal of detached dwelling, is reflected in the low density urban form of our cities. However, in Sydney, burgeoning social, environmental and economic issues are changing the way that we need to plan for an expanding population. Predicted population growth cannot continue to be housed in low density fringe developments as it has in the past. Attached accommodation, such as terrace housing, can provide the population density necessary to support infrastructure which in turn can alleviate these problems. However, how planners positively sustain such a housing form, rather than hinder it, is a significant challenge to the profession. The attributes of low rise terrace style housing include the urban design improvements as a result of rear garage locations, decreased land requirements, cheaper overall costs, and higher population density without significant change to overall urban form. And yet despite these obvious advantages, planners are unable to commit themselves to higher density development. The fear of density plagues the planning fraternity as much as it does the community. Planners must voice the need for higher density suburban development if Sydney is going to be able to sustainably accommodate predicted population growth.

Dharini Meenachi-Sunderam

### **The Nature of Nature Strips: Guiding Local Policy for the Maintenance and Management of Nature Strips**

Nature strips are council owned land that divides private land from the vehicular carriageway. They vary in design and character across Sydney. Nature strips reflect the character of the local area and its residents, while providing spaces for social interaction. Nature strips form an important part of residential streetscapes, yet there is little understanding about their function or character. Little interest in nature strips by local governments is indicated in limited local policy. Although nature strips are part of land owned by councils, in many instances residents are required to maintain them raising the question of the responsibility of maintenance. This thesis explores the concept of the nature strip and its role in the local residential streetscape. The variance in nature strips is examined across the metropolitan region. Views of Sydney residents regarding the maintenance and management of nature strips are explored. Local policy options for the maintenance and management of the nature strip are suggested using outcomes from a literature review, observational field surveys, questionnaires and local policy analysis. Recommendations for local policy are also included.

Peter Naidovski

### **A Fork in the Road: Road Based Urban Growth Management**

The growth of Sydney's population has been remarkably rapid over its 200 year history. This has caused the city to expand almost 80 kilometres from the CBD at a relatively low density, and spread into an environment where land uses conflict and access to services and resources is diminished. These patterns of development have caused concern about adverse environmental, social and economic impacts. Further, they lead those charged with governance to search for new ways to manage growth to ensure that it is sustainable environmentally, socially and economically. Since the middle of the twentieth century, town planners in Sydney have developed long term strategic plans in an attempt to minimise the impacts of the city's expansion on the fringe. This thesis examines the theory behind growth management and the many techniques which have been developed to combat geographical expansion. The main focus is the Urban Growth Corridor concept in terms of its effectiveness as a growth management technique. The concept is considered in relation to its ability to be applied to two local case studies: the Parramatta Road Corridor and the Hume Highway Corridor.

Vy Nguyen

### **Valuing GIS in the Planning Profession**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are more than just maps. GIS is a valuable tool for retrieving, manipulating, analysing and displaying spatial information to make informed planning decisions. Although GIS can enrich the planning profession, there has been little reference to the importance of integrating and diffusing this technology within organisations. Whilst some attempts have been made to integrate GIS within everyday planning practice, opportunities still exist to better utilise the tool to take further advantage of its applications and functions. How GIS is being used and perceived has been explored through an investigation of three local government council case studies in the Sydney Metropolitan Region. Rather than a technical or complex explanation of GIS and its capabilities, this thesis provides a general overview and practical approach to the technology, its role and value within the practice of planning. More

specifically, this thesis examines the key managerial and human factors affecting GIS integration and subsequent opportunities to diffuse the technology in the planning profession.

Karen Rae

### **Precinct Committees: Are They an Effective and Efficient Public Involvement Approach in Sydney Local Government Areas?**

Public involvement has become an issue for local government since the public interest in planning decisions increased in the 1970s. Public involvement is recognised as best practice and results in benefits for both the public and local government. Precinct committees as a public involvement approach have been introduced intermittently by local councils in Sydney over the last 30 years. The precinct committee is a forum for residents to be involved in their community and discuss local issues. These council-guided committees generally meet monthly and provide the local authority with suggestions, ideas and opinions on local issues. Using case studies of three Sydney local government areas with operational precinct committees in place, this thesis explores why and how these precinct committees function as a public involvement approach. To address the research questions, together with available literature, in-depth interviews were conducted with council staff and a short questionnaire was completed by precinct members in North Sydney, Leichhardt and Manly Local Government Areas.

Kyou Won Rhee

### **Technology boom: Regional Development Strategies of New South Wales in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

This thesis investigates the current technologies that contribute to the field of regional economic development. While the focus is New South Wales, international case studies are used for comparative purposes. The study's aim is to comprehensively evaluate current decentralisation strategies for NSW. Economic prosperity is arguably the main attractor for business and people to regional areas. However, how is economic prosperity achieved? The answer lies in technological developments such as telecommunications, renewable energy, home networking, and desalination (a process which is currently in use in the Middle East, Perth and being considered for Sydney). The thesis concludes that future revisions of the existing decentralisation strategies should aim to embrace technology for the betterment of the regional communities and their growth.

Angela Rossi

### **Public Art: Strategies for Sydney**

Within the Creative Cities conceptual framework, public art is not just about beautification. Rather it embodies a deeper ideal - that of providing connection between people and place. Public art is active rather than passive; it is art which evokes a response from the viewer and creates a memory that becomes part of that person's experience. Public art is in its infancy in Sydney but soon there will be much more to see and experience. Across Sydney, local councils and planning authorities are demanding that developers include public art, often as a condition of their planning approval. The challenge is for artists to tap into both past and present experiences and provide communities with something unexpected. This thesis investigates public art in Sydney, firstly through a phone survey of councils and then through interviews with persons associated with recent innovative art work in the Marrickville Local Government Area. It also investigates art work in Berlin with the view to applying what is learned to the Sydney situation.

This is done through a series of photographs and observations made by the author during a visit in July 2005, and through a questionnaire issued to visitors in that city. For Sydney, the result is a list of strategies that can foster creativity in public art.

Dave Sheehan

### **It's a little thing called work: Investigating Employment Patterns in Sub-centre Sydney**

This thesis provides an organic look at the employment structure of Sydney, together with the emerging nature of specialisation and co-location of sub-centres in the Sydney Metropolitan Area. Principal Component Analysis is undertaken as a method of identifying compatibility associations between assemblages of employment. It is argued via a spatial analysis that elements of Central Place Theory still remain in the economic structure of Sydney, and that groupings of aligned employment are a result of both milieux synergies, and the locational attributes, including labour sheds, of an area.

Jon Shillito

### **Planning for the Information Age: The Role of Metropolitan Strategies in Creating a World City**

Globalisation and urbanisation have created a situation where a relatively small number of cities dominate the world economy. These cities have become known as world/global cities and are noticeable for their economic power. What has become more evident in recent times is the role that urban governance and management, particularly metropolitan strategies, play in affecting a city's position in the global city hierarchy. This thesis explores the concepts of globalisation, the creation of world cities and the influence that metropolitan plans have had on Sydney's economic development. There are three objectives of the research. First, to discover if metropolitan strategies can influence the development of world cities. Second, to ascertain what a metropolitan strategy should contain in order to achieve world city status. And third, to establish how Sydney is placed in the world city system and what a new metropolitan strategy for Sydney should embody. The thesis provides an overview of the five metropolitan strategies that have been released for Sydney. It argues that these strategies have failed to positively impact on the economic, environmental and social challenges facing the city. A number of recommendations are made suggesting how a new metropolitan strategy can develop and enhance Sydney's status as a world city.

Aaron Smith

### **Art in the City: The Importance of Public Art in Public Space**

Public space is an important component of the built environment. A well designed public space is a key factor in creating and promoting successful urban environments. Public art is also an important component of the built environment and one which needs to be appropriately addressed to provide for the best possible outcomes within urban settings. The successful provision of art in public spaces adds character and can be used to strengthen the importance and use of those spaces. Public open space exists for the pleasure and use of society, so it is essential that these spaces are developed to their full potential. Public art is a means of improving public open space areas. This thesis explores the various concepts, definitions and interpretations of public art, its funding, the decision making process prior to its installation, and the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The focus is the way that public art is used to create urban

environments that are visually attractive, as well as yielding positive outcomes such as improved patronage and tourism, together with increased economic, social and cultural activity. The thesis includes a case study of Melbourne's Docklands which boasts significant installations of public art. Research involved an image based analysis of the site, an overview of relevant planning provisions, and a discussion of the findings of a questionnaire completed by 100 users of the space. A discussion of the success of public art in enhancing the Melbourne Docklands specifically, and public spaces more generally, concludes the study.

Rosamund Sutcliffe

### **Heritage and Sustainability**

The rubric of sustainability and development is now enmeshed in every level of society. Governments and communities are seeking ways to manage the environmental, social and economic costs of current and future urban development. This thesis argues that heritage conservation and sustainability are innately linked, and that heritage conservation should be viewed as a tool to assist progress towards sustainability. With the use of case studies, the research demonstrates that the sustainability benefits of heritage conservation encompass environmental, social and economic aspects. In order for greater recognition of the relationship between the two concepts to occur, the perception of heritage conservation has to expand, so that the economic and material aspects of the built environment are valued just as much as the cultural.

Belinda Thomas

### **Viable Urban Villages**

Sydney's population is increasing every day, placing enormous pressure on existing infrastructure. Urban villages have been suggested as a viable planning solution to help recreate inner city neighbourhoods as a means of maintaining sustainable living within the city. This thesis aims to discover what urban villages are and how they work. The seminal writings of Jane Jacobs form the basis of analysis of key themes including public realm, sense of place, pedestrian streets, safety, community and mixed uses. These concepts have been illustrated within the City of Sydney Council's 'City of Villages Vision', which is compared and contrasted to the Seattle Comprehensive Plan with its 'Urban Village Strategy'. The thesis examines the inner city suburbs of Erskineville, Surry Hills, Paddington and Pyrmont to discover the characteristics of urban villages which are evident in these localities. Interviews with residents help to bring alive the logistics of living in an urban village by giving a first hand account of village life. The study concludes by arguing that urban villages are a viable planning solution for Sydney's future.

Ashley West

### **So Your City Wants to Host a Hallmark Event**

There are many different types of hallmark events with the most recognisable being the Olympic Games. The variety of hallmark events encompasses sporting, cultural and commercial events. The grandeur that accompanies such occasions is based on the event's popularity and marketability. Governments compete for the rights to host these events because of the tourism advantage they bring to the local economy and the advertising potential they generate. Major events also provide redevelopment opportunities. The down-side of hosting such events can be the aftermath of the event. Many cities have hosted hallmark events and invested in

infrastructure only to see these sites lay idle once the crowds have gone home. These sites become wastelands that require further government investment. However, some sites have used the excitement of a hallmark event to create a new area that has continued to be vibrant post-event. Given that hallmark events are here to stay, there are questions as to whether there is a 'superior' event to host. Are there key elements that can be considered when planning for a hallmark event that will increase the viability of a site post-event? This thesis considers these key issues.

Delius Wong

### **Urban Greenery in Sydney: The Use of Rooftop Gardens**

Since the last century, there have been new movements for greening cities. The notion of a garden city is one of them. With the rapid increase of high-rise developments accommodating an expanding urban population, many areas are becoming densely built. Population growth has resulted in environmental problems. The use of non-renewable resources and burning of fossil fuels have adversely impacted on the natural environment, causing an urban heat island effect, air and water pollution, and subsequent global warming. Accordingly there is a need to balance built-up urban environments with nature by incorporating green natural landscapes into buildings. Rooftop gardens are an option that provides the urban dweller and worker a place in which to enjoy and relax. Rooftop gardens enhance buildings through landscape design. They ameliorate the negative impacts of air conditioning plants which often dominate rooftops. Further, they offer the potential for energy efficient and water sensitive design to sustain future generations. This thesis considers rooftop gardens as an option for greening cities. Examples of rooftop gardens from overseas, as well as in Sydney, are provided. The development assessment process for rooftop garden proposals in Sydney local councils is assessed, as well as the factors influencing people's interest in proposing developments incorporating rooftop gardens. Through an evaluation of five rooftop gardens, recommendations are made about appropriate planning and design considerations.

Mark Yee

### **Understanding Travel Behaviour and how to Encourage Public Transport Use**

Transport, and in particular public transport, is an issue that affects all planners. The development of a successful public transport system is vital to a city's ability to grow both physically and economically. Accordingly, all planners should have an understanding of travel behaviour and the issues that affect such behaviour. This knowledge will assist planners in their decision making about how to improve the development of public transport. This thesis considers three key questions about travel behaviour. First, why do people choose to use public transport? Second, why do people choose to use private transport instead of public transport? And third, how can more people be attracted to use public transport? To answer these questions a survey was conducted on the streets with Sydney residents. This approach facilitated a direct interaction with commuters, uncovering the reasons behind their travel patterns and their opinions about public transport. An analysis of the responses revealed trends in relation to travel patterns, as well as the factors that affect these patterns and how planners might be able to change travel patterns to increase public transport use.

Kenny Yip

### **The Impacts of Rural Migrants on Shanghai City**

On the verge of becoming a world economic superpower, the rural-urban divide in China has worsened disturbingly. As Chinese cities have benefited from the economic reform initiated by Deng Xiao Ping, they are also experiencing an unprecedented level of city-ward migration. While this massive influx has been meeting the labour demand of urban economic development, the migrant population has been associated with various social and economic problems in urban China. The underlying premise of this thesis is to justify and defend the value of the rural migrants' contribution to China by drawing on the example of Shanghai. Until now, there has been little appreciation of the hard work and labour that the rural immigrants provide. While stripped of their basic rights and benefits, migrants work silently in jobs that local Shanghainese are unwilling to do, only to be given a hostile reception by the government and local residents. This study examines the impacts of the rural-urban migration phenomenon on the social and economic environment of Shanghai. Based on data obtained from the Chinese Bureau of Statistics, as well as information from surveys, literature, journal and newspaper articles, the impacts of the migrant population on Shanghai are examined. After assessing the city's social and economic environments using various indicators, as well as investigating the migrant population's characteristics, the findings obtained are used to determine the migrant impacts on Shanghai. Although findings from the social and economic analysis suggest a mixed and inconsistent result, it can be established that the migrant population in Shanghai makes a significant economic contribution.