

Jennifer Apap

Route selection for High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines

Influences on the siting of High Voltage Overhead Transmission Lines (HVOTL) and corridors have changed dramatically over the past 60 years. The post World War Two drive for economic growth created a pro-development culture which was subsequently placed under a harsher spotlight by the rise in environmental awareness in the 1970s and economic rationalism in the 1990s. The recent trend towards a higher-educated community has delivered a commensurate understanding of the need for socio-cultural considerations. Electricity distributors are now expected to select routes balancing environmental, economic and socio-cultural outcomes in conjunction with an array of legislative and technical requirements. Experience has provided electricity distributors with the expertise to better manage environmental and economic determinants in the siting of new HVOTLs and corridors. However, the perceived adverse environmental and human impacts of HVOTLs continue to cause public opposition. This suggests that the current route selection criteria, specifically the relative recent recognition of the importance of socio-cultural determinants, are not adequately addressing community concerns. This thesis will recommend how the route selection for new HVOTLs and corridors can be improved to benefit both electricity distributors and the public.

Stuart Ardlie

Factors Influencing the Propensity to Cycle to Work in Sydney

The bicycle is considered one of the most sustainable forms of transport because of its low energy consumption, health benefits for users, and limited social impacts on others. In addition, the bicycle has the added benefit of being relatively fast over short distances and can provide a reliable form of transportation. However, in Sydney the bicycle is one of the most underutilised forms of transport with only 1% of people cycling each day and only 0.6% of people using a bicycle to commute to work. Little research has been undertaken into the reasons why people do not use bicycles for commuting in Sydney. This thesis addresses this gap in the literature by investigating the factors which affect the tendency of people to commute to work by bicycle. This is achieved through a quantitative analysis of the Transport and Population Data Centres Household Travel Survey. The potential policy implications are discussed.

Mary Azzi

Building Collaborative Partnerships between Local Government Planners

In studies of local government planning, most research to date has focused on policy outcomes and development assessment times and procedures. There has been little focus on the organisational structures in which planners work. Investigation about

how organisational structures and the workplace environment affect planners and planning outcomes has been overlooked. This thesis is about the relationship between Strategic and Development Assessment Planners in New South Wales within the context of councils' organisational structures. It focuses on the genesis and reasons for the division between the two major planning functions, advantages and disadvantages of the split, the effectiveness of different organisational structures, and planners' workplace satisfaction. The thesis draws upon case studies of three New South Wales local councils, namely, Blacktown City Council, Leichhardt Municipal Council and Parramatta City Council. The thesis asks why there is such a structural and psychological gap between Strategic and Development Assessment Planners in Local Government. Recommendations are offered regarding changes to the organisational structure of councils and the need for procedural reforms to build more collaborative partnerships between planners and thus facilitate better planning outcomes.

Jarryd Barton

Drawing the Line: Urban Growth Boundaries and Growth Management on the Fringe

Sydney is a region highly constrained by its geography. Constraints include agricultural land, rugged terrain and extensive natural reserves to the north and south of the metropolitan region. These and other constraints influence the extent and direction in which Sydney's growth can take place. Coupled with a remarkably rapid population growth rate in the past two centuries, the expansion of Sydney's metropolitan footprint has been quite dramatic – over 70km within the last five decades. Sydney's predicted population growth cannot continue as it has in the past in order to ensure environmental, economical and social sustainability. As such, alternative methods of growth management on the urban fringe need to be explored. One key method is the use of urban growth boundaries to restrict the spread of urban areas. This thesis examines growth management theory and identifies techniques which have been employed to restrict urban expansion with particular emphasis on the effective use of urban growth boundaries. International case studies of existing urban growth boundaries are used to identify the key implementation characteristics of this technique. Finally, an overview of Sydney's post-war strategic plans is presented, highlighting Sydney's historic development patterns and identifying the need for more pro-active growth management controls.

Cameron Byrne

Uneven Development: Opportunity or threat to working class neighbourhoods? A case study of the Millers Point area

The historic urban village of Millers Point is situated at the centre of high-rise homes of the rich, the tourist precinct of the Rocks, the multi-million dollar waterfront development of Walsh Bay, and the proposed high rise residential/commercial Barrangaroo development at East Darling Harbour. Millers Point is regarded as Sydney's oldest residential neighbourhood, with examples of architecture dating from as early as the 1810s. Over the last 23 years it has been largely managed by the NSW Department of Housing and is home to a small but diverse community. Recent

surrounding development has led to locals feeling threatened, unwanted and marginalised by government plans. The latest NSW Government decision to sell a proportion of the public housing stock to private investors to fund public housing for the inner west is perhaps the most recent example. This move has caused locals to fear for their homes, the community and the future of the area. As a mixture of working class families, the welfare dependent and the elderly, the public housing community faces an uphill battle against gentrification. This thesis provides an overview of the Millers Point area and examines how planning and housing management policies have contributed to current community concerns.

Cynthia Chan

The Chinese Community in Sydney: A Case Study of Chatswood

Sydney celebrates multiculturalism. Ethnic individuals congregate, become dominant in a location, and form an ethnic community. Sydney has many ethnic communities which comprise a culturally unique mosaic. Ethnic communities facilitate social capital. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development defines social capital as the ‘networks, together with shared norms, values and understandings which facilitate cooperation within or among groups’. In other words, ethnic social networks bind together co-ethnic populations, nurture trust, a sense of attachment and belonging, and make available mutual support and collective resources. Self identification – the individual as ‘I’, community as ‘we’, outsider as ‘them’ - mobilises resources towards common goals, and brings about social cohesion that is fundamental to the development of a community. This thesis focuses on the Chinese community in Sydney, studying the history of Chinese settlement and its distribution in the city over time. The work includes a case study of Chatswood, a north shore suburb with high Chinese population representation. It gauges the social network, trust and the norm of reciprocity amongst the Chinese population in this suburban community.

Calvin Cheng

Public Transport and Land Use Planning in North West and South West Sydney

North West and South West Sydney are two growth areas where land use planning has evolved around the private car as the dominant form of transport. This is evident by the multi-car households, abundance of car parking at shopping centres, business park developments, and new and existing road upgrade projects. The Government has recently announced major planning initiatives and projects in both sectors to accommodate Sydney’s growing population and to provide housing and job opportunities outside away from inner Sydney. Public transport is a crucial variable in the planning process. This thesis analyses the planning processes for the projected North West and South West Rail Links. The North West Rail Link is a new planned heavy rail link in an existing built-up area, whereas the South West Rail Link is planned for a future developing area. The thesis will critically examine the transport-land use relationship in these two contrasting areas and attempt to answer two fundamental questions. First, how successfully might these two rail links influence future land use patterns and redress the imbalance between private car and public

transport usage. Second, and if they cannot, can Sydney afford to continue down the path of car dependency to the point where even its 'global city' status is questionable?

Sophia Chin

Sex in the Suburbs

The *Disorderly Houses Amendment Act 1995* decriminalised the land use of brothels in New South Wales. The decriminalisation of brothel prostitution raises concerns for the community because brothels are viewed as offensive, unhealthy and corrupt. But the regulation of brothels is now a planning issue not a policing issue, because brothels are now subject to local Council development approval. The land use of brothels is now subject to zoning and locational requirements. These include minimum distances from schools, churches, hospitals, and public places. However, localised planning controls for brothels differ between Local Government Areas. Brothels are defined in some Local Government Areas and are subject to local planning provisions within in a Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan. However, some Local Government Areas do not define a brothel and categorise them as a commercial premise. There has been considerable interest in the planning provisions for the sex industry. A critical question explored in this thesis is whether differing development assessment and planning standards for brothels are appropriate in suburban Local Government Areas in Sydney.

Nicole Dennis

Making Sense of Place

We live enmeshed in artificial constructs designed, programmed, and conditioned for human life. Convenience, consumerism and the push for progress and development have splurged into rivers of asphalt which lead to vertiginous structures overpowering the urban skyline. Urban life for many is a series of placeless artificial environments. The sensory experience of place is often an afterthought - or an accident – on the part of the designer. Planners and architects pour over lines on pages, photomontages and 3D animations to capture the 'reality' of proposed development. Site visits can be limited and even done from the comfort of the car. Sensory experience affects the body subconsciously. A positive experience can enhance moods and provide an escape from the jarring city. Places with positive multi-sensoral experiences are places which people prefer. Place attachment is influenced by them and other factors such as memory, tradition, culture, relationships, frequency visited, location, personality, values, learned behaviour, and cognitive perception. These all affect a person's experience and perception of a place. If planners have the senses on their consciousness they could help create better and aesthetically attractive places where people chose to be.

Caitlin Elliott

Treechange: The Impacts of Lifestyle Living on Rural Lands in the Mudgee Region

With an increased number of people moving out of cities for lifestyle reasons, lifestyle living is becoming a popular form of living across rural and regional Australia. The so-called seachange and treechange population movements have been major recent drivers of lifestyle migration. In Australia, seachange locations have traditionally received the largest proportion of lifestyle migration. However, with many seachange locations reaching their population threshold, treechange locations are becoming an increasingly popular alternative. Many ‘treechangers’ have a desire to participate in rural lifestyles through living on small rural properties. These lifestyle lots are generally used for hobby farms rather than for agricultural purposes. There has been an increase in rural subdivision in many treechange locations with both positive and negative impacts on rural lands. This thesis investigates the impacts of lifestyle living on rural lands across NSW. While rural subdivision can be economically beneficial for communities and help curb rural depopulation, small acre subdivision can also have detrimental impacts on rural lands. This thesis uses the Mudgee region as a case study to illustrate the impacts of lifestyle living in an area that has been subject to the treechange phenomenon.

Bianca Fernandes

Bright Ideas: Local Government Action and Barriers to Climate Change Responses

Climate change is real. Australia has the highest per capita level of greenhouse gas emission in the developed world. Responsibility needs to be taken by governments and individuals to reduce our carbon footprint combined with adaptation strategies that address the impacts of climate change. This thesis discusses how climate change can be addressed at a grass roots level. Whilst some critiques may be quick to dismiss councils as key players in the climate change arena, the considerable autonomy they possess allows them to exert influence over land development and energy efficiency. Further, local governments have a responsibility to their constituents to address the impacts that climate change will have on the natural and built environments, as well as how to reduce their carbon footprints. This thesis explores the adaptation and mitigation responses of two councils, one in New South Wales and the other in Victoria, with an analysis of the barriers to climate change initiatives and stakeholder responsibility. The case studies are developed in the context of current national policy directions and state legislation. Recommendations are made to assist the feasible implementation of best practice climate change initiatives at the local level.

David Fitzpatrick

Cities, Planners, and the Compact City: Critiquing the Critics

Metropolitan planning in Australia has become focussed on delivering the ‘compact city’, to the extent that many see the policy approach as doctrinal. A strong body of criticism has developed in response, questioning the evidential basis for this dominant approach. This forms part of a wider debate about the impacts that land-use planning

can have on urban form and the functioning of contemporary cities, including housing affordability, economic growth, environmental management, social equity and quality of life. This thesis will seek to ‘critique the critics’ of current planning practice, with a view to understanding its limitations, and identifying positive policy outcomes. It will focus on the two main bodies of criticism. The first relates to the policy of limiting urban fringe land releases, and will focus on the work of critics Alan Moran and Wendell Cox. The second concerns criticisms of policies which promote transit-oriented urban development at the expense of private vehicle use, policies inspired in part by the work of Peter Newman and Jeff Kenworthy. The thesis concludes by assessing the role of these critical discourses in the recent Sydney Metropolitan Strategy, and implications for the successful implementation and realisation of the strategy.

Megan Fu

The Role of Housing Co-operatives in the Housing Affordability Crisis

Housing is a basic necessity to which we should all have access. The housing affordability crisis is now a problem for many Australian households. Increasingly, public housing stock is only able to support those in most severe housing need. Housing options for many low to moderate income households are essentially restricted to the already constrained private rental sector. There is a need to investigate alternative models to expand the range of affordable housing options. Housing co-operatives and related innovations in this sector could provide a solution. This thesis explores the development of housing co-operatives in NSW, the various models that exist, their role in the social housing sector and opportunities for growth. Case studies are provided by two new projects in Sydney: the Kapit-bahayan Co-operative Limited Debt Equity project in Canley Vale, and the joint venture between Community Housing Limited, Willoughby Council and Association to Resource Co-operative Housing to develop housing in Artarmon to contribute to Willoughby Council’s Debt Equity Affordable Housing Program. The thesis illustrates how these projects, while small-scale and at the initial stages of development, may provide a useful framework for assessing the potential scope and future role that the co-operative sector can play in addressing the affordable housing crisis.

Angus Halligan

Resilience and Recovery: Good Practice in Natural Disaster Management

Over the past 30 years, the occurrence of natural disasters such as storms, floods, and earthquakes has increased threefold. Key challenges faced in the 21st century include reducing the death and destruction wrought by natural disasters, and helping save lives and livelihoods in some of the most vulnerable parts of the globe. In the event of a natural disaster, human vulnerability exacerbated by the lack of planning and/or lack of appropriate emergency management, leads to human, financial and structural loss. Community resilience and effective policy in place prior to a catastrophe are the first and most important phases in natural disaster management and disaster risk reduction. Disaster occurs when a hazard meets vulnerability. The resulting natural disaster cannot be avoided but the rebuilding and recovery phase can be a fragile and unpredictable process. There is a need to recognise appropriate responses to

catastrophic events for learning to rebuild safer, stronger and smarter cities and regions. The purpose of this thesis is to gain a greater understanding of community resilience to and recovery management of natural disasters and investigate best practice schemes to reduce severity of impacts on communities and infrastructure.

Ben James

Sydney Olympic Park: Olympic Legacy or Burden?

‘The best Olympic Games ever’ are the words that Olympic organising committees around the world want to hear after they have hosted the Olympic Games. This title can only be held by one host city, and the current holder is Sydney. However, like many host cities in the past, infrastructure built for the Games has not had much of a post-games life. Due to this lack of post-games use, the main Olympic site at Homebush is perceived as a burden on Sydney rather than the unambiguous positive legacy envisaged. Sydney Olympic Park has even been described as a ‘white elephant’. This thesis will look at how the site as a whole has functioned since the Games, with particular reference to underutilisation of the two main stadiums. The potential of the 2002 master plan to inject new uses and vitality into the site is considered. The thesis provides a series of best practice guidelines that could be used by future hosts of similar mega-events to ensure that Games-related infrastructure does not become a burden on the host city.

Nick Lau

The Highest is Never the Highest: The Skyscraper City

If the Empire State Building had not been built in Manhattan, New York would not be the city it is today. The same thing applies to more recent icons such as the Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur and Taipei 101 in Taipei. These landmarks were designed by the top architects in order to represent urban places to the world. They help represent and promote their host city. The first modern skyscraper in the 1870s had less than 20 floors. However, the highest today, the Burj Dubai, has a vertical height of nearly one kilometre. The skyscraper has become an irreplaceable badge of technology, money and power. However, when looking at the economic and other benefits of skyscrapers, we cannot ignore the threats, difficulties, tribulations and environmental issues related to their construction and location. Nevertheless, skyscrapers are architectural icons and challenging new design breakthroughs and height records will both be pursued whenever there are new opportunities and building technologies.

Rick Liu

Challenges and Opportunities for Beijing: Olympic Transport and Its Future Impacts

Beijing, the capital city of the People’s Republic of China is a city with over 3000 years history and more than 850 years as a capital city in Chinese history. It is one of the largest cities on the world with a population of about 15 million. Beijing is recognised as the political, educational, and cultural center of the People’s Republic

of China. It is also the city to host the Olympic Games 2008. Transport has always been a big concern for every Olympic city. Although Beijing has a comprehensive network of roads and expressways, its traffic problems are widely acknowledged. Its chronic traffic congestion raises serious questions about how the whole city will function during the Olympic Games period. By looking at the history of previous Olympic Games, it is evident that all Olympic cities have had their transport systems improved in some way as a result of hosting the Games. These precedents and the initiatives underway may give Beijing's transport planners the opportunity to totally reverse the city's current transport situation. The Beijing Government has made huge investments to develop the city's transport infrastructure. This thesis asks how will these efforts affect Beijing's future land-use, environment and transport?

Jing Liu

The Development of Electric Bike Transportation in Chinese Cities: Shanghai and Hangzhou

With the Chinese economy growing rapidly in recent years, the electric bike (e-bike) market is also expanding at a rapid pace. Research shows national annual e-bike sales have reached up to 15 million. Despite the growing popularity of e-bikes, what still remains is a variety of problems especially in driver behaviour such as violating traffic rules, making noise and speeding which seriously affect road access and the potential for accidents. Unfortunately, city planners and policy makers are still not clear on how to plan for and regulate e-bikes because they are defined as regular bicycles with permission to use regular bicycle lanes. There is presently a lack of planning to manage appropriately the e-bike phenomenon as part of an environmental sustainable and equitable urban policy. Some local governments have prohibited use of e-bikes to reduce the rate of road accidents and to prevent the e-bike's battery pollution. However, these moves have obstructed benefits for e-bike producers and consumers. Framed by concerns for environmental, traffic, and safety impacts, this thesis aims to find a balance between bicycles, e-bikes, and cars in the traffic network of Chinese cities.

Duncan Livingstone

Community Development through Empowerment of the Rural Poor

Over 1 billion people live in poverty and 70% of these live in the rural areas of developing nations. Practices of international development have flagged community empowerment as a means to alleviate this poverty. Empowerment puts people at the centre of the development process; it implies a participatory approach to development focusing on bottom-up approaches rather than top-down bureaucratic methods. Empowerment increases the capabilities of the poor to influence and hold accountable the institutions that provide for them. To this end, empowerment attempts to give power and knowledge to rural communities to assist in creating a better quality of life, so that in the future they will have the skills to rely less on external forces to provide vital services and infrastructure. This thesis investigates differences between the practice and ideal of empowerment theory in rural areas of the developing world. The investigation analyses relevant literature on empowerment and participatory approaches, examines several relevant case studies, and includes an in-depth

interview with one of the world leaders in the field. Recommendations are made as to the best way to employ community empowerment for rural areas desperately seeking an escape from the poverty trap.

Melody Mak

Place, Identity and Memory: The Battle between Heritage Conservation and Developments in Hong Kong

Heritage conservation contributes to a city's identity. There is a need to preserve significant buildings and places as they provide valuable resources for understanding a city's social, cultural and economic development. As a city grows, demise of heritage seems to be inevitable. Memories are ultimately tested by the passing of time and each new generation knows less about their city's cultural heritage. This thesis aims to explore and analyse the meaning of heritage conservation with particular regard to developments in Hong Kong (HK). Currently, the importance of heritage conservation is diminishing with the increasing focus on development prospects and growth. Recent controversial events such as the demolition of the Star Ferry terminal and Queen's Pier have alerted citizens to the importance of historic buildings and spaces. Heritage conservation in HK should no longer be the concern of a few interest groups, but is the responsibility of the wider community. The findings suggest amendment of current policies is crucial, as the HK Government currently has no statutory heritage conservation policy. There needs to be a greater focus on citizen's collective memories of place, identity and origin, for the benefit of present and future generations, rather than solely the profit driven outcomes of developments in a globalised economy.

Emily Mitchell

Planning and Provision of Infrastructure through International Aid

Planning can be used as a tool in disadvantaged regions to improve living standards and assist development, in particular through provision of infrastructure for water and energy resources. International aid agencies are among the key administrators in the provision of large-scale infrastructure. However, advocates of social justice and sustainability argue that current processes produce flawed environmental, social and economic outcomes and that decision-making processes of international aid agencies are heavily influenced by investors and other interested parties, and therefore easily compromised. The *Report of the World Commission on Dams* (2000) supported this position and found that there is a need to drastically curb the construction of dams through conventional aid programs. The World Bank has rejected the findings of the Commission, and, along with other development banks and donor countries such as Australia, is currently engaged in a number of dam projects worldwide. This thesis aims to address the issues of aid effectiveness, transparency and accountability in decision-making processes, and best practice in infrastructure provision. The fundamental question is how best to improve quality of life in the developing world, without compromising the environment and harming the social and cultural fabric of these countries.

Gavin Ng

Local Government Heritage Conservation in Shifting External Environments

The fundamental conflict between conservation and development has been well documented. Heritage conservation has been a critical topic of political and professional discussion and reform over the last 30 years. Gentrification and an evolving property market in the last few decades have made many areas of Sydney highly desirable places to live. Some areas are consequently experiencing major shifts in social and demographic characteristics. These trends reveal a new problem in sharp relief: heritage conservation does not just concern buildings' historical merits and the controls to govern development on and surrounding it. Rather, it reveals the need to be adaptive to changing community circumstances and the broader external environment. In order for heritage conservation (and planning in general) to be effective and efficient, planners must properly identify and understand the shifting urban environment in respect to planning, demographic, and social compositions. While heritage conservation provides an opportunity to protect important items which reflect a particular time or culture, it can also pose a threat to productivity, the accommodation of growth, and responsiveness to community needs. This thesis identifies the implications and impacts of the shifting political, socio-demographic and economic environment on heritage conservation with special reference to North Sydney.

Kate O'Donnell

In the Shadow of Power: State-Local Relations and the Kurnell Peninsula

The complex nature of planning can be disheartening, given the political realities that encompass policy and decision making. The State Government is the responsible authority for planning and development decisions in New South Wales. However, its involvement in localised issues can often result in conflict, dominance and procedural change. This thesis examines the relationship, power struggles and communicative processes that exist between State and local government in NSW. The political motivation and practice of State intervention into local planning issues can lead to the isolation of particular development sites, often instigating unnecessary conflict with the community and local government. Central to the exploration of these issues is a case study of the Kurnell Peninsula in Sydney. As a site of national significance, the 'Birthplace of Modern Australia' has a long history of industrial, residential, environmental and cultural conflict. The intention of the thesis is to ascertain how decision making processes have been influenced by political pressures, authoritative control and government intervention, both at the local and State government level. The impact of such actions on the extent and quality of community involvement is also explored. The thesis concludes with recommendations on how the threefold relationship between the community and both levels of government can be improved.

Cygal Pellach

'It's Just ... Me': Young Women Living Alone

Changing demographics are a common feature of the modern city. In Australia, we can observe an ageing population, declining rates of marriage and an increase in divorce. A comparatively recent change is the growth of people living alone. This trend is evident across age groups and in both genders, but it is particularly interesting to note in young women. Women are increasingly marrying later in life or not finding or seeking life partners at all. Until recently, such women may have been marginalised by societal conventions and certainly overlooked by planning, housing and social policy-makers. This study looks at the experiences of women living alone in Sydney and is structured in two main parts. First, a quantitative analysis of census statistics relating to lone-person households identifies areas of Sydney where the numbers and growth of lone person households are predominant as well as other disparities. Second, a qualitative study involving interviews of seven young women living alone uncovers a range of views and experiences. A number of themes were extracted from these interviews including a concern for safety, difficulties in finding suitable housing, and what women look for in a neighbourhood. All of these issues have implications for planning policy.

Kristin Pryce

Stormwater: The Management Puzzle

Technical solutions pertaining to stormwater run-off, reuse, and water sensitive urban design are well advanced and now widely available. Recent media attention has also brought stormwater issues to the forefront of community attention. Despite this positive momentum, significant barriers in the current governance framework are seriously hindering the delivery of effective and efficient stormwater management outcomes in urban environments. The current framework in NSW is extremely complex - it involves State and local government, various statutory bodies, community stakeholders, state legislation, local planning instruments and non-statutory guidance documents. This entrenched complexity has serious implications for the efficiency of decision making - it drains professional expertise and leadership and stifles the delivery of optimum stormwater management outcomes. There is an urgent need to demystify and streamline the governance of stormwater management in NSW, clarify the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders, engage the interest of the community, and encourage communication between the various players in the decision making hierarchy. It is essential that stormwater is recognised as a valuable resource and this thesis argues that implementation barriers currently hindering the delivery of optimal stormwater management outcomes in NSW must be comprehensively addressed.

Louis Shang

Gated Communities in China: A Case Study of Beijing

With the influence of globalisation and the rise of global cities, the gated community phenomenon is now truly worldwide and often associated with social-spatial segregation and the discourse of fear. However, the gated form of residence has

existed in China since its imperial era and gated work-unit compounds were built widely. With the post-economic reform process of housing commodification, different types of gating have emerged in contemporary China. There are up-market western-orientated gated villa projects, but also more ordinary commodity housing at higher densities assuming enclosed forms. Gated compounds are the most popular form of residential development in China and do not attract the attention of public discourse as in western societies. Gating in China is not only a way to escape from the surrounding chaos but also a traditional tool to govern urban spaces and manage the provision of public infrastructure. This thesis studies the different physical types and lifestyles of gated communities in China with special reference to Beijing. Case studies range from a traditional work-unit compound to new luxury villa estates. The thesis argues that the Chinese gated community is an inevitable outcome of the market orientated economy and a logical response to changing social conditions in line with a longer tradition.

Benjamin Smith

Mining for Closure: Sustainable Mine Practices, Rehabilitation and Integrated Mine Closure Planning

Australia has been burdened with a legacy of unplanned mine closures, hazardous mine sites and unreclaimed and rehabilitated lands. In the past mining companies used irresponsible mining methods with no regard for environmental protection and mine rehabilitation. Inadequate and inefficient mine closure policies, legislative controls, and past mining practices have resulted in a legacy of abandoned and derelict mine sites, which can have substantial environmental liabilities and mine rehabilitation costs in the absence of appropriate legislative frameworks and controls. Until recently mine decommissioning and mine closure planning were not a requirement or regulated within the mining industry and the environmental, social and economic impacts were not identified or considered within the initial mine site development. Planned mine closure and completion is still at an early stage of development in Australia, with few examples of mine closure planning applied from conception to completion of mine operations. Integrated mine closure planning is a dynamic process which is fundamental to the development of sustainable mine closure and mine rehabilitation practices. Only the development of improved policies and legislation can provide for the development of sustainable mining practices.

Martin Southwell

Live Music as a Town Planning Issue

Live music makes a valuable contribution to the culture of cities. It brings people together from all walks of life in an atmosphere that is generally accessible and friendly. However, concerns have been raised about the future of live music entertainment in Sydney. This questioning follows what is considered by many to be a decline in the live music scene that started two decades ago. Many attribute this apparent decline to the overly-complex licencing process which exists in the state of New South Wales. In recent years, gaining approval to provide live music entertainment at a venue has been a complicated procedure. But change is in the air and recently-proposed variations to legislation mean the process of obtaining the

necessary licences to host live music entertainment is likely to be simplified. This may result in more live music entertainment in our city, which can only be a good thing. In addition to exploring the cultural value and planning implications of live music venues, this thesis will look at the responses that governing bodies have made in an attempt to revitalise the live music scene in Sydney.

Sofia Tramontini

Post Tsunami Recovery: The Redevelopment of Phi Phi Island, Thailand

On Boxing Day, 26 December 2004, an earthquake triggered a tsunami in the Indian Ocean that reached the shores of over 12 countries, leaving many places in ruins. Thousands of lives were lost to this wave of destruction, as well as infrastructure, buildings, homes, cars, and boats. Virtually anything in its path was lifted and tossed hundreds of metres away. The scale of the tsunami was not expected and warnings were not given to towns filled with people holidaying and honeymooning as well as locals carrying on with their daily routines in the early hours of the morning. Phi Phi Island is a small island off the south east coast of Phuket, Thailand. It is heavily populated during the tourist season when thousands swarm the beach line for a taste of paradise. In a matter of minutes the Boxing Day wave tore through this idyllic scene leaving nothing but traumatic chaos for the people who were fortunate to survive. This thesis addresses a number of critical questions in the recovery process: How did this busy tourist location survive the crisis? What efforts were made by government officials and locals to bring the Island back to 'normality'? How did the island rebuild itself? And what lessons have been learnt?

Priya Uppal

Giving a Voice to the Voiceless: Language Barriers in the Local Government Planning Process

The local government planning process can provide inadequate access to services and provisions to the community for people from non English speaking backgrounds. Such limitations are often caused by the traditional neglect of minority groups. Despite recent interest in cultural diversity in Australia, there is still a huge lack of awareness of the phenomenon of language barriers in most local councils. Language barrier problems for migrants lead to exclusion and segregation from participation in the planning process. Planners need to be more aware of cross-cultural planning issues, but an approach has yet to be devised where migrant language provisions become a facet of the planners' role. Language policy planning can assist in overcoming the issue and maintain equal social structures in our society. This thesis highlights the language barrier difficulties which exist, but are often overlooked, and recommends strategies to overcome the problems. The research focuses on personal reflections and analysis of localities within the Fairfield, Campbelltown and Canterbury local government areas.

Leah Waite

Saving Civil Society: A Study of Social Capital and the Third Sector

Economic, environmental, social and cultural needs must be adequately and equally catered for in civil society. Planners are increasingly facing the challenge of balancing these factors and assuming greater responsibility for the social-wellbeing of society. Cultivation of social capital is a critical aspect. Social capital is the glue that binds society; communities with greater social capital are healthier communities. The emergence of neoliberal ideals has seen a shift in focus from the welfare state to the market state, drawing attention to economic gain over the social well-being of communities. One consequence has been a decline in social capital with reduced responsibility of the state in the provision of social infrastructure. In this context, volunteer organisations are more important than ever, filling the void left by government in the supply of social services and working with planners to add value to civil society. One such organisation is Surf Life Saving Australia. Celebrating its centenary in 2007, Surf Life Saving Australia epitomises the Australian volunteer ethos. The function of Surf Life Saving Australia provides not just a safe environment for the enjoyment of the beach, but also facilitates the promotion of social capital in local communities and acts as an exemplar through its relationship with urban governments.

Renee Walmsley

Shifting Cities: Part 3A Planning Reform and Major Urban Redevelopment in Sydney

Strategic urban redevelopment is imperative to the prosperity of City and State in a globalised economy and has become an important focus of planning theory. In 2004-05 the New South Wales Government embarked on an ambitious reform of the state's planning system. A key component of this reform was the introduction of Part 3A into the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* accompanied by a new State Environmental Planning Policy for major projects. The aim of Part 3A is to facilitate the opportune delivery of infrastructure and to encourage economic development whilst retaining and strengthening environmental safeguards and community participation. The Minister for Planning was given increased centralised powers to 'call in' developments deemed to be major projects significant to the state. The 'call in' and approval by the Minister of the Carlton and United Breweries (CUB) site redevelopment in the inner Sydney suburb of Chippendale has caused unease amongst participants in the development assessment process because of the discretionary nature of the new Ministerial powers. This project examines the Part 3A development assessment process of the CUB site redevelopment in the context of the broader ideological agendas now influencing state government planning actions and decisions.

Wendy Wang

Women in Professional Planning, Design and Architecture: A Feminist Critique

With the increased development of feminist approaches to disciplines and professions, discussions in planning and design regarding the needs and experiences of women, as well as more collaborative approaches to professional practice, are becoming more

common. The setting for this thesis is established through a theoretical review of the historical aspect of feminism as a movement, and its transcendence into the professional realms of building, urban design and construction. This thesis acknowledges the pivotal role women play in the professions which shape our built environment, as well as their experiences in professions which, until relatively recently, were male dominated domains. Emphasis is placed on the differing elements that a woman's skills, experiences, and intuition can bring to project and policy development in making for more user-friendly and practical outcomes attuned to family lifestyles. Such concepts of feminist planning and design can be expressed within a professional code, placing emphasis on values grounded in relationships, power imbalances, equity, process and the natural environment. Further, feminist concepts within the realm of the built environment and planning professions serve to educate, raise awareness and provide standards of response and development.

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Airport or AirMall: The Rise and Impact of Non-aeronautical Development at Airports

Airports are not just places where aircraft take off and land. Nowadays, there is an increasing trend where major airports around the world and in Australia have developed non-aeronautical uses, regardless of whether airport land has been privatized or not. Airports are progressively evolving into what John Kasarda (2006) has called the 'aerotropolis', where there is an array of non-aeronautical activities happening, such as hotels, shopping centres, entertainment complexes and business parks. Aerotropolis are emerging because of the accessibility advantages that airports provide to business in the new speed driven, globally networked economy. In Australia, all major airports occupy privately leased Commonwealth land and all activities are governed by the *Airports Act 1996*. Development is exempted from local and state planning instruments. The main aims of this thesis are to study the evolution of airport planning to embrace business uses around the world and to evaluate the current planning processes for non-aeronautical development on airport land in Australia. The two major case studies are Hong Kong International Airport and Sydney Airport.