

Preface

The book offers an examination of the planning and implementation of policies to create sustainable neighbourhoods using the case study of the City of Sydney. The book acknowledges the increasing numbers of authorities and planners interested in the means of adopting urban sustainability programmes that can be applied at the neighbourhood level. The authors pose the question whether many planning and development practices in the past were appropriate to how communities functioned at that time and what lessons have we learned. The authors aim to illustrate how different approaches to planning for: 1. renewal (that is rehabilitating); 2. redevelopment (replacing); and 3. new development can vary within a city and from neighbourhood to neighbourhood.

Case study examples of nine (9) City of Sydney neighbourhoods are presented (noting each neighbourhood's different histories of planning and development). The book summarizes the planning pressures that these neighbourhoods have faced (and many continue to face). Time period of case study examination is over forty-five (45) years (1970s–2014), including many instances of author (Rauscher) participation in planning within case study areas.

The research undertaken (2009–2014) is 'qualitative' as against 'quantitative'. Research (qualitative) included literature search, field work (including photographing) and analysis. To apply a standard across all case study areas, a set of sustainability principles (not exhaustive) is proposed by the authors. A number of guidelines for adopting these principles were examined, including the twenty seven principles from the *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development* (UN 1992). Three of these principles were seen as particularly relevant to sustainability of urban areas as addressed in this book. In addition sustainability principles created by the Smart Growth Network's (SGN) *This is Smart Growth* resulted in six of the SGN's principles being examined in more detail. Having reviewed sustainability principles, a set of indicators of sustainability was adopted for application to the case study areas (9). After evaluating this application to each study area conclusions are reached on the extent the study area reflected sustainable urban planning. Finally, conclusions are reached across all study areas and directions (based on these conclusions) for further advances in sustainable urban planning in Sydney or elsewhere are outlined.

Part I looks at sustainable urban planning, including sustainability principles and indicators of sustainability. The importance of authorities adopting planning tools that would enable best planning outcomes for communities and investors is examined. The reasons for selecting the City of Sydney for case study analysis is outlined. Common to all case study areas (9) are factors of renewal, redevelopment and development pressures (including global city development factors) affecting Sydney (1970–2014). Finally, the book notes the differing circumstances of planning faced by authorities, developers and communities within each of the study areas to be examined.

Part II of the book looks at the case study areas in City of Sydney's City East area, including Woolloomooloo (study 1) and Kings Cross (study 2). Part III looks at the case study areas in City of Sydney's Inner South area, including Chippendale (study 3) and Redfern and Waterloo District (study 4). Part IV of the book looks at the City of Sydney's Inner West suburb of Erskineville (study 5). Part V of the book looks at the City of Sydney's City West area, including the case study areas of the Haymarket District (study 6) and the Pyrmont and Ultimo District (study 7). Part VI of the book looks at the City of Sydney's North West area suburb of Glebe (study 8). Finally, Part VII of the book looks at the City of Sydney's City South area, the growth area of South Sydney District (study 9). This district includes suburbs of Beaconsfield, Zetland and the new localities of Victoria Park and Green Square. Also, in Part VII conclusions are drawn from the lessons learned from examining the case study areas and the authors outlined directions of planning for sustainable neighbourhoods. Finally, the authors challenge readers (i.e. academics, students, practitioners and citizens) to apply the learnings gained from these case studies in further progressing sustainable urban planning.

A series of information boxes is provided in most chapters. These boxes contain web resources, including: sustainable urban planning information for the City of Sydney (Chap. 2); and locality and planning information for each case study area (Chaps. 3–11). These boxes enable the reader to examine the backgrounds to urban histories and planning of the City of Sydney and the study areas. Readers may also wish to use the information boxes to continue researching planning and development in the City of Sydney (or individual case study area) beyond the extent of the book's coverage. Finally, a comprehensive web resource list on sustainable urban planning in a number of countries (including Australia, USA, etc.) is available in Appendix 1. These web resources give the reader access to the broad range of advances in sustainable urban planning, providing a comparative basis to the book's subject of the City of Sydney.

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