Australian New Urbanism - An Overview of Progress

New Mixed Use
Street-based
Town Centres
Creating a street-based town centre for Shellharbour by linking up two distant retail stand-alone centres. Mixed uses are gradually being constructed along the new street. Cinemas and restaurants are completed. Pub underway.
Rouse Hill Regional Centre
NW Sydney, NSW

Joondalup City Centre
Perth, WA

Creating dense, mixed use inner suburbs around a new urban fringe centre. Extensive terrace housing, rear lanes, studio units and a range of small business spaces.
Point Cook Town Centre
Western Melbourne, VIC

Main street-based centre to serve around 30,000 people in the Wyndham growth corridor. ‘Melbourne 2030’ demonstration. Private developer (Walker Corp) appointed by VicUrban, and construction of Stage 1 is now open (August 2008).
Australian New Urbanism - An Overview of Progress
Major revitalisation of middle-ring town centre to walkable urban village. Catalysed by redevelopment of a Council car park to a five-storey mixed use development focussed around a new town square. Leading design demonstration of building energy and water efficiency.
Gosnells Town Centre
Perth, WA

Council-led redevelopment of town centre badly affected by low amenity, car-based highway strip development. New Main Street connected at-grade across the rail line to integrate communities west of the line into the Centre, and a new station constructed.
Wynnum Central
Brisbane, Qld

Charrette-based community-initiated TOD revitalisation strategy incorporating 6-8 storey mixed use buildings
Australian New Urbanism - An Overview of Progress

Government Codes, Strategies and Policies
Liveable Neighbourhoods Code
State-wide Code, WA

Code Design Elements
E1. Community Design
E2. Movement Network
E3. Lot Layout
E4. Public Parkland
E5. Urban Water Management
E6. Utilities
E7. Activity Centres & Employment
E8. Schools

CNU 2001 Charter Award winner

Edition 4 now adopted as Policy

www.wapc.wa.gov.au
Western Sydney Urban Land Release
Western Sydney, NSW

State Government-led large-scale sustainable regional planning initiative for two new major city regions.

Growth Centres Commission established; innovative infrastructure funding mechanisms set up; mixed use transit-supportive development must be delivered.

Plan shows innovative balance between habitat preservation and efficient urban form.
Conclusions
Key Challenges for Australian New Urbanism

• Encouraging more use of integrative and collaborative design-based planning processes

• Finding a better balance between ‘green/blue’ conservation land protection and efficient urban structure.

• Continuing battles against conservative Local and State Government engineering standards - ‘land slop’!

• Making real progress towards increased residential density and mixed use, under increased political resistance and financier conservatism.

• ‘The Long Emergency’, peak oil, climate change, and the likely need for radical and rapid change to urban development in response to oil supply and greenhouse gas challenges.
Enquiry-by-Design approach

Most projects involved significant design workshops or charrettes

Highlights the competing challenges to achieving good urbanism

Key to integrative high quality outcomes

Creates positive vision of development

Collaboratively resolves technical issues

Engages with community stakeholders

Enables the vision to be maintained over time
Moving towards better Urban Sustainability and lower Carbon Developments

Need regional-scale design-based urban structure plans for the most sustainable outcomes
Perth NW Corridor, Western Sydney Growth Centres, LN

Infill intensification and regeneration better than new extensions, especially when linked to public transport
Subi-centro, Kogarah, Wynnum TOD

At town/Neighbourhood scale NU creates denser, more walkable, more transit-friendly, more mixed use places
Tullimbar, Wellard, Somerly, Brighton, Harvest Lakes

Need strong emphasis on making great town centres, both new and as mall retrofits
Rouse Hill, Shellharbour, Point Cook

Ensure that green/blue ‘sustainability’ is balanced against good urban structure, to the benefit of both
CNU has partnered with USA Green Building Council to develop LEED-ND

Pilot rating system now released

Pilot testing phase just commencing

Strong emphasis on location…. favours infill sites over greenfields

Strong emphasis on design for physical activity and health

LN has been a useful reference
Further Information on New Urbanism
Australian Council for New Urbanism

- www.acnu.org
- acnu@netspace.net.au
- ACNU Congress 2005 CD packs
- Australian New Urbanism - a Guide to Projects Ed 2
- Next ACNU Congress scheduled for 2010 in Adelaide
- ACNU Projects Tour USA proposed for June 2009 and linked to CNU Congress in Denver
Congress For The New Urbanism (CNU)

- A global organisation for New Urbanist practitioners and supporters
- Began in 1993 and based in the USA
- Holds annual congresses - CNU XIV is in June 2006 in Providence, Rhode Island
- There have been active Australian and New Zealand members since the outset…
- The Australian delegation to the Congress each year is usually the largest of any country outside the USA
- [www.cnu.org](http://www.cnu.org)
Charter Of The New Urbanism

• First adopted by CNU Members in 1996

• Available on the CNU website, www.cnu.org

• Statement of 27 principles for urban qualities at the scales of the Region, the Neighbourhood, the Street and the Building

• The book ‘Charter of the New Urbanism’, CNU, 2000, explains each of the principles

• The Charter is also reprinted in the ACNU Projects Book
Other Key Sources

Website links to most North American New Urbanist Projects, listed on a state-by-state basis

[www.tndtownpaper.com/neighborhoods.htm](http://www.tndtownpaper.com/neighborhoods.htm)

New Urban News - a bimonthly publication on New Urbanism, mainly in the USA

[www.newurbannews.com](http://www.newurbannews.com)