

CAPITheticAL

BIG IDEAS. BIG FUTURE.

A design ideas competition for a hypothetical Australian capital city.

COMMENDATION - \$5000

PROJECT NAME: Made in Australia: The future of Australian Cities

TEAM MEMBER NAMES

Dr Julian Bolleter

Professor Richard Weller

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY

CAPITheticAL raises 3 big questions.

1. Should we develop new cities in Australia?
2. If so, then where?
3. And thirdly, what is the catalyst and character of these cities?

So, should we develop a new city in Australia?

YES!

Why?

Because the ABS predicts a total population of up to 42 million by 2056 and 62 million by 2100. If that plays out means the equivalent of 115 Canberra's have to be built in the next 8 decades. We also need to build new cities because our current cities are struggling to absorb increased population. Infill targets can't be met, infrastructure is overloaded and further sprawl is unsustainable. And even if our existing cities did achieve their 2056 ABS growth forecasts, there are still over 20 million Australians unaccounted for.

To determine regions suited to future urbanisation we have therefore conducted a national analysis which mapped the following criteria:

1. Water availability
2. Food proximity
3. Climate now and into the future
4. Renewable energy potential
5. Existing infrastructure
6. Proximity to international markets
7. Employment potential
8. Natural amenity
9. Cultural amenity
10. Benefit to indigenous Australians
11. Development feasibility
12. Strategic military locations0.



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13. Humanitarian potential
14. National symbolism
15. The zeitgeist

The analysis of these national landscape conditions leads to major development proposals for the southeast, the southwest and the north of the country. The proposals take the form of 'mega regions' defined by Richard Florida as 'the most powerful and resilient economic structures of our time.' Stretching from Brisbane to Melbourne in the east and Geraldton to Busselton in the west these regions are threaded together by both high speed rail and the national broad band network. Comprising of chains of comparatively small regional cities associated with high speed rail stations the megaregions hold the promise of liveability, connectivity and sustainability.

In conclusion, in the 21st Century, Australia will need significant urbanisation. This should be rationally and holistically planned on a national scale and the design of specific developments should be strategic, catalytic and daring.

TEAM BIOGRAPHY

We represent the Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC), an interdisciplinary hub for excellence in urban design research and education which is part of the University of Western Australia. The team members for stage 1 were Dr Anthony Duckworth-Smith, Ikumi Nakanishi, Dr Julian Bolleter and Professor Richard Weller. The team members for stage 2 were Dr Julian Bolleter and Professor Richard Weller.

We are architects, landscape architects and urban designers from Perth, Western Australia.

The opportunity to rethink the urban future of Australia in the 21st century inspired us to enter CAPITheticAL.

