

## GEOGRAPHY

**Analyse the impacts of at least two urban dynamics operating in a large city of the developed world.**

Sydney is defined as a large city in the developed world. Located at 33°52'S and 151°10'E, Sydney is one of the largest cities in the world in terms of geographical area at 499km<sup>2</sup>. Suburban Sydney radiates out from Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) and accommodates a population of 4, 284, 379. Approximately 1/5 of Australia's population lives in Sydney's Metropolitan Area. Established as a city in 1842, widespread ownership of cars after WW2 facilitated a period of rapid low-density suburban growth in the fringes of the existing urban area beyond the reach of public transport. The construction of railways resulted in the linear spread of urban settlement along railway corridors. Within Sydney, a number of different urban dynamics operate. These dynamics include urban renewal, consolidation and spatial exclusion.



Urban renewal is the redevelopment of decayed areas to better meet the needs of the population. Pyrmont-Ultimo is one area in Sydney that has been subject to a huge urban renewal project in recent years. This urban renewal has caused a decline in Sydney's former CIA as landmark industrial structures and warehouses have been converted to residential and business uses, such as the buildings that now house UTS. Cottages once occupied by the working class have been replaced by apartments housing well-paid professionals due to the area's proximity to the CBD, an important lifestyle choice for this group of people. Many old buildings, however, are heritage protected and therefore must be converted. The high-density settlement patterns reflect the expensive land closer to the city. This renewal has transformed the area into a high-demand one, whereas before this dynamic operated here it was experiencing significant amounts of decay. The crime rate in these areas has also dropped considerably. Housing prices in Pyrmont-Ultimo have increased, which has led to displacement for many of the area's former residents and has altered the demographics of the area.

Consolidation involves policies encouraging higher population densities in established suburban areas, usually through planning regulations which allow more dwelling units on a given area of land through subdivision or strata title. This goes against traditional Australian ideals of the ¼ acre block and backyard. In Sydney, this process occurs in the inner-city area, due to the growing popularity of this area due to its proximity to the CBD as well as the high prices people are willing to pay in order to live there. Also, Sydney's population is increasing, leading to an increasing demand for new housing. There are many advantages to be gained from the process of urban consolidation. There is less travel required due to the majority of consolidation occurring close to or within the CBD, which leads to less stress on the environment. Infrastructure costs for local and state governments can also be reduced because there is no need to extend infrastructure as the existing infrastructure is often adequate for the increasing population in the area.

If it is not, the cost of increasing infrastructure over a smaller area is much less than extending it into new areas. However, rising populations in the inner city can lead to decreased populations in Sydney's outer regions. This will cause a closure of schools and infrastructure in these areas, disadvantaging the people remaining in the area. Consolidation also leads to a loss of open space and displacement of people who can no longer afford the rising costs in the inner-city area.

Spatial exclusion is the process of limiting spatial access and freedom of movement of other urban dwellers. It involves the control and regulation of land use whereby 'undesirable elements' are excluded from a particular urban space. It is also known as exclusionary zoning. There are a growing number of gated communities in Sydney.

This includes areas of Sydney such as Todman Avenue in Kensington, a gated community in an otherwise low to middle-class suburban area. Another example is the relatively new Jackson's Landing development in Pymont, which includes the following features: 1350 apartments, 150 terrace houses, pools, tennis courts, parks, restaurants, shops, a cliff-side walk and promenade, 24-hour security and an estimated population of 4000. Gated communities are often quite expensive and restrict access by the general public. The existence of these communities can therefore lead to feelings of resentment from the people outside the communities as they are excluded from the use of facilities available to residents of the communities. Spatial exclusion is becoming increasingly popular in Sydney as distinctions between advantage and disadvantage become more acute.

In conclusion, Sydney is constantly undergoing many different urban processes. These include urban renewal, consolidation and spatial exclusion. While the effects of these processes can be very beneficial, they are often only beneficial to those who can afford to make use of the results of these processes. This leads to exclusion of those parts of the wider Sydney community that cannot afford to partake.