Welcome

January 2013 has brought some major changes to the political landscape in South Australia and Australia. At the state level, the announcement that Isobel Redmond will no longer lead the Liberal Party, and the significant restructure of the Cabinet within the Weatherill Labor Government both suggest the likelihood of significant change locally. At the Federal level, Prime Minister Gillard’s announcement of a September 14 election date will also reshape the nation’s political landscape.

Politics, of course, has an enormous impact on urban, regional and planning issues. The priorities of governments affect the wellbeing of both urban places and vulnerable groups within society. One of the defining features of the Weatherill Government has been its on-going engagement with the creation of a more ‘vibrant’ Adelaide, and reforming both urban design and planning to achieve a more dynamic and attractive environment. The Gillard and Rudd Labor Governments have pursued a broad social agenda, including a renewed commitment to regional Australia, a strong focus on homelessness and meeting the needs of the homeless population, reform in social housing, and a commitment to a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). The Labor Government has also come to acknowledge the reality of human-induced climate change, and while the introduction of a carbon-tax has been the most discussed initiative, projects such as the support of the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) have been important also.

Political change may, of course, result in changed priorities and this has to be acknowledged at both the state and Federal levels. It is pleasing to note, however, that nationally both sides of politics have committed themselves to supporting the NDIS which should result in improved quality of life for some people and their carers.

Recent research undertaken with colleagues at the University of Melbourne has highlighted the precarious position confronting many people with a disability. While 75 per cent reported the use of labour market services of some form, less than 30 per cent had full time employment, resulting in low incomes, the risk of homelessness and reduced health.

The economy remains a second important driver of change for our cities and regions. While the most recent data suggest that the housing market in Australia may be picking up, other sectors of the economy are feeling challenged. The high value of the Australian dollar and the uncertainty associated with the global economy have created adverse conditions for many. The key question, therefore, is how can we generate new employment and other investment opportunities using the assets and potentials already embedded in our regions? It is a question for governments at all levels – local, state and Federal – with the OECD suggesting that in the 21st Century roughly half of all growth across that supra national region comes from ‘lagging’ regions. Critically, they suggest that national economic growth is best pursued by assisting the growth of these less well performing regions, via the provision of infrastructure and the encouragement of innovation. From their perspective, continuing to pursue growth in the major metropolitan centres alone is counter-productive because ‘diseconomies of scale’ set in, via congestion costs, high land values and labour shortages. If we think of South Australia as a lagging region there are some important lessons for governments, business and the community. In part we need to embrace change and innovation and demonstrate a commitment to economic development that is both respectful of the environment but also mindful of the consequences of low growth or no growth.

Professor Andrew Beer
Director
**Publications**


**Welcome Onboard to:**

Ms Charmaine Thredgold, Planner. During her career in the public service she was involved in several projects of significance to the state government.

While employed with the Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet she was a project officer for the Adelaide to Darwin Rail project and a key member of a team who developed the State’s first Population Policy.

Emeritus Professor Chris Paris is a specialist in housing and planning research. He has been an Emeritus Professor of the University of Ulster since 2008, having previously been Professor of Housing Studies.

He has held other research and teaching positions at the University of Canberra, the ANU, the Centre for Environmental Studies (London) and the University of Birmingham. He has held visiting professorships at the RMIT and Hong Kong Universities and visiting fellowships in many other universities including the ANU, La Trobe, Flinders, QUT, Cambridge and Oxford. Chris has wide international experience of scholarly and applied research. His current research includes multiple home ownership in affluent societies and the housing needs of older people. Chris is author/co-author/editor of over 30 books, monographs and research reports on housing, planning and urban policy and over 100 journal publications.

Jasmine Palmer will be joining CHURP as a PhD candidate under the supervision of Professor Beer.

Jasmine cut her teeth in architectural practice on state funded co-operative housing developments in the 1990s. The process of direct engagement with occupants in the design of medium density housing clusters in inner Adelaide resulted in building typologies and social environments arguably unique in the context of the time. Since then she has resided in one such co-operative for over a decade, run an architectural practice and taught Architecture and Design courses as a full time academic. Her most recent role was as Program Director for Sustainable Design at UniSA. Jasmine’s research will be informed by her past experiences and consider the relationship between policy, planning and design in the construction of more sustainable urban futures, with particular attention on medium density re-developments.
New Research


Presentations


Congratulations

Andrew Beer has been elected Chair of the Regional Studies Association. The UK-based Regional Studies Association is the pre-eminent learned society for the study of cities, regions and places and has a strong focus on both academic work and the development of better policies. The Association has a global reach, with members on all continents and a global program of conferences, including Tampere, Finland; Los Angeles, USA; and, Beijing, China. Professor Beer’s 3-year term commenced in November 2012.

More information on the Regional Studies Association is available at: www.regionalstudies.org

Andrew Beer has been appointed as a Member of the Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing by the previous Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon. John Hill. His term commenced on 1 February 2013 and expires on 31 January 2016.

Reports Released


Visitors

CHURP hopes to welcome two visitors in 2013:

Julien Charlier from Walloon Institute for Evaluation, Prospective and Statistics (IWEPS), Belgium from April -September 2013.

Dr David Pevalin from the University of Essex for 12 months from September 2013.
Upcoming Conferences

AHURI: National Urban Policy Conference
16-17 May, 2013
Sydney
Join AHURI in Sydney to participate in this significant conference, the first in a series of biennial events being convened by AHURI in partnership with the Australian Government. The conference will develop and sustain evidence-based discussion on issues such as urban growth and renewal, infrastructure funding, energy use, economically productive cities, housing affordability, and freight, commuter and passenger transport. A program overview and details for confirmed speakers are now available on the conference website. Register now to avail of the special early bird rates and be involved in the important national discussion on the future of Australia's urban landscape.

8th National Housing Conference
30 October – 1 November, 2013
Adelaide
AHURI and Housing SA invite you to join them in Adelaide for the 8th National Housing Conference. The conference will provide a platform for sharing, debating, celebrating and promoting ideas in affordable housing research, policy and practice. The recently launched conference website will be your information hub, helping to make the conference almost paperless. For the first time, they will be using social media channels to allow delegates to influence the format and content of the program. They encourage those interested to subscribe now for regular updates. This is a conference not to be missed, register now and don’t miss out on the special early bird rates!
http://www.nhc.edu.au/invitation_sa/
Subscribe now – https://www.cvent.com/e.aspx?1G_P1.b48b4dd3-0eb-48b6-87da-0eb4886e6e

Regional Studies Association European Conference
‘Shape and be Shaped: The Future Dynamics of Regional Development’
5-8 May, 2013
University of Tampere, Finland
http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-european-conference-2013

2013 National Adaptation Conference
‘Climate Adaptation 2013: knowledge+partnerships’
25-27 June, 2013
Hilton Hotel, Sydney
The conference will bring together end-users and researchers from across Australia to share experience in adaptation and showcase activities, strategies and research. It also marks the fifth and final year of NCCARFs initial funding period. www.nccarf.edu.au/conference2013

2013APNHR Conference
‘Global Housing Dilemmas: The Ways Forward’
20-23 August, 2013
Faculty of Built Environment
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
http://www.apnhr2013.com/

Events Attended by CHURPies

Chris Paris, Laurence Lester, Selina Tually and David Bunce attended AHRC13, 6-8 February.
Media

Community Access Program 2013
featuring Sandra Horne on the front cover.

InDaily Opinion

Disabled at Risk of Homelessness
Andrew Beer, 18 January 2013

As we walk down Rundle Mall or one of the other major streets in Adelaide many of us will notice people selling copies of The Big Issue – a social enterprise that aims to give the homeless or persons at risk of homelessness an opportunity to earn for themselves.

Some of the more observant of us will notice that many Big Issue vendors appear to have a disability – they may, for example, use a wheelchair or gopher, or have a hearing or vision impairment.

Read more:

Teaching

Andrew Beer is teaching Research Methods and Design this semester which will provide students with a strong foundation in the conceptualisation and operationalisation of research, how to design a research project and hands-on skills in the utilisation of different research methods.

CD-ROMs of conference papers from AHRC12 are now available for purchase $20. Please contact Louise at:
churp@adelaide.edu.au
if you wish to purchase a copy.

AHURI will soon publish the Research and Policy Bulletin from the following project: Housing assistance, social inclusion and people with a disability.

The report is entitled: What affect does housing assistance have on social inclusion for people with disabilities?

Contact us
Centre for Housing, Urban and Regional Planning
School of Social Sciences,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Ground Floor, Napier Building
University of Adelaide, South Australia 5005
andrew.beer@adelaide.edu.au
Phone: 08 313 3216 or 0409 696 485
http://www.adelaide.edu.au/churp

Facebook and Twitter

Follow us: