



Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools Conference, 4-5 July 2019

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In my newly-appointed role of Director of Planning, I attended the Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools conference in Brisbane in July last year. The conference theme was *The role of research and the researcher in city making*. After presenting a paper on 'Planning, curation and improvisation in the scriptless city', I was able to enjoy some really good sessions devoted to critical thought/theory in urban planning education and practice, the skills required by new graduates, and the relationship between the academy and planning professionals. In the context of potentially substantial reform of the Resource Management Act, another session - exploring the roles for urban researchers (academic and/or others) in urban planning practice in (Australia and/or) New Zealand - was particularly interesting. Apparently after 30 years of essentially limiting our statutory planning gaze towards our effects on the bio-physical environment, we are now being encouraged to consider the converse. This has the potential to expand our NZ notions of 'planning' considerably, particularly in recognising the implications of urban form and function for how we live, work and play. So, while my sense was that NZ is ahead of Australia when it comes to embedding indigenous planning approaches and methods in the curriculum (with PIA consulting with NZPI for best practice) and we may have some

advantages in integrating planning with climate change adaptation/mitigation given the bio-physical environmental emphasis of the RMA, the Aussies absolutely have the edge when it comes to recognising 'cities' as distinctive environments. It seemed to me that their recognition of non-statutory planning and their deployment of such tools was also rather more advanced.

Whilst there, I met with other Heads of Planning programmes for breakfast and a chat. The fortunes of the various planning schools in Australia and, indeed, the profession more broadly seemed to vary from state to state. In some places, planning was seen as a 'regulatory burden' whilst in other states and cities, the role of planning in mitigating and managing market failures and protecting public goods was more widely acknowledged. It would be interesting to explore the relationship between those cities that appear more pro-planning and their scores on global liveable city indexes (alas, my scepticism around such indexes prevents me exploring this relationship).

Joanna Ross (Massey) and Dr Ashraful Aram (Otago) also attended ANZAPs. Jo has helped facilitate an inaugural meeting of New Zealand Planning school representatives in Palmerston North in June.



Figure 1: Head of Planning Schools Breakfast at the Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools Conference in Brisbane 2019. [Photo courtesy Ash Alam]