

RP3008

CONTESTED SPACE. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND PATHWAYS FOR OPEN SPACE IN AUSTRALIAN SUBURBS

Problem

Sustained rapid population growth in Australia's cities means more intensive urban development in suburban areas and increases the need for adaptable, high quality and functional, public and private open spaces. Physical and visual access to high quality open space is a basic requirement of city living, beneficial to people's wellbeing and community connectedness; and green open spaces in particular can mitigate the urban heat island effect, and support other environmental benefits.

Bound up in Australian environmental, social and cultural identity and management traditions, open space policy tends to focus on public, green open spaces like parks and recreation spaces. Open space in our cities more broadly includes front and back yards, balconies and rooftops, plazas, nature reserves, streets and parking lots, spaces around public buildings and schools, railway line and utility easements, waterways, beaches and temporarily vacant or derelict spaces. Regulation and management of these spaces is complex and often fragmented, and can lead to suboptimal developments of open space, and the green infrastructure it supports.



Differences in quality, quantity and functionality of open space in public space (green), private existing (blue), and recent infill (red) are apparent in a range of suburban forms.

Solution

Specifically focused on Australian middle belt

suburbs this PhD will investigate:

Historical forces that have shaped the current configuration, provision and management of open space in suburban Melbourne

Drivers and barriers to suburban open space provision in its use, quality, functionality, and management practices

Socio-technical/ecological factors that will need to underpin the institutional practices of future open space provision and management in Australian suburbs

Future contested open space provision in Australian Suburbs

Benefits

This research will

- Be future focused, identifying key ways open space can be managed, configured and optimised for higher density living
- Identifying new opportunities for collaborative open space management and development by identifying underutilised open space, and discussing flexible management practices to optimise their use
- Provide additional data to policy developers and built environment practitioners
- Contribute to research on Australian suburbs and open space

This research is in the early stages, talk to me about how this research might be beneficial to you and your organisation, and in what ways it could be made more relevant, your research and possible connections and stay in touch and participate.

Contact

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