

THE ESSENTIALS FOR GREAT CITIES

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Centrally located within Sydney and the original capital, Parramatta is to be the dual city of Sydney. The Local Government Area (LGA) centres on the Parramatta River and comprises predominately low density residential suburbs clustered around rail stations, a mixture of redundant and active industrial sites complemented by major education and medical facilities. Like many parts of Australian cities, the challenge for Parramatta is how to re-structure the LGA in a way that is sustainable and robust, and that can accommodate a residential population that doubles in size to 400,000 by 2036 ...a place that is designated as '*Australia's Next Great City*'

So what makes a great city? The physical character of a place alone, cannot make a city great, but the physical character contributes to the quality of life, attractiveness, economic success and ability of the city to adapt over time.

This presentation outlines the essential requirements for a great city. What are those critically valuable characteristics that are common to many cities in Australia and around the world? What is required in higher density environments to '*put people first*'? Focusing on the spatial structure of a city and emphasising those components that have the greatest impact on how people relate to the city, the presentation highlights the non-negotiable requirements for creating urban, walkable and desirable precincts that combine to create a great city. It challenges the current planning processes and techniques and outlines the need for appropriate government intervention.