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human conditions together with world class research around enabling city systems to transition at pace to respond to complex legacies of settlement, marginalisation and neglect in the Asia Pacific region.

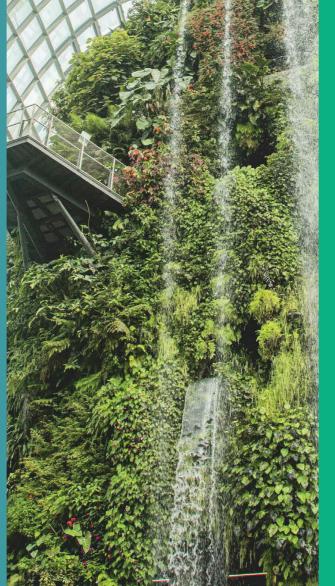


UNSW Cities Institute

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Mass movement of people to cities is irreversible, particularly in the Asia Pacific, home to most of the world's megacities and more than half of the world's population, all of which are consistently being shaped and re shaped by rapid socioeconomic and demographic shifts.

Asia Pacific's cities will be a central feature in global efforts to respond to our most urgent global challenges around future liveability and resilience. Pressing social, environmental and economic crises – headlined by the global climate emergency and political unrest – are contributing to rising inequality and increasing tensions.







Our real world approach gives us capacity for enquiry, passion for engagement and the technical skills to anticipate and prepare for change.

- UNSW Cities Institute

What we do

We unite world class research across disciplines with a design thinking approach, engaging with academia, industry, government and community groups to shape policy and pioneer meaningful change in our cities.

Why we're different

We grasp how every element impacts and influences the spaces we occupy. These aren't just abstract considerations, they're a spatial understanding of human conditions.

- We are independent intermediaries to ensure relevancy and impact.
- Our leadership team is grounded in practice
 We understand the spatial implications of
- how people inhabit a city.We bridge academic insight with real world
- challenges, we focus on practical insights, diverse voices and trans-disciplinary collaborations.
- We apply a systems approach to problem

Our approach

Our strategy and research directions are shaped collaboratively, using city infrastructure, city performance and city wellbeing as the core elements that guide all of our pursuits.

Our goals

By harnessing UNSW's expertise, the Cities Institute will be a world leading advisor to industry and government, delivering holistic commercial ready solutions that embrace a long-term perspective across three highly interconnected pillars of activity.

Research and initiatives will be tailored to the unique voice and history of Asia-Pacific countries, critical in encompassing the wide range of cultures, languages, histories, environmental, social, and economic factors – tailored solutions mindful of these differences will be more effective and meaningful to the communities they are intended to serve.

How we succeed

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Leverage, extend and accelerate research across all faculties within UNSW and beyond.

Ensure that research is accessible and impactful, ultimately used to adjust policy, shape opinion and affect change.

3 Develop creative pathways to solutions through conversation and collaboration.

Foster ongoing relationships with government, community and industry partners.

Fast track innovation and productivity around public infrastructure.

6 Be informed by a First Nations methodology.

7 Launch real projects that show the shift in our thinking and exemplify change in our urban environments.

8 Listen to the lived experiences of our diverse communities.

RESEARCH

Developing best practice to drive change

- Local research team:
- Chair
- Professors of Practice
- Postdocs and PhDs
- Project startup fund

ENGAGEMENT

Interconnections of research, education, international network and external audience

Supporting international cross pollination of:

- University/ research network
- Government network and advisory services
- Industry engagement, input and testing
- City communities

EDUCATION

Dissemination of best practice from research, growing the network

- Modular Masters degree
- Continuous professional development
- Growing network of alumni
- PhDs to train the next generation of researchers



UNSW's Pivotal Role

Broad consultation across 2021-2022 with industry, government and community sectors strongly endorsed a need for the Cities Institute. As Australia's leading research institution experienced in city development, UNSW has identified the pivotal role it can play in helping these sectors tackle the challenges of rapid urban growth.

Through leveraging and amplifying UNSW's significant research capability and expertise - across the built environment, design, economics, climate science, engineering, energy, health and social sciences - the Institute will define problems focused on critical thematic areas that require multi-disciplinary and multijurisdictional action. The Institute will co-design project briefs with government, industry and community partners, to fast-track innovation and productivity, guiding cohesive solutions to attain long-term sustainability.

Strategy implementation

As the Institute grows in scale, we envisage strategic hires of operational managers to support academic leadership in managing the complex interactions between the Research, Engagement and Education pillars.

Establishment

- > Recruitment of Chair of Future Cities
- > Continue to build Asia/Pacific Cities Network (Universities, Government, industry)
- > First iteration design of Masters Program
- > Committee for Sydney research commences
- > Australian Healthy Cities Partnership established
- > Progress assessment (Reporting, public presentation/event)

Stand up

- > Research agenda complete, exemplar regional projects designed
- > Chair recruits Professor of Practice Positions, and
- > Postdoctoral researchers
- > First modules of Masters complete and delivered as micro credentials
- > Secure government advisory consultation assignments
- > Establish cross-disciplinary, cross-jurisdictional, cross-cultural Youth Panel
- > Cities X(change) established
- > Recruit Communications Manager
- > Progress assessment.

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Maturity

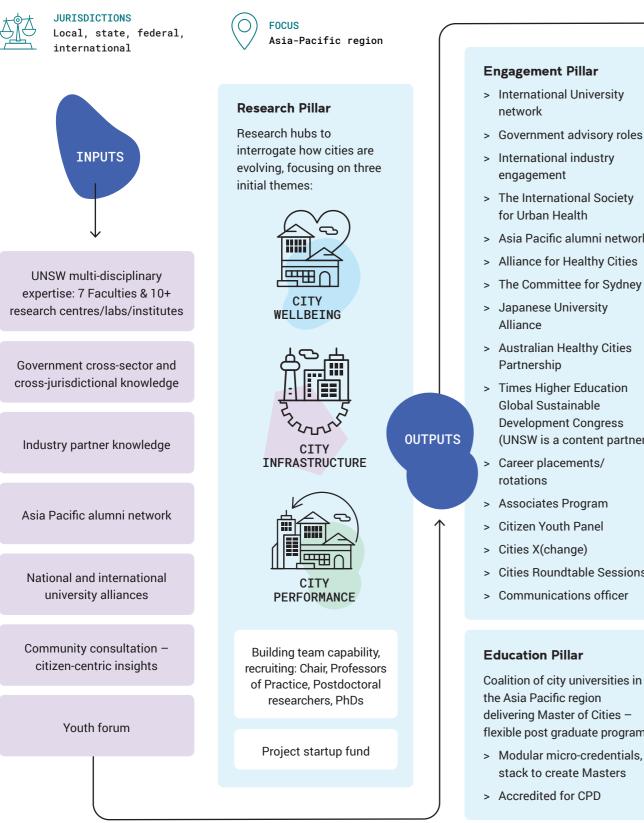
- > Support Professorial Roles with PhD candidates - assign to exemplar projects
- > First suite of modules to constitute complete Masters developed
- > CPD accreditations secured
- > Career placements/rotations commence within international network
- > Associates Program established
- > Progress assessment.

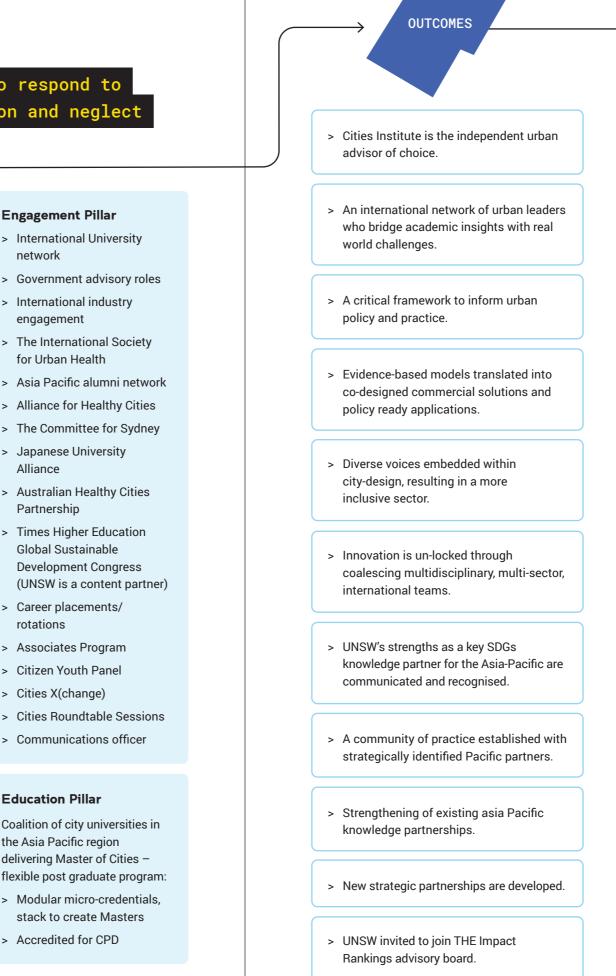
Cities Institute BAU

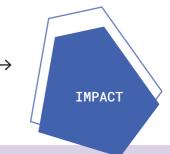
- > Significant grants secured
- > Exemplar projects scaling up with external funding
- > International government advisory track record building
- > International networks well established across University, government, industry
- > Strong recognition and media presence
- > Ongoing progress assessment and process of continuous improvement.

Trajectory to impact

Enabling city systems to transition at pace to respond to complex legacies of settlement, marginalisation and neglect







- A sustainable urban environment supporting better equity, stronger social cohesion, improved economic growth, enhanced environmental outcomes and overall citizen wellbeing.
- > Mobilisation of key decision makers to adopt cohesive, city-level strategies to address the need for transitions in city systems, at pace to respond to significant stressors for the wellbeing of the planet.
- Cities Institute has made a significant contribution towards supporting the UN'S Sustainable Development Goal 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities targets by 2030.

Global Alliances

We've formed strategic partnerships with major universities across the globe to amplify our expertise and help to solve pressing issues.





We support the Sustainable Development Goals



Multidisciplinary knowledge¹

By harnessing UNSW's trademark disciplinary excellence across the built environment, design, economics, climate science, engineering, energy, health and social sciences, we offer holistic, commercially viable solutions that embrace a comprehensive and long term perspective.



45 SCHOOLS 125 CENTRES & INSTITUTES

Collaborate with us

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In the spirit of reconciliation, the UNSW Cities Institute acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, waters and community. This publication was prepared by the UNSW Cities Institute. August 2023

1. As at 2019. *Australia Defence Force Academy (ADFA). Copyright ©2023 UNSW Sydney. All rights reserved. CRICOS Provider Code 0098G.

