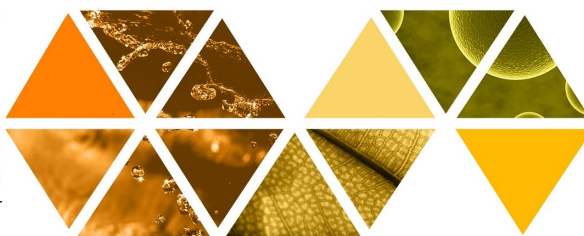




Australian Government
Australian Research Council

EI
2018
ENGAGEMENT
AND IMPACT



Engagement and Impact 2018

The University of Western Australia

UWA16 (SS) - Impact

Overview

Title

(Title of the impact study)

Enhancing Policy-Making and Public Dialogue on the Future of Cities

Unit of Assessment

16 - Studies In Human Society

Additional FoR codes

(Identify up to two additional two-digit FoRs that relate to the overall content of the impact study.)

Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) Codes

(Choose from the list of two-digit SEO codes that are relevant to the impact study.)

97 - Expanding Knowledge

Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) Codes

(Choose from the list of two-digit ANZSIC codes that are relevant to the impact study.)

69 - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (Except Computer System Design and Related Services)

75 - Public Administration

81 - Tertiary Education

Keywords

(List up to 10 keywords related to the impact described in Part A.)

Cities

globalization

economic development

liveability

social inequality

policy

Sensitivities

Commercially sensitive

No

Culturally sensitive

No

Sensitivities description

(Please describe any sensitivities in relation to the impact study that need to be considered, including any particular instructions for ARC staff or assessors, or for the impact study to be made publicly available after EI 2018.)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research flag

(Is this impact study associated with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content?

NOTE - institutions may identify impact studies where the impact, associated research and/or approach to impact relates to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nations, communities, language, place, culture and knowledges and/or is undertaken with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, nations, and/or communities.)

No

Science and Research Priorities

(Does this impact study fall within one or more of the Science and Research Priorities?)

No

Impact

Summary of the impact

(Briefly describe the specific impact in simple, clear English. This will enable the general community to understand the impact of the research.)

The University of Western Australia (UWA) has played a critical role in enhancing policy-making, public debate and progress on the future of Perth and Australian cities. An important part of this has been an innovative, longstanding partnership with the Committee for Perth. This partnership has focused on major urban policy concerns related to globalization, economic development, demographic change, urban liveability and social equality.

This research stimulated debate across business, community, government and individuals about the future of cities. The partnership draws on an active and ongoing strategy of engagement with stakeholders. In addition, the partnership actively seeks to inform policy by improving the quality of evidence used by urban decision-makers.

Beneficiaries

(List up to 10 beneficiaries related to the impact study)

Committee for Perth and corporate members (e.g. ANZ, Barminto, BHP, Shell, Westpac, Woodside).

Govt: Dept of State Development/Dept of Regional Development/WA Planning Commission/Dept of Local Govt and Communities/Regional Dev Commissions

Commonwealth govt agencies: Infrastructure Australia, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities; Department of Social Services.

Local government.

Non-govt orgs: Urban Development Institute of Australia (WA), Real Estate Institute of WA; Future Fremantle Alliance; Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Private sector: consultancy firms focused on urban and regional development, policy and planning; land development industry

Secondary education sector: Senior Higher Schools offering ATAR Geography; Geographical Association of Western Australia.

Urban and regional policy and planning professionals.

Countries in which the impact occurred

(Search the list of countries and add as many as relate to the location of the impact)

Australia

Details of the impact

(Provide a narrative that clearly outlines the research impact. The narrative should explain the relationship between the associated research and the impact. It should also identify the contribution the research has made beyond academia, including:

- who or what has benefitted from the results of the research (this should identify relevant research end-users, or beneficiaries from industry, the community, government, wider public etc.)*
- the nature or type of impact and how the research made a social, economic, cultural, and/or environmental impact*
- the extent of the impact (with specific references to appropriate evidence, such as cost-benefit-analysis, quantity of those affected, reported benefits etc.)*
- the dates and time period in which the impact occurred.*

NOTE - the narrative must describe only impact that has occurred within the reference period, and must not make aspirational claims.)

During the mid 2000s, Western Australia entered one of the most rapid periods of economic and population growth in its history. Led by global demand for natural resources, the State's growth contributed to major economic, demographic and social changes. This led to increasing concern about the ability of the State to cope with growth and the absence of a sound evidence base on which to build policy and debate.

In response to these concerns, a partnership was formed in 2008 between UWA's Centre for Regional Development and the Committee for Perth (CfP): a corporate member-based organization focused on stimulating public debate on the future of the city. The objective of the partnership was to undertake research and community engagement that would enhance policy and dialogue on questions of global integration, economic development, livability and social change. The initial agreement was for 2008-2011, and has been followed by two extensions (2012-2016; 2017-2021). For the reference period, two main impact arenas are described:

Arena 1: Informing Government Policy and Strategy

The research was linked directly to the formulation and implementation of government policy and strategy. This influence spanned a number of sectors. Examples include.

1.The Department of State Development (DSD) used the research undertaken by UWA as part of the CfP Partnership in the development of trade and investment strategy. In particular, the Department drew directly on research showing Perth's position within the global economy through the unique structure of its corporate network. This research emphasised not only Perth's global connectivity, but its areas of competitive advantage relative to other cities in Australia and internationally. DSD advised that "the research been used to help focus the work of our trade and investment team's international strategy and to help understand how companies in Perth fit within the wider region..." (D. McCulloch, DSD, 2014). The FactBase Special Reports were incorporated into the resource used by WA's 10 offshore trade offices (including Europe, India, China), where they provide critical impartial data for investors on city's economy and demography.

2.The report "Fremantle as a Re-connected City" provided an assessment of the economic, demographic and social-economic challenges facing Fremantle. The work has been of value to local government in their strategic planning processes. For example, the Major of Fremantle commented "we're working on a strategic plan that takes that growth into account and aligns with the Future Freo report" (B. Pettit, 2015). Deputy Mayor of the City of East Fremantle noted "the report informed our discussions during amalgamation, when local governments were required to provide a demographic analysis of their municipality prior to merging. He also stated that "the major benefit for us was building closer cooperation with the City of Fremantle" (M. McPhail, 2018).

3.An underlying research theme was understanding urban liveability. The quantitative research undertaken for this was used by the Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) as a key resource in its 2016 strategic plan Directions 2016-2031. This document guides the State government's development of the culture and the arts, and focuses on the sector's contribution to urban liveability. It also led to new work between UWA, CfP and DCA in developing metrics to assess the impact of the arts on urban life. The report notes that "the collaboration between the Committee for Perth and UWA through their FactBase project and the DCA's Culture Counts system offers scope to benchmark our ambition in this area" (p.12). The UWA-CfP led to UWA being represented on the DCA's

Statistical Research Reference Group.

Arena 2: Increasing Public Dialogue

The UWA-CfP partnership had a direct impact on broader public discourse on urban policy, particularly in the context of resource-led growth. The partnership is focused on producing high-quality, freely available outputs that are aimed at stimulating debate amongst a broad audience (described in Part B). This body of work actively engaged broad interest and debate on the future of Perth and its major policy dilemmas. Between 2014 and 2016, the partnership featured in 37 news articles in national and state print media and 26 interviews on radio and television in Australia. Media activity was, however, a small part of the engagement. For each Special Bulletin a major release was held that included a cross section of government, business and community stakeholders. These launches were used to discuss the results, and each engaged between 350 and 500 individuals. Other events where the results were shared and debated included Town Hall meetings and community lunches. Six of these were held, with between 80 and 150 people attending. There were also over 25 briefing sessions with special interest groups. In total, more than 2,650 individuals were directly engaged through these activities. The impact of the work in stimulating debate is exemplified in unsolicited testimonials to the CfP. For example, the Acting Premier of Western Australia noted: It is pleasing to see the outcome achieved by... researchers working on the FACTBase project with UWA, in producing research that will assist Western Australia become more informed as a region and in the continuing development of our City... Publications such as these will... inform and stimulate debate about our future". (Dr K. Hames, 2014). The Minister for the Environment commented "the research provides important insight into Perth's connectivity, not only in its immediate region but globally" (A. Jacob, 2014). One of the Australia's largest land developers commented that "It's only by carrying out this research that we have a better understanding of the region's opportunities and challenges and also how it compares to other parts of the metropolitan area and other relevant cities around the world" (Mr Fini, AO, 2015).

Associated research

(Briefly describe the research that led to the impact presented for the UoA. The research must meet the definition of research in Section 1.9 of the EI 2018 Submission Guidelines. The description should include details of:

- what was researched
- when the research occurred
- who conducted the research and what is the association with the institution)

Since the early 2000s, UWA has actively contributed to applied research on the economic, social and cultural geographies of Perth and regional Australia. Much of this research was undertaken through the Centre for Regional Development, and responded to government, industry and community concern about spatially uneven development. The research focused on understanding the drivers of uneven development and associated policy responses. Central to this was investigating the interplay of global economic processes, the policy landscape, and local economic, social and demographic conditions. This work was funded by a range of organisations (e.g. ARC, RIRDC, government agencies), but led to a novel partnership in 2008 with the Committee for Perth. The research agenda was developed in collaboration with these partners and concentrated on: i) the spatial linkages between local economies and the global economic networks; ii) the drivers of economic and socio-spatial inequality; iii) liveability in Australian cities and regions; iv) the policy environment. The key researchers over the assessment period were UWA staff: Prof Matthew Tonts, Prof Paul Plummer, Dr Kirsten Martinus, Dr Veronica Huddleston, Dr Paul Maginn, Dr Steffen Wezstein and Prof Fiona Haslam-McKenzie. Visiting scholars also contributed to the research, including Profs Jon Shaw (Plymouth), Mike Taylor (Birmingham), Ben Derudder (Ghent) and Thomas Sigler (UQ).

FoR of associated research

(Up to three two-digit FoRs that best describe the associated research)

16 - Studies in Human Society

12 - Built Environment and Design

References (up to 10 references, 350 characters per reference)

(This section should include a list of up to 10 of the most relevant research outputs associated with the impact)

Atkins, M. & Tonts, M. (2016) Exploring cities through a population ageing matrix: a spatial and temporal analysis

of older adult population trends in Perth, Australia, *Australian Geographer*, 47, 65-87.

Maginn, P. & Hamnett, S. (2016) Multiculturalism and metropolitan Australia: demographic change and implications for strategic planning, *Built Environment*, 42, 120-144.

Martinus, K. & Tonts, M. (2015) Powering the world city system: energy industry networks and interurban connectivity, *Environment and Planning A*, 47, 1502-1520.

Martinus, K. (2016) Boomtown globalising: Perth as an internationally connected resources hub, in in Biermann, S., Olaru, D. & Paul, V. (ed) *Planning Boomtown and Beyond*. UWA Publishing, Perth.

Martinus, K. & Beirmann, S. (2018) Strategic planning for employment self-containment in metropolitan sub-regions, *Urban Policy and Research*, 36, 35-47.

Plummer, P. & Tonts, M. (2015) Path dependence and the evolution of a patchwork economy: evidence from Western Australia, 1981-2008, *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 105, 552-566.

Tonts, M. & Taylor, M. (2010) Corporate location, concentration and performance: large company headquarters in the Australian urban system, *Urban Studies*, 47, 2641-2664.

Tonts, M., Plummer, P. & Taylor, M. (2012) Power, enterprise and employment growth in the Australian urban system, *Journal of Economic Geography*, 12, 1239-1266.

Wetzstein, S. (2013) Globalising economic governance, political projects and spatial imaginaries: insights from four Australasian cities, *Geographical Research*, 71-84.

Additional impact indicator information

Additional impact indicator information

(Provide information about any indicators not captured above that are relevant to the impact study, for example return on investment, jobs created, improvements in quality of life years (QALYs). Additional indicators should be quantitative in nature and include:

- name of indicator (100 characters)*
- data for indicator (200 characters)*
- brief description of indicator and how it is calculated (300 characters).)*