

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

Abstract / Initial Proposal Form:

1. Paper / Proposal Title: Connecting the Dots: Cities, Communities and Homes for an Ageing Society

2. Format: Written paper

3. Author(s) Name: Bruce Judd

4. University or Company Affiliation: City Futures Research Centre, University of New South Wales

5. Abstract (300 words):

Population ageing is a global phenomenon with far reaching social and economic implications including for the nature of cities, communities and homes. In the first half of the 21st century the percentage of older Australians 65 and over is expected to double, and those 85 and over to quadruple. Australia, governments have responded in a more reactive than proactive manner. Like the proverbial frog in boiling water, population ageing progresses gradually and the consequences are often not realised until too late. Policy responses in Australia are focused rather narrowly on ageing in place and home modification while neglecting the important interdependency of housing, neighbourhood and the wider city to an ageing society. An older person may have an appropriately designed and equipped dwelling, yet extremely limited social participation without an age-friendly neighbourhood and wider urban infrastructure. The housing industry is inclined to take the narrow view that specialised age-segregated housing is the most appropriate response while largely ignoring or resisting strategies aimed at the wider housing market and the changing expectations of the baby boomer generation entering older age. Urban strategic plans have often espoused the importance of housing diversity in response to demographic change, yet have failed to deliver such diversity. Meanwhile, in Australia's major cities the housing market has become increasingly polarized between low-density detached suburban dwellings and high density inner-urban apartments, resulting in a 'missing middle' which

may well provide more suitable housing options for an ageing society. Drawing on research funded by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute on Dwelling, Land and Neighbourhood Use by Older Home Owners, and Downsizing Amongst Older Australians, this paper will explore the importance of the relationship between cities, communities and homes in response to population ageing, and its implications for housing and urban policy, and the housing industry.

6. Author(s) Biography (200 words each):

Bruce Judd is Emeritus Professor at the City Futures Research Centre in the Faculty of Built Environment at the University of NSW, Sydney, Australia and until recently was the Director of the Australian School of Architecture and Design. During his career, his teaching and research have focused on housing/urban design and human behaviour, and more specifically on new housing typologies, public housing estate renewal and more recently on the relationship of population ageing to housing and urban design, and low-income barriers to low carbon living. He has been a Chief Investigator on numerous Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage and Discovery grants, has led, or been a team member on a number of Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) funded research projects, and a project funded by the Cooperative Research Centre for Low Carbon Living. He has been a member of a number of NSW State Government housing committees including the Living Communities Consultative Committee on which he still serves.