



The case for a 'cooler' type of planning

— fostering heat safe communities

Q&A

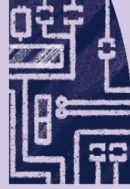
— with Wendy Sarkissian

Biourbanism

— a model for designing climate resilient cities

Winter 2024

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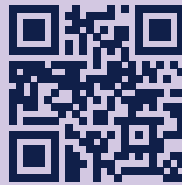
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We acknowledge that the First nations peoples of Australia are the oldest living cultures on Earth, have the oldest continuing land tenure system in the world, and have the oldest continuing land use planning and management system in the world.

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Magazine editorial committee

- Jack Bryce OAM MPIA — editor
- Maia Cavendish MPIA — graphic design + deputy editor
- Kerry Doss RPIA (Fellow)
- Jessie Oliver
- Cat Tatam MPIA

Presidents' messages

Hello everyone, and welcome to the next edition of the Agenda. Here in the Top End the Dry Season has arrived – the dragonflies are out, there's a faint smell of smoke in the air (burn-offs occur in the dry season here) and the temp has finally dipped below 25°C overnight. Camping season is here, the waterfalls are still in full glorious flow and the sunsets are sunsetting.

I am beyond excited to announce that next year's PIA National Congress will be here, in beautiful Garramilla (Darwin). After a super successful Congress in Naarm (Melbourne), we are ready to roll out the red carpet for you here in 2025. Start planning now, and turn your Congress PD points into a side of epic NT adventure. Darwin and the broader Northern Territory are so incredibly unique in terms of planning and lifestyle, and we are so excited to welcome you.

We are gearing up for an NT election in August and planning will be at the forefront of many debates. From housing availability and affordability to crime prevention and the need for stronger infill and infrastructure planning, PIA will be pushing the planning agenda as a priority.

I hope this edition of the Agenda whets your appetite in the meantime. We have some excellent features and articles once again, and a huge roster of articles penned by planning superstars. I might read my edition while out camping this weekend, who knows? This time next year you could be too. Enjoy!

Catriona Tatam, MPIA
PIA NT President

As we approach the half-way mark for 2024, PIA has continued to advance its advocacy for good planning in the public interest.

We have released our Queensland State 2024 Priorities - our six priorities and 12 'ask's - to inform the Queensland State election. We have written to the major parties to progress these. You may have seen PIA taking an active role in various media to raise the profile of planning and reinforce the need for good planning to create thriving communities.

Another avenue we are bringing planning to the fore is through a new, innovative alliance. PIA has collaborated, over the past 18+ months, with the Australian Institute of Architects, Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Design Institute of Australia to produce a joint advocacy document for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games – Green Pathways and Gold Places – Design Meets Government.

There is more about this, as well as a wealth of other material to increase your planning powers, in this edition of the Agenda.

What you do matters. Happy reading.

Sean Cullen, RPIA
PIA Qld President





K'GARI

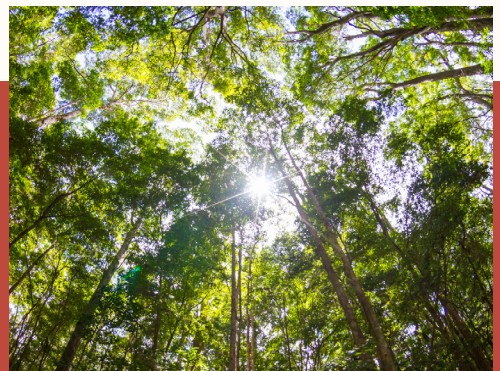
PIA Qld Conference 2024

It is going to be different this year!

The 2024 Qld Conference will take place on K'gari (Fraser Island), from 4 to 6 September.

This unique location allows us to bring a fresh approach to conference!

Reflecting on our past,
realigning the present and
revolutionising our future



Registrations are now open

Book early to avoid missing out!

The case for a 'cooler' type of planning

Ryan McNeilly Smith MPlA, Meridian Urban & UniSC

Our cities, towns and settlements – the planet – are getting hotter. Globally, 2023 was the Earth's warmest year on record. Locally, northern and central Australia were affected by frequent low intensity to severe heatwave conditions from October to December last year. This winter is forecast to be unusually warm. The imperative for creating cool, heat-safe settlements grows each year.

Our warming climate is increasing the frequency, duration, and intensity of heatwaves. The Bureau of Meteorology defines a heatwave as three or more days of unusually high temperatures (both day and nighttime temperature) for a given location. Extreme heat is Australia's deadliest natural hazard, accounting for more than half of all natural hazard-related deaths over the past century.

Heatwaves can be considered as a 'shock'; a sudden, acute event which with disruptive impacts on the community. On the other hand, there is the urban heat island effect. This is the temperature difference observed between warmer urban areas and their cooler rural surrounds. It is a chronic 'stress' on our towns when left untreated. Urban heat islands are exacerbated during heatwaves, meaning urbanised communities face greater levels of heat exposure and compounded risk.

It is important to note here that urban heat is not strictly a climate change problem. It is a poor planning and urban design problem. But climate change exacerbates urban heat island impacts. In fact, the phenomenon of urban heat was first documented in the early 1800s by Luke Howard in London. Howard observed both the geographic change in temperature between the urbanised London and its rural surrounds, but also its temporal factor; that the city was staying warmer into the evening.

Sometimes it can seem simpler to consider extreme heat as an individual's problem with individual solutions. Perhaps as something that just affects the elderly, and that vulnerable community members will be right if they stay home in the air conditioning. Heat doesn't affect me. Individualising heat is at odds with the systemic nature of heat as a risk to life and the solutions required to adapt in a just and equitable way. Of all the natural hazards we face in Queensland, heat is arguable the most insidious in the way it 'targets' low-resource and marginalised communities.

This is borne out geographically in urban heat island locations and coronial data. These are communities with the hallmarks of urban heat risk and climate-inappropriate development: poor tree canopy cover, black roofs, large building footprints and small setbacks, and car dependency. Each of these are influenced in some way by planning controls and development decisions.





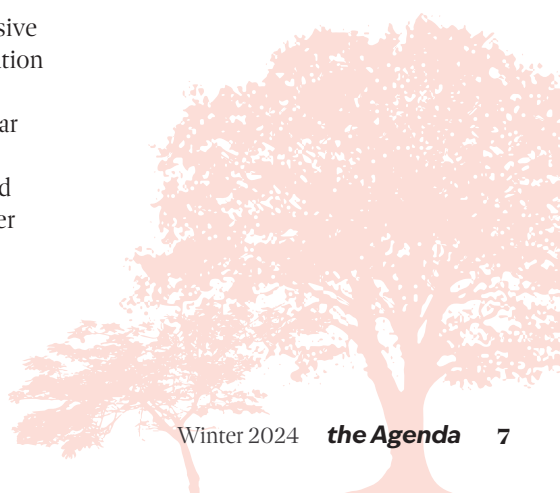
The decisions we make in the built environment can either exacerbate or mitigate heat risks. Remembering we are a public interest profession; we can reduce the ‘stress’ of urban heat and the impacts of heatwave ‘shocks’ on communities. Yet, as a profession we have arguably been under-performing in our responsibility to reduce the heat risks our communities face now, and which will grow into the future.

In March 2024, the PIA Queensland Climate Conscious Planning Systems Working Group published three practice notes on planning for extreme heat in Queensland. This timing taps into an ever-growing heat consciousness in the state (e.g. ShapingSEQ 2023’s heat hazard actions, Sweltering Cities now operating in SEQ, and numerous media reports about heatwaves, shading and urban heat).

As planners, we have influence and responsibility. With that, in the practice notes a key argument we present is the importance of front-loading heat mitigation into policy. Embedding the principles of climate-responsive design and urban heat mitigation principles and measures into planning documents sets clear expectations for land use, development assessment and design outcomes which foster heat-safe communities.

We hope the practice note series assists in increasing capacity across planning in Queensland to foster heat-safe communities with the levers we have access to and through the decisions we make. The practice note series can be found on PIA’s website (planning.org.au/planningresourcesnew/state-pages).

Ryan is a Senior Planner at Meridian Urban, a PhD Candidate with the Bioclimatic and Sociotechnical Cities Lab at the University of the Sunshine Coast and a member of the PIA Queensland Climate Conscious Planning Systems Working Group. Reach out at Ryan.McNeillySmith@meridianurban.com.



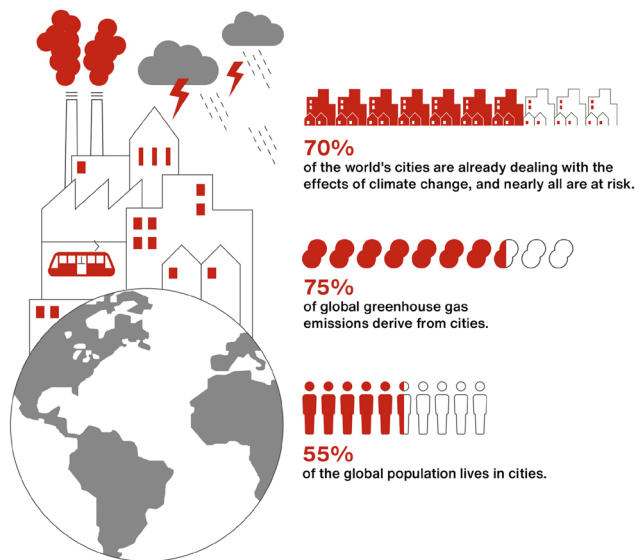
Biourbanism - a model for designing climate resilient cities

Adrian McGregor, McGregor Coxall

In the face of unprecedented urbanization and the looming threat of climate change, cities around the world are seeking innovative solutions to ensure their prosperity. One such solution gaining traction is Biourbanism – a holistic model for designing cities that are not just resilient to climate change but thrive in harmony with nature.

Founded on landscape architecture, urban design, and ecological sciences, Biourbanism is a nature-centric city planning model that assists mayors, city leaders, and planners in creating healthier, more climate-resilient cities. It challenges the traditional notion of cities as separate entities from nature, asserting that cities must be considered a form of nature, or anthrome. This shift in perspective is crucial, especially as we grapple with the reality of the Anthropocene – an era defined by humanity’s profound impact on the planet.

The world’s 10,000+ cities now emit more than 75% of all global greenhouse gas emissions, making them hotspots for environmental degradation and vulnerability to climate-related disasters. With over 70% of the world’s population living in urban areas, cities are both the cause and solution to the climate crisis. Biourbanism proposes a paradigm shift in urban design thinking, emphasizing the interconnectedness of various systems within cities.



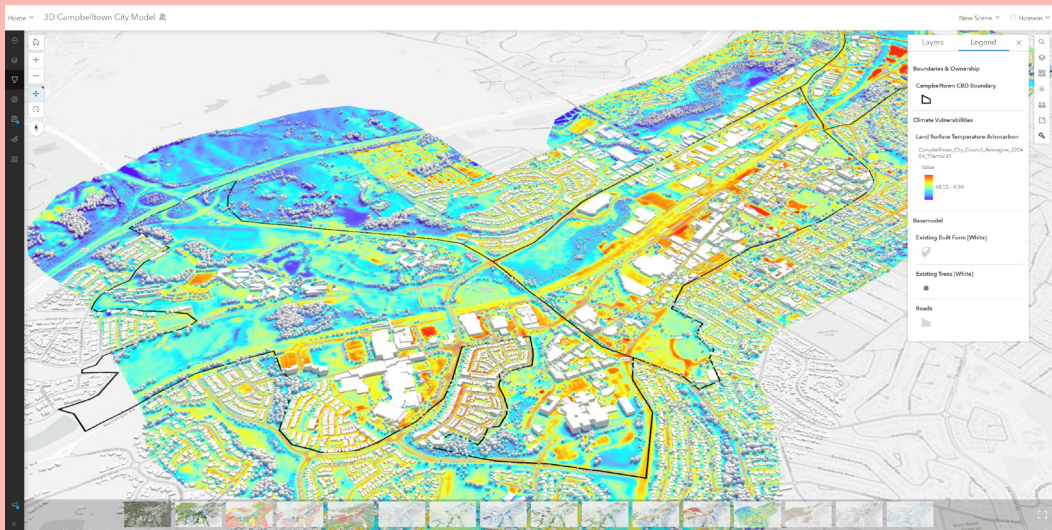
Case study 1

Over the past five years, McGregor Coxall have undertaken strategic studies such as Sydney Green Grid: Tool Kit, where models have allowed the lab to diagnose acute issues impacting the planning and growth of city districts.

Taking that city-wide scale thinking to the masterplan level, McGregor Coxall was engaged by Campbelltown City Council to further develop the Reimagining Campbelltown City

Centre, including the delivery of a data-driven urban management platform, a 3D model, that visualizes key liveability and resilience indices in real-time.

This environmental interrogation of a place and its systems has translated into delivered city schemes that rebalance humanity's relationship with nature. By embracing this model, cities can not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but thrive well into the future.



Urban heat island analysis of Campbelltown City Centre (McGregor Coxall).



Circular Economy (image supplied).

Bio system indicators



Citizens



Food



Landscape



Waste



Water



Economy



Energy



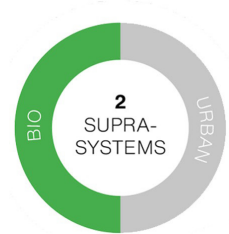
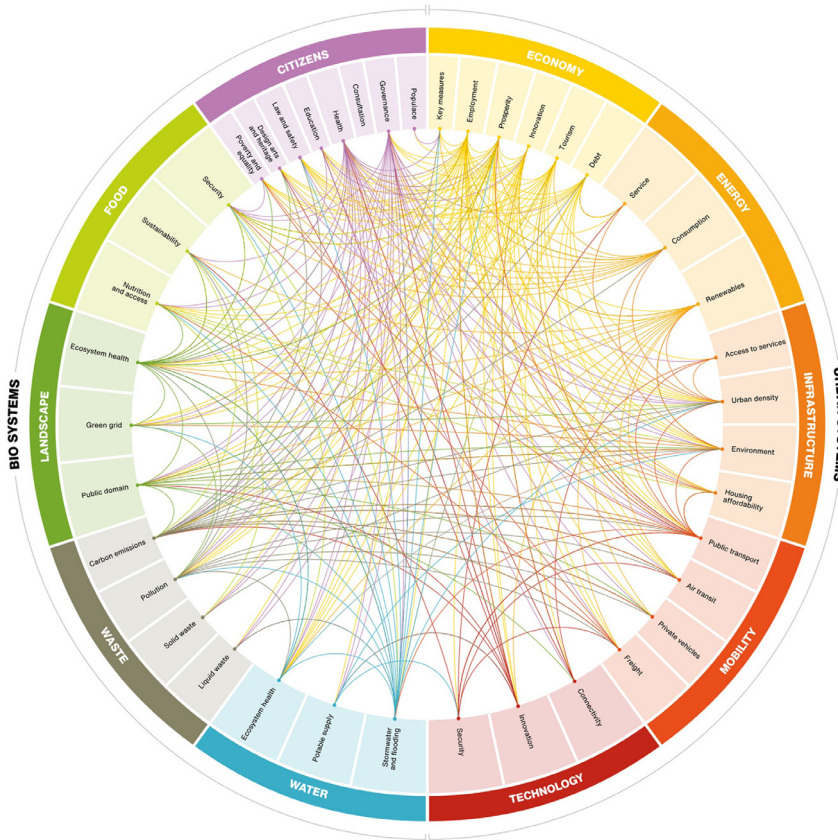
Infrastructure



Mobility



Technology



It identifies ten key systems – five bio (life-supporting) and five urban (non-living) – that are essential for the health, prosperity, and resilience of cities: citizens, food, landscape, water, waste, economy, energy, infrastructure, mobility, and technology.

Implementing the model allows designers, planners, and governments to take a holistic view of cities and manage the intricate interplay between these systems (see above images). By leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital twins, and geospatial analysis, city planners can develop evidence-based strategies to address complex urban challenges.

Through resilience indicators and targets, planners and governments can quantify constraints and create strategies that respond accordingly. The Biourbanism Resilience Action Plan facilitates the creation of evidence-based policies that can be measured over time to support a city's vision (see BioRAP diagram).

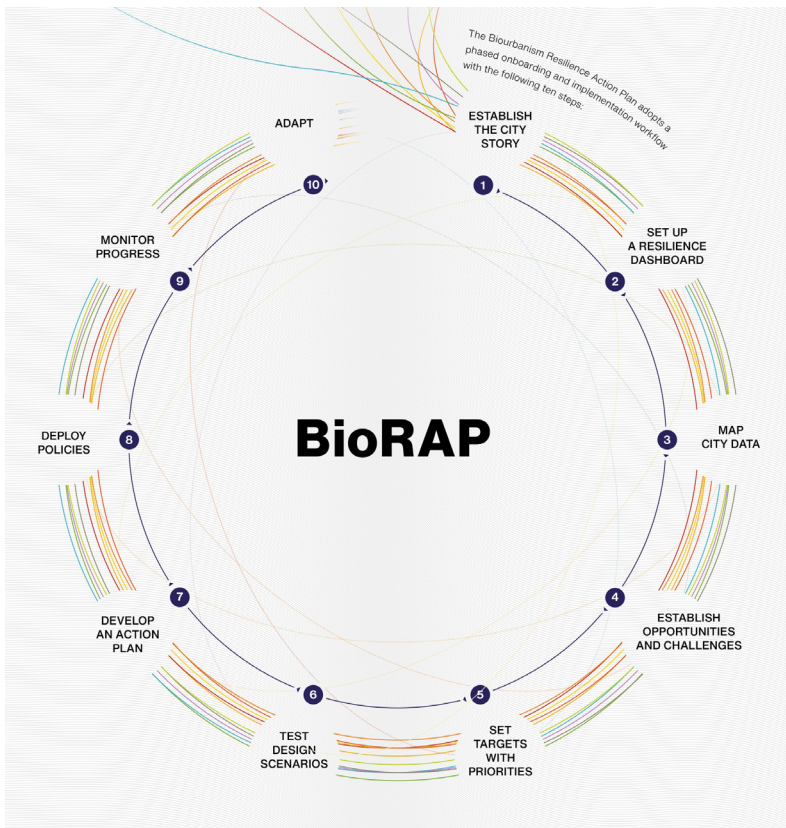
Harnessing the power of digital twins, cities can anticipate and respond to emerging threats, such as extreme weather events and resource scarcity. Virtual replicas of physical cities linked to real-time data enable stakeholders to simulate and visualize the impact of various interventions, from infrastructure projects to policy changes.

Case study 2

Recently, McGregor Coxall's Lab was commissioned to develop a Climate Resilience Strategy and Delivery Plan across the Bristol City Council Property Estate. Utilizing a city digital twin developed by McGregor Coxall, the strategy makes recommendations for the future planning, design, construction, and operation of the property estate. This strategic knowledge has translated into McGregor Coxall currently designing ten key development sites within Bristol, aiming to improve the city's resilience through the Biourbanism platform and philosophy.



Bristol Climate Resilience Study (image supplied).



Adrian is the Founder and Chief Design Officer at McGregor Coxall, a biolab led urban design, landscape architecture and environment firm located in Australia and the UK.

Adrian is the author of Biourbanism - Cities as Nature. Practicing globally, he is a Biourbanist, Landscape Architect and Adjunct Professor at the University of Canberra.

Nominated as one of Sydney's 100 most creative people, he has helped the firm receive more than 200 international design awards including the Prime Minister of Australia's award for Urban Design.

Q&A with Wendy Sarkissian

Wendy Sarkissian MPIA (Life Fellow)

Tell us about being one of the first female planning students in the early 70s in South Australia.

When I decided that I wanted to be a town planner, I went to the University of Adelaide and spoke to the Dean. He said that they had never had a woman in the course, and he doubted whether a woman would be able to manage the course.

And I said, well, I already had two university degrees and was quite a good scholar, and I felt that I could manage it. I was also working in a planning job. And he said, “Well, because we’ve never had a woman in the program, we’ll have to make a particular case for you. And so I’d like you to do an assignment. I want you to choose a planning problem, analyze it, and write a report for me. And I will review the report and see whether I believe you are eligible to do the Masters of Town Planning at Adelaide University.”

So I studied hazardous pedestrian space near the Central Market, near where I worked at the Housing Trust. I was 26 years old at the time, and married to an academic. I produced my report with photographs and drawings and took it to the Dean. He read it and said that he thought it was pretty good, but I would need to get an affidavit from my husband (the young academic) to confirm that he had not helped me with my assignment. My husband, Norman Etherington, signed the affidavit and I entered the course.

But in the second year, I came top of a group of maybe 15 of us. The rest were men, of course.

The News newspaper sent around a journalist and a photographer. They interviewed me and asked how it could possibly be that a woman could have topped the men. And then they asked me to stand in the kitchen with a spoon in my hand, indicating that I was stirring a pot to show that I was a real woman, even though I apparently had the intelligence to get the top marks and the planning course. Of course, I refused.

But that’s how things were in the early 1970s.

What are your thoughts about the earlier years of being a climate conscious planner and how this has evolved to what we see today as climate is front and centre.

I spent most of the 1980s in a state of perpetual frustration and exasperation. I was tracking developments internationally and within the Australian Government and the emergence of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) as a catch cry. There were national conferences and regional consultations to put together a national policy.

And so, as I was working as a community planner on many large suburban developments (mostly in Melbourne and mostly for what was then the Urban Land Authority), I approached my colleagues: planners, urban designers, architects, engineers and others.

My simple question was: “How should we be green on this site?”

I was asking them what “green” would mean for a huge suburban development (like Roxburgh Park, Timbarra, Aurora) in Melbourne. For example, was it about density or public transport or co-locating housing with community facilities and services and employment.

What’s it about?

Journeys to work? Was it about a walkable environment? What were the components that would make a suburb ecologically responsible and therefore make our work consistent with the policies of ecologically sustainable development?

Even though this was the late 1980s and early 1990s, I was still often the only woman on a planning team. Occasionally, there would be an archaeologist or a community worker, but mainly I was sitting in rooms full of men when I asked these questions. And my experience was that the men were muttering something about menopause under their breath. And they told me that I worried too much, that the scientists had always got us out of the problems that we had on Earth, and the scientists would certainly

solve these problems with global warming and Greenhouse Effect. And really, I should just relax.

I began my deeper inquiry into how planners should relate to Nature. My working title was “Why do Planners Hate Nature?” But after a while, I worked out that my colleagues didn’t hate Nature. They just treated Nature as a resource to be pillaged or background for human behaviour. They did not love Nature. They did not know Nature. They did not care about Nature. Nature was not real to them. And that’s what I ended up investigating in my PhD over the next four years.

Community engagement is now recognised as more than informing residents and now collaborative with the community rather than for them.

Yes. Community engagement has grown up in the last few decades. It’s not about informing people or telling them their own reality. Or, as Indigenous people in Canada have been saying, ‘reading us the novel of our own lives’. It’s a much deeper project now. It’s about co-production: about people working together with consultants, governments, and proponents like developers to come to public judgement about what should be done. And public judgement is a really different matter from just canvassing public opinion via meetings and surveys, and the particularly odious online processes that have developed since the pandemic.

Coming to public judgement, in my opinion, includes a component of conscientization. This is the word that was originally voiced by the liberation theologian and reflective practitioner, Paulo Freire. He felt that people could only make decisions about their lives and their communities when their consciousness had been raised so that they really understood what was going on in their lives. This idea is also congruent with feminist thinking, where we encourage women to see themselves and their lives as part of a broader system.

So I think co-production is the way to go: doing it together, everybody learning from each other and coming to decisions that will be consistent and will last the test of time. People hate things that are imposed on them.

Lessons for the next generation- noting the rise of women as leaders in the planning profession and in the institute as presidents and state managers etc

I’m absolutely delighted to see how many women are involved in the planning profession in Australia today. It makes my heart sing. Honestly, I didn’t know whether we would get there. But planning seems to be one profession where women have completely taken off and it’s not surprising. For centuries, women have been organizing households and small businesses and community enterprises and community governance. But we’ve never had the opportunity within the planning profession until recently.

And I’m thrilled to see so many powerful and influential women at so many levels of government and within my profession of planning. It makes my heart sing.



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|----------------|---------------------------|
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| 9 August | Nominations Close for Qld |
| 23 August | Nominations Close for NT |
| 8 November | Qld Awards Celebration |
| Early November | NT Awards Celebration |

Meeting the challenges: Economic Development Queensland's response to the housing shortage through urban planning, design and development

Economic Development Queensland

Addressing Queensland's housing challenge requires an urgent and coordinated effort from all stakeholders with the Queensland Government considering and progressing a range of initiatives. As the state's land use planning and property development agency, Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) provides a significant lever to increase housing availability and affordability. The amendments to the Economic Development Act 2012 (ED Act) are a proactive approach that enables the provision of more social, affordable, and diverse housing to accommodate Queensland's expanding population.

The Proposed Amendments

The Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (the Bill) was introduced to the Queensland Parliament on 20 March 2024. The Bill introduces a range of amendments to the ED Act that will enable EDQ to support increased housing supply across the State.

EDQ welcomes PIA's contribution to the legislative process, including recommendations about EDQ's role, such as bringing forward targeted affordable housing projects, outside of Priority Development Areas (PDAs) where the private market is yet to invest. This could involve working with local governments to identify areas appropriate for gentle density and undertaking demonstration projects.

As it was noted in PIA's submission on the Bill to the Cost of Living and Economics Committee, EDQ's proposed new structure will help enable this type of opportunity. The Bill will create a standalone and agile organisation with the flexibility to respond to its expanded role while maintaining appropriate ministerial oversight and accountability,

Increasing Housing Supply

The Bill supports a range of measures to boost housing supply including amending the purpose of the ED Act to specifically include providing diverse housing, including social and affordable housing.

New provisions have been introduced to condition the delivery of social and/or affordable housing as part of a development approval within a PDA. The amendments provide flexibility in how a developer can meet these obligations. For example, a monetary contribution can be provided in lieu of supply, which will be used to provide social and/or affordable housing elsewhere in the same local government area.

Another pathway for a developer to meet its social and/or affordable housing requirements is through a Housing Agreement, which is a voluntary agreement that may be entered into with EDQ. For EDQ to impose these types of conditions on development, the relevant PDA development scheme must first include requirements relating to the condition.

EDQ will also be able to enter arrangements with third parties, including community housing providers, to deliver social and affordable housing solutions.

The Bill gives the Minister for Economic Development Queensland the ability to acquire land to enable the delivery of critical infrastructure to unlock development, including housing, within PDAs. Land acquisition powers for Place Renewal Areas will enable the Minister to deliver key Queensland Government priorities, such as facilitating economic growth, increasing housing supply and delivering priority community facilities in an efficient and effective manner.





Carseldine Village net zero homes (image supplied).



Northshore Hamilton, Brisbane (image supplied).

Responsive Urban Planning and Design

Place Renewal Areas are a new concept introduced in the Bill. They enable EDQ to take a lead role in coordinating and accelerating urban renewal in some of Queensland's most complex development precincts.

Key to delivering successful outcomes in Place Renewal Areas will be collaboration with stakeholders such as local government, utility providers, landowners, developers, and the community. EDQ will also partner with the Office of the Queensland Government Architect, to deliver integrated place-based outcomes and champion design excellence.

EDQ will continue to demonstrate leadership and innovation across the delivery of planning, infrastructure, and property development outcomes. This includes finding opportunities to demonstrate housing typologies and new construction methodologies within and outside of PDAs.

Conclusion

In navigating the housing challenges that the proposed amendments seek to respond to, EDQ is committed to working collaboratively with its partners, including the Planning Institute of Australia on how the amendments will be operationalised and on future development projects. This includes consulting on the amendment to the Economic Development Regulation to include criteria for affordable housing in the context of the ED Act. For more information, please contact Economic Development Queensland via EDQ@dSDLGP.qld.gov.au



Legends of Planning

Wendy Sarkissian PhD MPIA (Life Fellow)

This regular article segment is called 'Legends of Planning' as it profiles PIA Fellows, Life Fellows and planners who have made significant contributions to the profession.

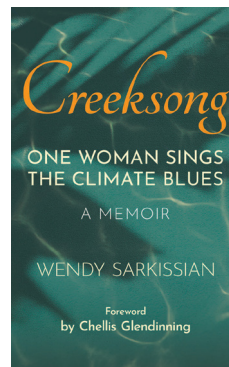
Wendy Sarkissian is a Canadian-Australian public intellectual. She is a highly awarded author, planner, and environmental ethicist whose research, writing, and activism focus on community engagement and climate breakdown. She is the lead author of the award-winning book *Kitchen Table Sustainability* (Earthscan Routledge, 2009).

During a long career as a planner in Australia, Wendy received over 40 professional awards and was a leading community engagement practitioner and sought-after speaker. She focuses on taking personal responsibility for sustainability issues. In the early 1990s, Wendy lived for a year in harsh conditions in tropical northern Australia to learn firsthand about climate change, ecology, and caring for Nature. *Creeksong: One Woman Sings the Climate Blues* emerged from that experience.

“Creeksong” takes you deep into the heart of a remnant rainforest: a resonant, lush, and enigmatic tropical place of change. An ecotone. Accompany Wendy as she grapples with fear, regret, love, and dreams and emerges with newfound courage and insight. Her memoir’s pages offer solace and inspiration, as her healing journey from a troubled Canadian childhood reminds us that it’s never too late to heal the early wounds of childhood.

Wendy’s current climate change activism is embodied in the powerful concept of One Earth Moment (OEM). When we consider the Earth in any context (such as a planning or housing initiative), we should take OEM to acknowledge the limits of our living Earth and our responsibilities to it.

Please visit the Creeksong website (<https://creeksongbook.com>) and Wendy’s Amazon Author page (<https://www.amazon.com/Wendy-Sarkissian>) for more information.



Wendy (above) and her book “Creeksong” (left).

Catching up with our committees

This regular segment provides some of our committees with an opportunity to catch us up on what they are thinking and what they have been up to.

Queensland Young Planners PIA Mentoring Testimonials

The PIA Mentoring Program is an excellent opportunity for planners to mentor other planners, ranging from students and recent graduates to highly experienced and established professionals. The program is free to all PIA members. The Queensland Young Planners committee plays an important role in assisting with the delivery of the PIA Mentoring Program in Queensland.

Our committee members are often involved as mentees and mentors, gaining firsthand experience of the benefits of the program. Ben Bragagnolo (QYP Industry Lead) and Emma Gurney (QYP Students Lead) have provided testimonials of their experiences as mentors and mentees.

Applications for the PIA Mentoring Program close 30 June 2024, we look forward to launching the program later in July!



Ben Bragagnolo PIA (Assoc.) – Urban Planner, Brisbane City Council

I signed up to the PIA Mentoring Program as a fresh graduate seeking some guidance in the wide world of planning. While I ticked that box, I was also given the opportunity to participate as a mentor to a young planner in university – something that has been as much a reward as a learning experience.

My experience as a mentee, whilst not what I expected, provided an ongoing stream of knowledge, experience, and (importantly) banter. When I say it wasn't as expected, my mentor lives and works interstate and in a different area of planning to me – two factors that made the experience even more beneficial. Having someone with such an external perspective allowed for juxtaposing perspectives and exposure to the workings of other states' planning frameworks.

Being a mentor built on my love for peer leadership and enhanced my skills in communication, listening, and knowledge sharing. Beyond this, it was a great lesson in understanding the scope of my own knowledge and reframing questions or examples to suit a particular situation.

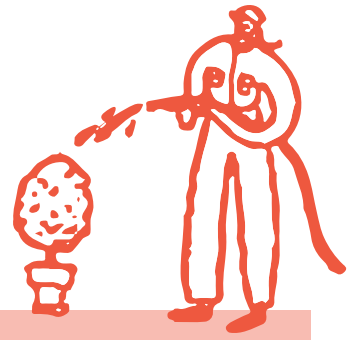
I loved being part of the mentoring program and would really recommend signing up. To any young planners who've graduated, I would strongly consider signing up to mentor a university student – you won't regret it.





Emma Gurney PIA (Assoc.) – Planner, RPS

My first year of PIA's Mentoring Program has had a genuine and positive impact on my growth and perspective, particularly being on both sides of the mentorship dynamic which has been incredibly enriching. My own mentor has been an open book, carefully listened to my passions, and expanded my network. It has also been rewarding to be able to share my experiences to guide someone else along their journey, knowing that my insights and encouragement could potentially make a significant difference in their life and aspirations. PIA's Mentoring Program connects you with individuals who genuinely care about offering their help. To me, the program is a gem of PIA's outreach to the community – it reinforces the importance of paying forward, creating a cycle of growth, support and empowerment within our industry.



Women in Planning Network **WiPN's Development Series is back for 2024!**

The PIA QLD Women in Planning Network Development Series is back for 2024! The three-part Development Series is suitable for all, from students and emerging planners through to leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. The series is delivered online around lunchtime to allow you to join us from wherever your work may take you.

We look forward to welcoming all planners, students and practitioners at our up-coming events:

1. Wednesday, 24 July. 12:30pm – Development Series 2024: Know your Worth
Join renowned author and keynote speaker, Sonia McDonald, as she guides us through how to own it and know your worth, overcome imposter syndrome, tackle overwhelm and be a role model in your life and in leadership.
2. Wednesday, 16 October. 12:30pm – Development Series 2024: Know your Network
We all know that networking is important at all stages of our careers, but do you know how to network effectively? In-person and online? Do you know the different types of networks and the role of each type? Join Hannah Greig, HR Strategist at FordHR, as she brushes us up on our networking knowledge and leaves us with some practical tips to ensure we are making the most of our networks.

Overleaf we provide a summary of our first installment.

contd...

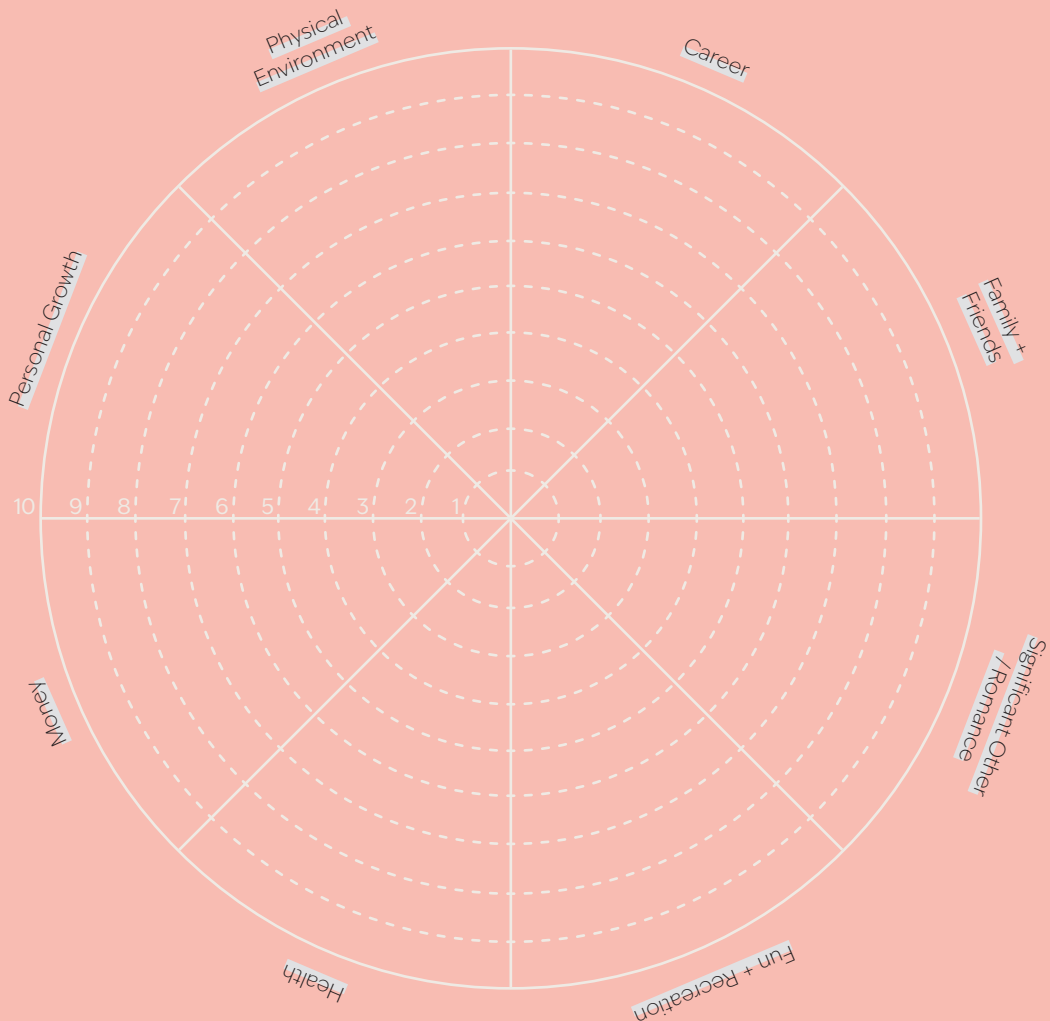
WiPN's Development Series is back for 2024!

For the first installment, we were joined by Candace Jarrett, Director of Neish People. Titled 'Know Your Boundaries', Candace's session centred around work/life balance, setting boundaries and identifying priorities, managing stress and the mental load, and identifying and preventing burnout. Some takeaways from Candace's presentation include:

- Be clear on your values to prioritise and set boundaries.
- Boundaries are vital limits for emotional, physical and mental wellbeing.
- Not having boundaries can cause feelings of stress, conflict, overwhelm and resentment.

- Boundaries maintain dignity, advocate for needs, and foster meaningful engagement.
- Boundaries are critical to helping maintain a work/life balance and are a preventative measure to burn out.
- The 'Life Wheel' is a quick tool to recognise and assess imbalances in your life. You can fill out the one provided below.
- You, and only you, can set, maintain and enforce your boundaries.

Please follow us on LinkedIn to keep up to date with all the details of these amazing events, and others.





Educating and preparing planners

Paul Burton MPIA, Cities Research Institute, Griffith University

In these times of planner shortages, we need to look carefully not only at how we attract new entrants into the profession but also at how we best prepare them for their chosen career. Two recent events serve as bookends to my thoughts on this.

Recently I was saddened to learn of the death of Patsy Healy, Emeritus Professor in the School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape at Newcastle University in the UK. There will be few planning academics around the world who don't know of Patsy's work as a planning theorist and many practitioners will remember her work from their time as students. I first met Patsy when I was studying town and country planning in London in the late 1970s: she was external examiner for our degree program and brought an exceptional degree of critical kindness to her role. A few years later she spent a sabbatical at the School for Advanced Urban Studies at the University of Bristol, where I was doing research for my PhD and she always had time for thoughtful conversations, especially about her project at the time on the everyday lives of practising planners, which she was carrying out with my colleague, Jacky Underwood. What made Patsy so special was her ongoing commitment to base her theoretical work on planning as it was actually practised rather than on some imagined activity, her infectious enthusiasm for this type of research and her ability to write clearly about complex planning issues, a quality not always evident in the work of academic planning theorists.

The second event was the announcement by the NSW government, that in collaboration with TAFE NSW, Local Government NSW and PIA, they have created a new pathway into the profession for paraplanners. This online course, offered by TAFE South Australia, extends over 24 months and uses virtual classroom technology and leads to a Diploma of Local Government (Planning). This will undoubtedly relieve some of the pressures on recruitment and retention in NSW and will certainly and rightly be watched carefully and possibly emulated by other States and Territories.

These two events highlight what has been a significant debate in planning education ever since the emergence of the profession: how do we strike a sensible balance between the theory and the practice of planning? This can easily become a sterile argument about the imperative of producing job-ready graduates who can handle a complex DA from the moment they start working as a consultant/proponent or as an assessor in a local council, versus those who think that planning educators should be encouraging our students to think global and to 'make no little plans' to improve our towns and cities.

Of course, we need both. Plans that, in Daniel Burnham's words, 'stir our blood' will not be realised if they are not based on the day-to-day practices and limitations of planning and on sound knowledge of the development processes we regulate and try to manage. Equally, if we know or care for no more than today's tables of assessment or DA rules then our appreciation of the purpose of planning and its broader goals will be stunted and we might struggle to dismiss accusations that we are faceless bureaucrats who like nothing more than finding fault with and saying no to development proposals. It is important that as educators we strike a better balance between building the technical skills of aspiring planners, demonstrating the values and principles of the profession, and cultivating an understanding of the political and organisational cultures in which we work. This in turn will only come through better dialogue between those of us who teach planning and those who practise it every day.

I doubt that Patsy Healey ever taught into a TAFE course for paraplanners, but I suspect that if she had been asked to give a lecture or two, she would have jumped at the chance. At the upcoming State Conference on K'gari I'll be offering more thoughts on these tensions and on how to make the profession more attractive to those considering it as a career. I'm looking forward to some lively discussions in the conference halls and on the beach, lubricated perhaps by the odd beverage.

Shedding light on the ‘substantially different development’ criterion – an exploration of the case law

Jake Davies, sixth-year Law/Arts student at the University of Queensland.

The concept of a minor change to a development application/ approval under the *Planning Act 2016* (Qld) is a valuable element of Queensland’s planning regime insofar as it can streamline the development process. Importantly, a key criterion of the statutory definition of a minor change is whether a change results in a ‘substantially different development’ (SDD). However, because the satisfaction of this criterion is invariably fact-specific, there is potential for uncertainty for developers and councils alike. In light of this, this article explores case law examples of changes satisfying or failing the SDD criterion.

- **Result of the change**
- **New or increased impacts**
- **Integral components of a development**
- **Staging**
- **Addressing community and council concerns**



A core concept: focus on the result of the change – not the change per se

First, attention must be paid to the Planning and Environment Court’s (PEC) comments in *Cleanaway v Ipswich [2020]* QPEC 47 to the effect that the application of the criterion should focus on the result of the change – not the significance of the change per se. This proposition informed the outcome of *TAL GP v Logan [2021]* QPEC 78 where considerable changes to reduce a childcare centre’s developmental footprint and visual bulk did not result in an SDD because the centre remained ‘substantially the same’ minus the elements that concerned the council. Conversely, this principle explains the outcome in *Rochedale Piazza v Brisbane [2020]* QPEC 30 where a name change to a caravan park (specifying it was for seniors/ retirees) resulted in an SDD because it altered the development’s use from a caravan park to a retirement facility – making it assessable under a new code.

New or increased impacts

When changes introduce new, or increase existing, impacts/risks, the SDD criterion will likely be important. In *Eljasie v Cairns [2021]* QPEC 79, a change that introduced new, and exacerbated existing, traffic impacts resulted in an SDD. In *Multus v Rockhampton [2016]* QPEC 22, a change to increase the production of explosives satisfied the SDD criterion because of the increased risks. Notably, in *Richardson v Douglas [2021]* QPEC 80 – where there was a proposed change to remove a condition that only one operator can manage a motel complex – compliance with core planning principles and the planning scheme that was in force at the time the development was originally approved pointed to no new or increased impacts.

Integral components of a development

Importantly, the PEC places considerable weight on whether a change removes an integral component of a development. In *Tokyo 2 v Brisbane [2020]* QPEC 23, the PEC held that, considering community concern, environmental protection and preservation of existing aesthetic was an integral component of a proposed multi-dwelling development; a reduction in a proposed environmental protection zone resulted in an SDD. In *Carillon v Maroochy [2000]* QPEC 5, a change to remove a cinema in a shopping centre development resulted in an SDD because the cinema was integral to ameliorating community dissatisfaction with the project.

Staging

Applications changing a development's staging again turn on their effect on the ultimate outcome of a development. In *Thomco v Noosa [2020]* QPEC 8, a change application proposing to move the construction of a motel (in a motel & visitor accommodation complex) from the first stage to the second stage resulted in an SDD because the motel's construction would no longer be guaranteed. Conversely, in *Highgate Developments v Sunshine Coast [2017]* QPEC 37 an additional stage inserted into a major urban subdivision was a minor change because it provided for superior engineering and environmental results while the ultimate outcome of the development remained unaffected.

Addressing community and council concerns

Change applications addressing community and council concerns may result in minor changes. In *TAL GP*, despite the sizable changes made, the application's accommodating response to council concerns and suggestions was a factor in the PEC's decision. Furthermore, in *Zumbo v Brisbane [2020]* QPEC 14, the PEC held that a ½ reduction in the height of an apartment block — in response to submitters' concerns — was a minor change. Importantly, however, the apartment block did not lose its quality as a medium-size tower. Conversely, *427 Beckett Rd v Brisbane [2024]* QPEC 4 demonstrates a change that goes too far in addressing a council's concerns. There, the application significantly reduced the residential component of a mixed-used development to lessen its environmental footprint. However, this reduction, among other things, resulted in an SDD because the original, even balance between commercial and residential uses was lost and the remaining residential areas would be subjected to greater exposure to commercial elements.



A postcard from Tokyo

Peter Richards MPIA + LFRAIA, Archipelago

I have just been to Tokyo, indulging myself in a sketching tour with several others. Why not, I say. Tokyo is a big, in your face city with a population over 13 million in an area of around 2000 square kilometres, about 1.5 that of Brisbane, but seven times the density.

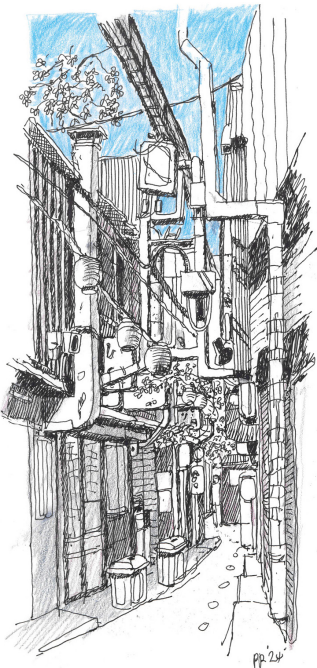
You can't dislike Tokyo. It is constantly busy, constantly crowded, constantly visually stimulating, and sometimes confronting. There are signs and billboards everywhere and some are very big. It is a grand world city with broad boulevards with their continuous high-rise office and residential buildings connecting major centres that have even taller buildings. At the same time, Tokyo is a small and more intimate city. Behind the big buildings and big streets, there are neighbourhoods of very small buildings, sometimes only a few storeys on small sites along narrow streets no more than 4-6m wide. These streets support a lot of urban life. Note to self. How can this be achieved through a planning scheme? Is there a correlation between street width and building height?

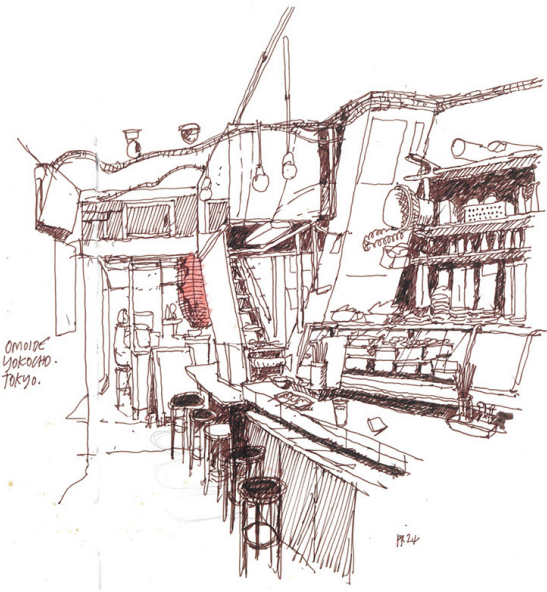
A great example of this pattern is Shinjuku, the second largest business centre with the busiest station in the world with more than three million people a day. It has very different and specific precincts around the station. To the west a business area many new high-rise buildings. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building is almost 250m high and over 100m long for about 2/3 of its height. On the eastern side, there are moderately tall buildings, but these tend to hug the primary streets with the smaller buildings behind including the Kabuchinko, the night-time entertainment and red-light area of the city (apparently).

Jammed in between the elevated railway line and the busy streets is a very curious precinct called Omoide Yokocho. I stumbled across it by chance when I was in Tokyo before and couldn't quite believe it then. I still can't. It is a small precinct of two storey buildings about 70m long and 30m wide. There are one and a half to two-metre wide cross alleys providing access lined with tiny three metre or more wide yakitori bars, mostly individual buildings,

probably on sites around 20 to 30m². Note to self. Does the Tokyo Planning scheme have a minimum lot size? The walkway has steel frames at regular spacings holding up overhead power, lighting, lanterns, and plastic cherry blossoms. Exhaust chimneys at regular intervals show that some form of health regulation is evident.

I spent quite a few hours there this time. It was very pleasant sitting in a yakitori bar watching the world (literally) walk by, sipping beer and sake and trying to avoid ordering the chicken intestine skewers. But the beef and usual chicken were pretty good, and you could get vegetables, which





Omoide Yokocho - Tokyo.

was a welcome change for many of the food offers in Tokyo.

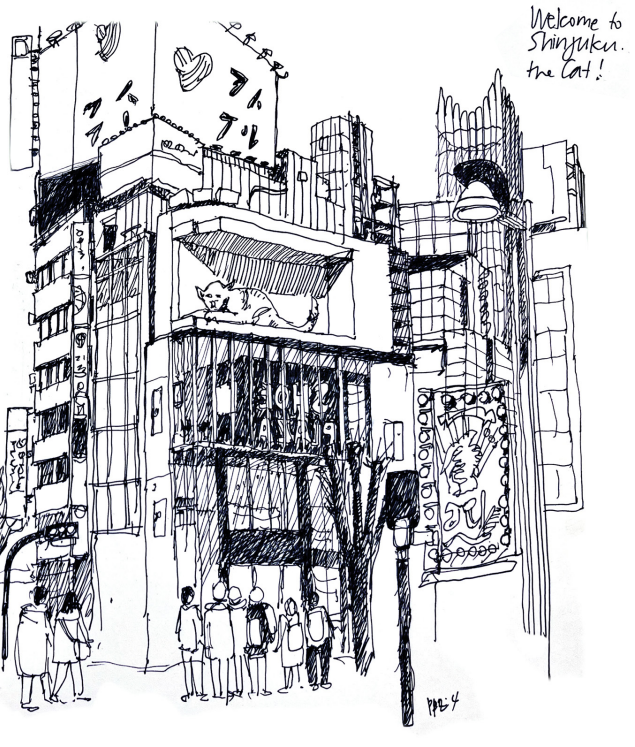
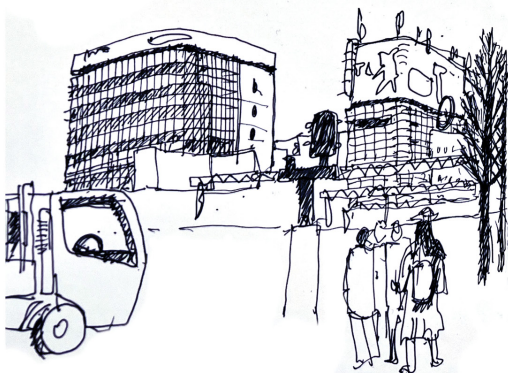
I thought to myself how does this place exist, and continue to exist? I have now reached the conclusion that it exists because it exists. I do not think it is a place that could be conceived in this location immediately adjacent to the busiest railway station in the world. Note to self, does the Tokyo Planning Scheme have a Yakatori Alley Zone or Place Code?

Across the rail corridor from Omoide Yokocho is a plaza looking to a collection of mid-rise buildings. One building has an electronic 3D billboard about 8m high and 25m long that curves around the corner of the building. That is a pretty big TV, and it is about six floors up in the air. Its main inhabitant appears to be an animated cat which must be famous as it has its own live stream.

Having now spent more than an hour drawing it, the cat is both charming and humorous, and worth appreciating. But I can't help but wonder how this came about. Note to self, does the Tokyo Planning Scheme have an Electronic Billboard Code?

Both Omoide Yokocho and the Shinjuku Cat are world famous. Even Aussie tourists go there, but they are both exceptions. Note to self. How did planning help to conceive, achieve and maintain this unique Japanese urbanism as I have no idea? But I like it.

Peter Richards travelled to Japan in March 2024 leading an urban sketching tour. He is a champion of sketching and using hand drawing to inform design processes. Look for his book DesignThinkingDrawing, available again after the first edition sold out. If you want to contact him, his email is pr9343@gmail.com and his instagram is @pr_designthinkingdrawings.



Welcome to Shinjuku. the Cat!

'Hazards' puzzles

Compiled by the Natural Hazards Planning team, Environment & Sustainability Policy & Planning, City of Moreton Bay (Shannon Haines MPIA (Fellow), Pradesh Ramiah, Stephen Ashton, Emma Hunt).

Find-a-word

K M F L M X F J L Y C H P O A T B W C L Z T X B Z Z S M V A
 B M B E O N P V I S B C W O F A O Z N M X X L I L T K E I G
 N V F P E C N D H M P R O B A B L E M A X I M U M F L O O D
 K A I Y Z L X L M M P R E P A R E D N E S S A E X I O S P W
 I V F R A F P G H J M Y V T I M N R Y X U W U J P Q O A T X
 C O R E G D J W G O F E V R O L A B W N N Y X U A P L M H H
 R I W C X R A M J G Q N Z P E H J R P J O R A L L B A I R F
 U D C O Z B M P R W X A D M R S C U M G U H W I W F A T U N
 K I C V Q R T A T T W M O V A R P P Q F L H X G D R Z I E G
 C O Z E H R I S B A W R W G P V D O Q Y M G L R U E E G F Q
 X O K R N R F S M S T Y C J R K X D N N B D P T W Q F A D T
 C B I Y G E S E M P O I G R T Z V N V S C P A H X U G T P V
 U V S Z T S Q T L V U G O G T S R B X S E S A W C E V E W U
 B N H G W I K P J E K F S N L W Y W H A Z I B N L N R L R M
 I E Z C E L S R V J X G R B D L G F D Y D V B M Q C R X I E
 O J F L A I H O V X D U R A T I O N V A C W Q W K Y Q L A B
 P I L B S E C T L U O F Y K E Z L M C T C O N V E Y A N C E
 F L O W K N C E V N L M E R A D I A N T H E A T P K X C O I
 I N O O Q C M C W H W N M W Y C X O E Z M H D O S J R V E M
 R R D Y H E L T C C Z A E A L H Y D R A U L I C R I S K T I
 E S S C O E M I M X D L K R I K P I Z E C E X H M W N V R Y
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 I Y O S W J G N U O P Z D S M B T Y H B Q A U M C Q L M N J
 N G R D O G V A E P T L B H N V I A D Q T A M W O R D B S W
 E Y A I E P M R S U H H E X N I R L I P C J D U Q K N E I V
 T W G I O Q Y E J Q Q B J S T L J P I N U X M P P F S R T D
 B M E Q J G G A Y K N P N V N Q E Y R T W S T L N X T N I G
 O O C X C K V D K O C B N F S D F P Y O Y V G J L D A L O K
 I M G B H V E L O C I T Y I G T S X Y B V M P X X Q R I N N
 M F I R E B R A N D N U D A X Z S E O G R E L O C A T E R X

Velocity

Depth

Hydraulic risk

Conveyance

Flood storage

Probable Maximum Flood

Avoid

Maintain

Mitigate

Transition

Relocate

Adaptation

Resilience

Ember

Radiant Heat

Fireline

Vulnerability

Preparedness

Response

Recovery

Frequency

Duration

Firebrand

Asset Protection Area





Quiz

- Q1.** Which State is the most disaster-prone State in Australia?
- Q2.** What is the most cost-effective response to reducing future risk exposure?
- Q3.** True or false — The SPP mandates a natural hazard risk assessment to inform making or amending a local planning instrument (eg, planning scheme).
- Q4.** True or false — The SPP requires that all State interests should be applied and considered in the context of a changing climate.
- Q5.** What is the deadliest natural hazard in Australia resulting in the most human deaths?
- Q6.** What are the four different types of landslides that are known to occur in Australia?
- Q7.** What major landslide event occurred in Australia in 1997 that prompted the Institution of Engineers Australia and the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS) to undertake a review of the Australian Standards and relevant codes on landslides and hillside Construction?
- Q8.** What are the main types of flooding people are exposed to?
- Q9.** What is the depth of water where small cars can become buoyant - 30cm, 50cm or 1m?
- Q10.** In relation to bushfire hazard, what does the acronym BAL stand for and how many levels of BAL are there?
- Q11.** Name four types of heat hazard impacts?
- Q12.** What are the three main bushfire attack mechanisms and which bushfire attack mechanism is responsible for the most building losses?
- Q13.** Which component of a Bushfire Prone Area is where the loss of human life and property is highest;
- 1. Very high potential intensity area
 - 2. High potential intensity area
 - 3. Medium potential intensity area
 - 4. Potential impact buffer area
- Q14.** What does the acronym FFDI stand for in regard to bushfire hazard?
- Q15.** What does AEP in relation to flood mean?

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Next issue

The next issue of The Agenda will be Spring 2024. Contributions between 600-800 words are welcome and are due by August 2024. If you would like to contribute but can't make this deadline, please email melanie.adam@planning.org.au

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Q9. A small car can become buoyant and float in as little as 30cm of water. A Pajero can float in 60cm of water. If it's flooded, forget it. Q10. BAL is the acronym for Bushfire Attack Level which is a means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact. There are 6 BAL levels, from lowest to highest potential exposure to bushfire attack they are: BAL-Low, BAL 12.5, BAL 19, BAL 29, BAL 40 & BAL FZ-Flame Zone." Q11. Direct Impacts: Human health (eg. Morbidity / Mortality); Infrastructure (eg. mechanical failure, warped railway tracks); Agriculture and Environment (Plants and Animals (eg. wellbeing, mortality)) and Indirect Impacts: Increased health & social services demands; Work stoppages; Productivity losses; Essential services (eg. electricity, water supply) failures; Transport interruptions; Crop Losses, Livestock losses; Ecosystem impacts (changes to vegetation, fauna habitats, fauna losses); Increased bushfire potential. Q12. The 3 main bushfire attack mechanisms are Ember, Radiant heat and Direct flames. Ember attack is estimated to be responsible for 80-90% of building losses as a result of bushfire. Q13. Potential Impact Buffer Area. From history of bushfire in Australia, more than 80% of property loss and 85% of loss of human life occurs within 100m of the edge of classified hazardous vegetation. Q14. Forest Fire Danger Index is the measure of the degree of danger of fire in Australian forests. The index combines a record of dryness (based on rainfall and evaporation) with meteorological variables for wind speed, temperature and humidity. Q15. AEP - Annual Exceedance Probability is the correct term to describe the likelihood of a flood of a particular magnitude or size occurring (or being exceeded) in any given year and, is expressed as a percentage. For example, a 1 in 1000 AEP flood means there is a 0.1% chance of a flood of that size (or larger) occurring in any given year. A 1 in 100 AEP flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood of that particular size (or larger) occurring in any given year. Annual Exceedance Probability can be used to express the frequency (or rarity) of a range of climatic events or weather conditions. For example, a drought or the number of hot days can be expressed as an AEP. Q16. Rockfall, deep-seated landslide, debris flow and shallow landslide (source: Get Ready Queensland) Q17. Thredbo landslide in which 18 people were killed Q18. Three - 1- Riverine flooding of rivers and creeks; 2- Coastal inundation from storm tides and; 3- and Flash flooding or overland flow

Quiz answers



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