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Julian Bolleter

The Ghost Cities of Australia

A Survey of New City Proposals and Their
Lessons for Australia's 21st Century
Development



Springer

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*This book is for my father, Ross Bolleter
For the long lunches*

Preface

My journey to the “ghost cities” began in 2012 when Richard Weller generously included me in a research project, that led to the book *Made in Australia: the future of Australian cities*. This research scoped the twenty-first century period, and explored the potential of new cities to absorb the projected trebling of Australia’s population by the end of the century. The planning community and lay readers alike received the book warmly; however, in the course of many presentations of the book, I became increasingly aware of my own ignorance of earlier Australian new city ventures.

To address this lacuna, in early 2016, I began to delve into the literature on this subject. Of particular importance, was Robert Freestone’s substantial research, which introduced me to Australian new city dreamers such as Edward Brady, William Hatfield, Ion Idriess, and Gough Whitlam—pivotal figures around which this ghost cities book was born.

This book aims to provide an adequate “run up” to the exercise of new city building in Australia in the twenty-first century—something that extreme population growth projections indicate will be necessary. My hope is that, through this book, Australia’s history of often-futile new city ventures will provide rich compost out of which better-informed propositions can take root in the future.

Perth, Australia
2018

Julian Bolleter

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