

Planning Research Centre Newsletter

Third Edition - November & December 2004

Award for Excellence in Planning!

The Planning Research Centre is proud to congratulate Associate Professor John Toon, past Director of the PRC and Jonathan Falk, co-editors of "Sydney: Planning or Politics" on their success at the recent Planning Institute Awards. The publication won the 'Planning Scholarship, Research or Training' category and will now go on to the National Awards. We know the editors have many people to thank, including the authors of the major chapters and the many vignettes, but the work would not be complete without the many maps, illustrations, diagrams and tables that John and Jonathan painstakingly sourced from the archives of the University, government departments and from their own personal collections. This book has become one of the most comprehensive texts for scholars and practising planners on the successes and failures of the planning of Sydney since 1945. Isn't it interesting, the last 50 years has been documented by our last Director and our current Director is heavily involved in the planning of Sydney's future with the NSW Government's Metropolitan Strategy Reference Panel? Let's see how we go for the next 50 years. Good luck to John and Jonathan at the National Awards. Please find attached an order form to purchase a copy of "Sydney: Planning or Politics".



Planning Research Centre Annual Lunch, 9th November 2004



Robert Whitehead, Editor of SMH

Guest speaker Mr Robert Whitehead, Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald gave us his view of the future for Sydney at the 2004 Annual Lunch held at the Menzies All Seasons Hotel. Robert has been the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald for four (4) years and has been with Fairfax for more than 22 years, having started as a journalist with The Age newspaper in Melbourne. Robert's speech focused on transport, get the transport right and you will have a vibrant city that relies less on the automobile, lowers the environmental costs to the city and ultimately lowers the cost to government in

sustaining a fractured

society of a decentralised work force and competing mini cities. Professor Ed Blakely also spoke at the lunch and in his response to Robert's comments about transport and Sydney's future, suggested that Sydney needed an independent body to ensure that future plans are carried out and carried out properly. A body that cannot be changed with a change in government, ensuring consistency and a body that can work across jurisdictions to assist in a cohesive and unified effort. Whether you agreed with Robert and Ed or not there was definitely an air of change about, many of our attendees had much to say to Robert after the lunch about their feelings on the future of Sydney. Let's hope they are all attending the Sydney Metro forums and keeping up to date on announcements by the government.

Go to: <http://smh.com.au/news/National/Call-for-city-planning-body/2004/11/09/1099781394409.html>.



R Whitehead, L Rose, E Blakely, T Brynes



The University of Sydney
Faculty of Architecture

PRC Opportunities in India by Ed Blakely

It's common knowledge that India is the second largest nation in the world in population terms. But what is not yet appreciated is the fact that it is one of the world's faster growing economies with a rising middle class that speaks English and is well educated. In early November at the invitation of The Hon. Premier Bob Carr MP, I visited India's Capital City new Delhi and it's largest city Mumbai with Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Beryl Hesketh and several other University of Sydney academics and professionals. Our mission was to open doors among academics and leaders in technology to India. The trip was a major success in every respect.

What surprised me was the amount of building construction and the increasing westernisation of Indian architecture and design as well as the incredible opportunities for urban planning and management in India. Australian firms are already doing considerable work in India in the areas of water, telecommunications and infrastructure. In fact the former Snowy Mountains Scheme organisation is providing technical assistance on major water projects in India and Australian architects and designers are welcome because of the familiarity with planning for the variety of climates and economic conditions. The real opportunities for Australians in India are in city building and we were sought out for advice and made good contacts that are already urging us to make a return visit. We are planning to do that too. Hold your calendars for a November 2006 study tour to India to become engaged in one of the fastest growing markets for urban expertise in the world.



*Prof. B Hesketh, Prof. Usha Nayar
(Tata Institute), Prof. E J Blakely*

Population:

As at the 2001 Census the population of India stood at 1,027,015,247 persons.

Three largest cities:

- Mumbai (Bombay)	12,147,100
- Delhi	10,009,200
- Calcutta	4,670,000

Economic Growth:

[Source: India News]: New Delhi, Dec 13:

India Monday lowered its economic growth projection for the current fiscal year to 6 percent from the earlier level of 6-6.5 percent, but said the country would continue to be among the world's fastest growing economies.

2005 USA STUDY TOUR

Many of you have received information on the US study tour we are running in 2005 and interest is so high that if you wish to register please contact the Planning Research Centre immediately to ensure a place. A busy but fulfilling itinerary has been planned and Ed has conveniently scheduled the tour to take place straight after the American Planners Association Conference, so if you are attending the APA conference you may want to consider extending your trip. First port of call is San Francisco on the 25th of March and then Vancouver, Seattle, Portland finishing in Los Angeles. Many major planning themes will be covered such as urban revitalisation, sustainability, finance and social and economic development projects. With Ed's knowledge and vast experience in the United States & Canada, you will be treated to formal presentations and informal meetings and dinners with developers and local and regional government bodies involved in major projects in and around these areas. Delegates will also be exposed to new initiatives in housing and development in the US as well as witness development failures and quiz locals on best practices and government initiatives. Please call on 9351 6863 if you would like to discuss in more detail.

Planning Research Centre
2005 USA STUDY TOUR
25th March to 2nd April 2005
(directly after the APA conference)
**"Revitalisation and Re-Development:
New Tools for Transforming Communities"**
The Planning Research Centre invites you to join our Director, Professor Edward J Blakely for a Study Tour of the US and Canada. Professor Blakely is an internationally recognised leader in Urban and Regional Development and has travelled the world presenting in urban and regional revitalisation. Delegates will be treated to site tours and presentations from local development teams and gain insights into successes and failures in San Francisco, Vancouver, Seattle, Portland and Los Angeles.
Major themes of the tour:
- Urban revitalisation
- Infrastructure (design and development)
- Urban planning and financing tools and techniques
- Housing and mixed use density approaches to community design
- Environmental and technical habitat protection and sustainable systems approaches
- Links between education, health and social community assets in development
- Regional and sub-regional collaborations in economic and community development
- Integration of social and economic development projects and programs in urban revitalisation
SPACES ARE LIMITED: maximum 20 people
COSTS: \$7,000 per person inclusive of 4-star accommodation and internal flight transfers.
Discounted international flight into San Francisco can be arranged for those not attending the APA Conference.
Register your interest now.
Call the PRC on (02) 9351 6863 or
email: prc@rcph.org.au
The University of Sydney
Faculty of Architecture

The President, Director and staff of the Planning Research Centre would like to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and we look forward to another exiting year in 2005.

Sydney Metropolitan Indicators Project



Our last two newsletters have lightly touched on the proposed Sydney Metropolitan Metrics Research program (MetroMetrics). Still in its early stages, the Planning Research Centres Metro Metrics Team have focused on meeting with Professionals and other Academics to assist them in identifying indicators that will best reflect the needs of different metropolitan areas. Below is a brief outline of Metro Metrics and the progress of this project will be further updated in future newsletters.

The Concept: Greater Metropolitan Sydney is undergoing yet another planning process. Since the Cumberland Plan in 1945 there have been numerous attempts to provide a framework to guide the development of the core city and its periphery (defined by differing geographic boundaries) over more than six decades. Each of the efforts has aimed at dealing with population and economic pressures and a few have acknowledged social and environmental efforts as well. There are arguments about the success and failure of these plans and the fortunes of the metropolitan area. But to date there has been no systematic database to measure the economic, environmental, social and demographic changes in the metro-Sydney (no matter) how defined over time to see how, what and why things might be changing and along what dimensions. Clearly, no system can or will measure everything in a dynamic metropolitan area exposed to numerous internal and external forces. However, like a monitoring device it does provide indicators of direction and allows peak bodies to provide guidance for the community and major decision makers in State government.

Sydney is not the only metropolitan region creating such metrics. San Francisco, New York, Austin (Texas), Boston, Chicago, Seoul, Tokyo, Vancouver, Toronto and London are among the other metro regions developing and deploying metro-indicators projects.

The Sydney Metropolitan Indicators Project is intended to be the premier data source on the performance of the region in terms of jobs, housing and economic development. The Metropolitan Index will be the most comprehensive industry led analysis of the region and will create the backdrop for policy proposal coming from peak bodies to major policymakers in the State. It will also set the benchmark for comparing Sydney with the other major capital cities leading to a potential National Indicators project that would provide guidance across the nation on matters of real estate and property development. The project will be developed by the University of Sydney in combination with a committee of staff and members so that it relevant to the peak bodies needs. Each year the Indicators will select a theme to focus on but the basic Indicators will remain stable from existing databases or from deep databases designed to examine critical areas in a time series approach.

1. This effort will be tied more closely to the real time series needs of industry and government;
2. It will pull together databases that are scattered and without a common base for comparison;
3. It will relate to public policy such as the new Sydney Strategic Plan and similar efforts both current and past;
4. It will provide a template for all other data collection efforts and measurement approaches in the Sydney GMR;
5. It will allow the measurement of sectorial performance of industry and institutional performance of government and civic organisation using the same framework;
6. It will provide a very good link between databases such as Western Sydney, the Hunter and others to examine critical issues from similar frameworks;
7. It provides a common starting point for dialogues regarding the region's direction.

However, this project is neither a predictive tool nor a modelling tool. It is meant not as a substitute for consultant or government databases but as an augmentation to these and not a replacement for them.

OREGON PROPERTY RIGHTS VOTE: ODDITY OR HARBINGER?

By Neal Peirce - For Release Sunday, December 12, 2004 © 2004 Washington Post Writers Group

Could a rallying cry of property rights blow a hole in the side of the nation's surging smart growth movement? The worry is real following a Nov. 2 vote in Oregon, a state which since 1973 the Valhalla of rural and scenic land protection through a system of state-mandated urban growth boundaries.

By a sweeping 61-to-39 percent margin, Oregonians approved an initiative, Measure 37, designed to compensate property owners for virtually any state or local government regulation that has restricted the use of their property, or reduced its fair market value, land use or zoning restrictions but what may have been legal back when he, or his parents or grandparents, first acquired it.

Go to: http://www.napawash.org/resources/peirce/Peirce_12_12_04.html to read the full article.

Making a New Sydney

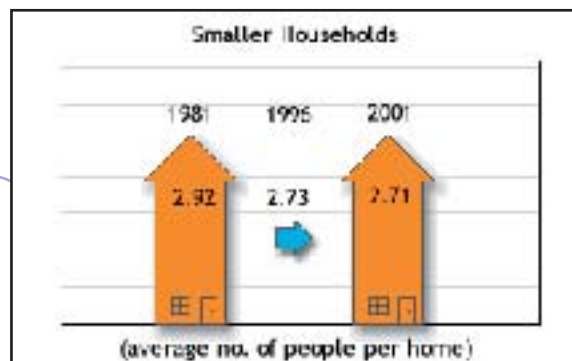
by Professor Edward J. Blakely, Chair of the Greater Sydney Metropolitan Reference Panel¹

Sydney is entering a new era as a city-region. In the last two decades Sydney has become Australia's global centre. In fact, Sydney is no longer Australia's global city but a global city located in Australia. This is a profound transformation. It means that Sydney is more responsive to forces outside the nation than inside it. Sydney's economic power is awesome by any calculation. It is estimated that nearly one quarter of the entire national gross domestic product of Australia passes through Sydney. One in four Australians live in the greater Sydney region stretching from Wollongong to Port Stevens and bounded by the Pacific and the Blue Mountains. The enormity of Sydney to the national economy and the importance of it for the future of urban development of the nation is scarcely paralleled by any non capital city in the world except New York. As a result, Sydney's planning destiny is as significant for the nation as it is for the residents of the Sydney region. Thus the new Sydney Strategic Plan is an important and perhaps critical exercise for the region and the nation.

The Issues

Sydney is growing. Sydney will add nearly another million inhabitants by mid century from roughly 4.4 to 5.6 million. As Sydney grew in the past decades since World War II, we have had the luxury of spreading across the Cumberland plain and up the coast almost unencumbered by any force except nature. Now, we have several new issues to deal with as Sydney continues to grow. First, almost 2/3rds of the new population growth will come from the existing population ageing and births of the baby boomers grand children who will come of age in the next 30+ years. As these new households form, they will consume more housing than previous generations. First, they will have small families but desire larger homes to accommodate every member of the household-kids will have computer/entertainment rooms separate from bedrooms for example. On the other hand these families will dissolve too at a high rate requiring more housing for the divided family.

Figure 1: Sydney Region Household Size



Not only are families consuming more housing but they are also consuming more energy and water. Both energy and water are in short supply. We are over drafting our water reserves and we are taxing our energy supplies. Further, we are nearly choking in congestion on our roads. Our trains and buses need upgrades as well as expansions to handle increased burdens. Furthermore, our existing infrastructure for new housing and supporting existing housing is severely stressed to the point that extensions are hard to justify even as the economy expands. Finally, the key to a good community is a good economy. The need to grow new good jobs. In the past 30 years local and state governments have been able to build Sydney to a world class city using the existing land and infrastructure. We can be justifiably proud of all of our communities. Sydney is a wonderful network of medium sized communities that attract and retain some of the most talented people in the world. But, we can no longer expand easily. Our regional areas, Wollongong, the Central Coast and the Hunter need both infrastructure and a strong job bases before they can accommodate more people. Therefore, we need a strategy—that is, a set of tools and structures to meet our future challenges.

¹Based on remarks Professor Blakely presented to a New South Wales Chamber of Commerce breakfast forum on 24th August, 2004. Professor Blakely has been associated with planning in Sydney and other Australian capital cities for over 30 years. He resides in Mosman, NSW. He has been Professor at Sydney, University of California at Berkeley, University of Southern California and Dean at the New School in New York. His strategic planning expertise has been used by cities around the world.

Vision before Strategy

A strategy requires a fundamental vision based on reality and intention to arrive at a collective destiny that resolves problems and improves the options and opportunities for the place. Sydney's vision must be based on its global presence as well as its current and future assets. Sydney's most critical assets are its people, its natural habitat and its economy. Arising from these assets a vision is being fashioned to make Sydney:

- A. Competitive—that is to build on the global position of Sydney to forge new and good jobs for all its people and all of its communities. This means tying the entire fabric of Sydney to strengthening its global economic opportunities.
- B. Liveable—insuring that Sydney's neighbourhoods, communities and cities are good strong places with good schools, adequate transportation and retailing as well as having recreation and job opportunities for all residents.
- C. Containable and Sustainable—making certain that as we grow we do no harm to our natural resources and in fact make improvements on them when and where we can.

The Strategy for Sydney

A strategy is not a typical plan. Plans are static documents that point to a relatively certain future scenario. Sydney requires a strategic document that will allow us to build on what we have and be flexible in our response to the future. Thus, the strategy will need to deal with the following options.

1. Building out, in or moving population—In the next 30-50 years we will have to balance the needs to build out the existing suburban lands in the Sydney basin with improvements to the housing stock and options within our already built up areas. This will require careful planning of new areas and the revitalisation of existing communities to serve a growing population.
2. Infrastructure Improvements and Expansions—Our water, energy and other resources will need new sources and new methods of conservation. This will require new demand management approaches to insure that we are using our existing resources well and developing new sources intelligently.
3. Natural Resource Preservation and Improvements—We have valuable agricultural and natural habitat within the region that requires preservation and active management as habitat for animal and plant life as well as recreation and needed farm land to service a growing region. One of the first things the strategy has to address is how to accomplish these preservation objectives while accommodating a larger population. This will require setting aside lands where we cannot or should not build. It will also require new planning and development option to better manage our precious natural resources especially our mountain and coastal areas.
4. Creating more jobs and job opportunities—means that we will have to pay attention to the strong job base we have in the emerging technologies that are in the central and northern Sydney areas while we create more jobs in other parts of the region based on the human and institutional resources of these communities. New financing and other tools will be used to improve suburbs that do not have strong job bases to provide them better amenities, transportation and other resources so they can get people to jobs or build more jobs locally.
5. Balanced regional development—is one of the primary keys to this strategic approach. Not all part of the region have the same needs or resources. The Illawarra differs from the Hunter as Manly differs from Blacktown. One size does not fit all, so the strategy has to embrace different means to reach common objectives. This will require new set of tools for community housing, social infrastructure, economic development etc will need to be designed with local needs in mind but coordinated across government agencies and meeting regional targets. As a result, the strategy will mix tools to fit different environments but require some common measurable elements so we meet our collective goals.

The Way Forward

The Metropolitan Strategy has been launched by Premier Bob Carr and led by Minister Craig Knowles. It is an ambitious effort that will require active engagement from the business community. It is the total community's strategy so all segments of the community need to be directly involved. In the end the strategy can be no better than the inputs from the community it is meant to serve.

Please feel free to offer any comments you may have for the PRC Newsletters. We'll be looking to improve the newsletters with each issue. Contact by email: prc@arch.usyd.edu.au or phone: (02) 9351 6863.
