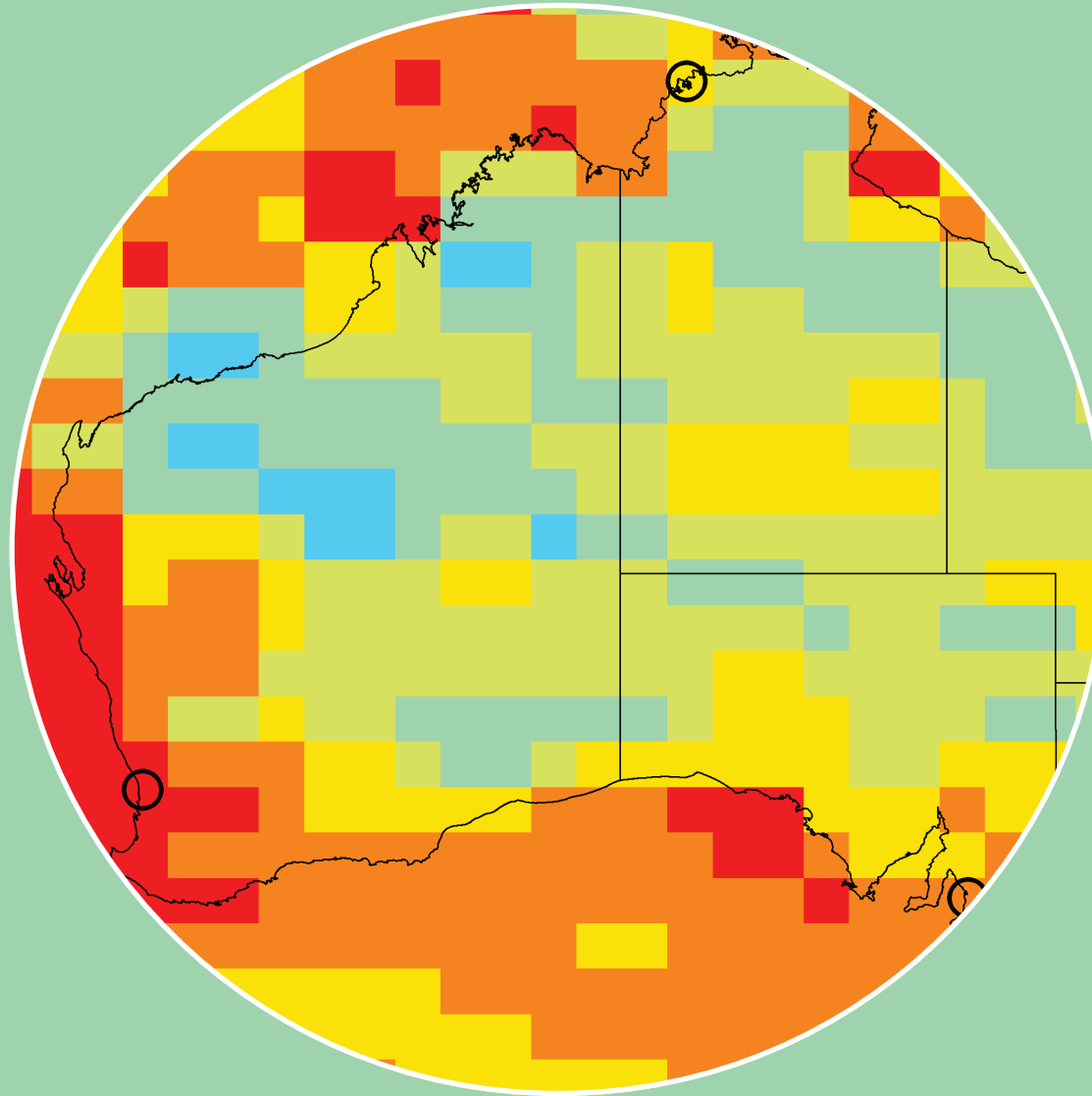


The Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) was established in 2004 as a centre 'dedicated to improving the quality of urban places in Western Australia.' Productive collaborations with partner organisations have since produced a tranche of policy-relevant core research. Moreover, AUDRC's teaching programmes have produced a stream of graduates now employed in all levels of government and industry. These achievements underpin AUDRC's overarching vision 'to be an international centre of excellence for urban design research and teaching.'



AUDRC Strategic Plan

2023-2028



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

AUDRC

Australian Urban Design Research Centre



Background

4

AUDRC's overarching vision is to be an international centre of excellence for urban design research and teaching

The Australian Urban Design Research Centre (AUDRC) was initially established as the Urban Design Centre in 2004 as a centre 'dedicated to improving the quality of urban places in Western Australia'. Established between the Department of Planning, Curtin University, and the University of Western Australia (UWA), it aimed to provide access to professional design and research services, education and public programs to promote a more inclusive dialogue about design and planning issues throughout the State. Curtin University left the partnership in 2008. Since 2014, and under the Directorships of Joerg Baumeister and, subsequently, Chris Melsom, AUDRC has worked closely with current partner organisations: The West Australian Planning Commission, The Department of Planning Lands and Heritage, Department of Communities, and DevelopmentWA.

Productive collaborations with partner organisations have produced a tranche of policy-relevant core research, augmented by side-research projects. Indeed, AUDRC has become well-known through its prolific research productivity in the areas of settlement pattern planning, urban densification strategies, public open space design and usage and intersections between public health and urban design.

The AUDRC also continues to offer three interlinked programs in urban design: a one-semester certificate, a one-year diploma and a two-year master's. As taught by the AUDRC, the practice of urban design synthesises the creative processes of architecture and landscape

architecture with the instrumentality and scale of urban planning – and, as such, provides a bridge between these professional spheres. Student feedback is consistently excellent, and enrolments are currently at the highest level since the AUDRC was established.

We were appointed as Co-Directors in September 2019. Under the 2020-2023 Collaborative Research Agreement with the partner organisations, we have delivered significant surveys (Map My Say and Density My Way) delving into community experiences of, and attitudes to, urban densification around transit nodes.

Earlier this year, a 2023-2026 Collaborative Research Agreement was signed between AUDRC and the partner organisations to establish this period's governance and funding.

This 5-year Strategic Plan will set out the broader vision for AUDRC over this period and beyond and will provide a shared sense of orientation and purpose for the Co-Directors, the staff, the Advisory Board and the Urban Design Research and Education Committee. Implementing the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan objectives will be reported in the Annual Business Plan, and the Co-Director reports provided at the Advisory Board meetings.

This Strategic Plan emerged out of a process of dialogue with staff, members of the Advisory Board and the Head of the UWA School of Design, AUDRC's umbrella organisation, as well as concerning the UWA 2030 Plan, the School of Design's Strategic Priorities document and the preceding AUDRC

2018-2021 Strategic Plan.

Several opportunities were highlighted, including:

- AUDRC's ability to provide a comprehensive evidence base for innovative urban policy development in Western Australia, nationally and internationally
- AUDRC's role in improving professional expertise in the practice of urban design nationally and internationally
- AUDRC's function in improving community knowledge and awareness of good urban design locally and nationally

These opportunities underpin AUDRC's overarching vision 'to be an international centre of excellence for urban design ⁶ research and teaching' and support the UWA2030 mission to 'provide world-class education, research and community engagement for the advancement of the prosperity and welfare of our communities.'

We look forward to working with you.

Julian Bolleter/ Paula Hooper

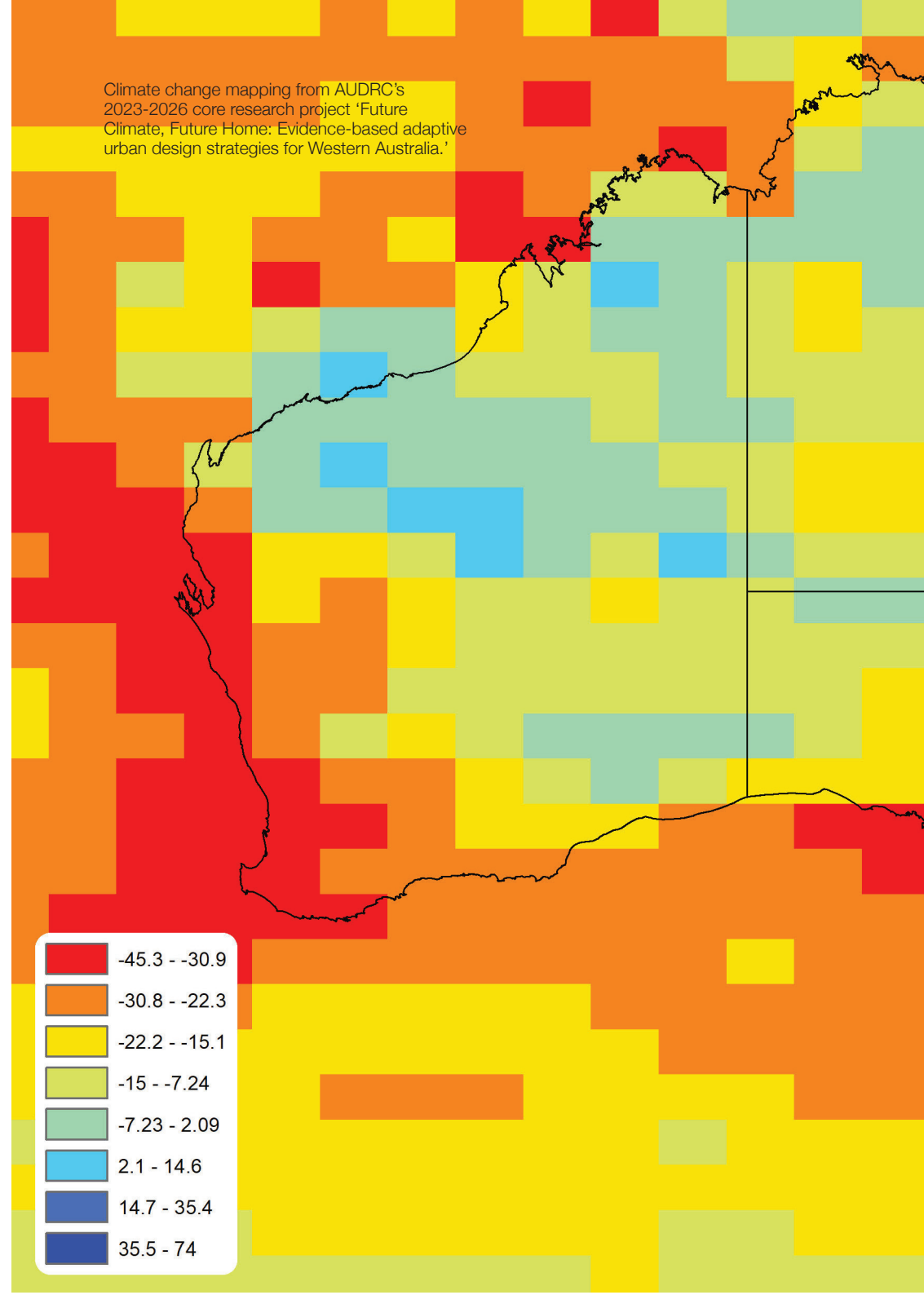
AUDRC Co-Directors

Julian Bolleter

AUDRC Co-Directors

Paula Hooper

Climate change mapping from AUDRC's 2023-2026 core research project 'Future Climate, Future Home: Evidence-based adaptive urban design strategies for Western Australia.'



Our people

8

AUDRC is a broad church of urban design and planning educators, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers

Advisory Board



David MacLennan
CEO,
City of Vincent
(Chair)



Anthony Kannis
Director General,
Department of
Planning Lands and
Heritage



David Caddy
Chairman,
Western Australian
Planning
Commission



Dean Mudford
(Acting) CEO,
Development WA



Fred Chaney Jnr
Director,
Taylor Robinson,
Chaney Broderick



Kate Hislop
Head of School,
School of Design
UWA



Mike Rowe
Director-General,
Department of
Communities



Rebecca Moore
Government
Architect,
Government Architect
Western Australia

AUDRC's Advisory Board comprises senior representatives from partner organisations. The Board provides guidance on high-level, strategic matters to provide leadership to AUDRC.

9

Urban Design Research and Education Committee



Anna Evangelisti,
Design Manager,
Development WA



Carmel van Ruth,
Senior Architecture
Officer,
Government
Architect Western
Australia



Hannelie Evans,
Senior Planner,
Assets, Capital and
Major Projects,
Communities



Jeremy Maher,
Drainage & Liveable
Communities,
Water Corporation



Mark Bancroft, Rep
of Planning Institute
of Australia (WA)



Matt Stack, Urban
Design Manager,
Strategy &
Engagement,
Dept of Planning



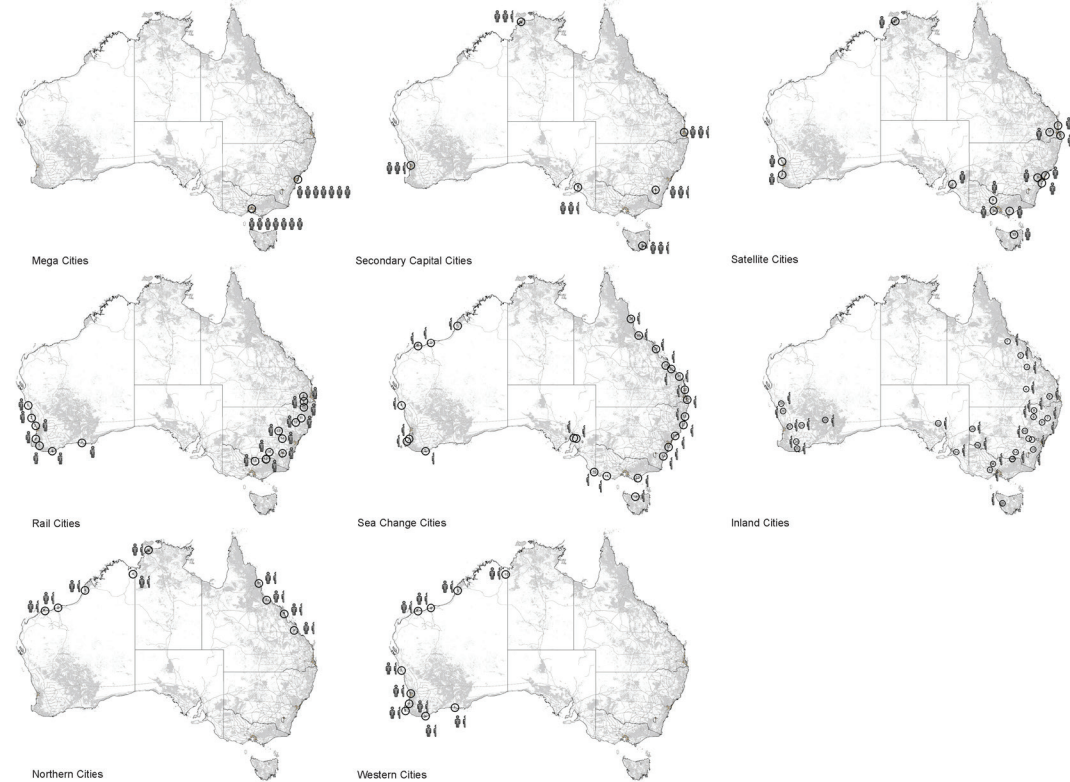
Nigel Westbrook,
School of Design,
UWA



Ryan Victa,
Principal Policy
Officer, Planning
and Strategy,
Infrastructure WA



Vicki Lummer,
State Manager,
Planning Institute of
Australia (WA)



Scenario maps from AUDRC's ground breaking
Plan My Australia surveys

The Urban Design Research and Education Committee works with the Co-Directors to select, monitor and conduct research projects and provide an overview of AUDRC's teaching programmes.



AUDRC's pioneering Park Life survey is the first national-scale analysis of park usage.

AUDRC staff



Dr Julian Bolleter
Co-Director/
Program manager



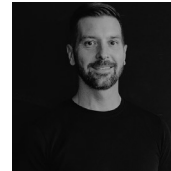
Dr Paula Hooper
Co-Director



Dr Anthony
Duckworth
Lecturer



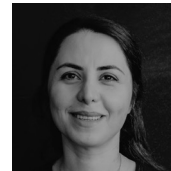
Bill Grace,
Adjunct Professor



Dr George
Wilkinson
Adjunct Lecturer



Jill Penter,
Office manager



Dr Maassoumeh
Barghchi
Research Associate



Dr Nicole Edwards
Senior Research
Fellow



Dr Robert Cameron
Associate Lecturer



Wala Beliah
Research Associate

Our vision

14

AUDRC’s overarching vision is to be an international centre of excellence for urban design research and teaching

AUDRC’s vision for **research** is to ‘provide a comprehensive evidence base for innovative urban policy development in Western Australia, nationally and internationally.’

Research and innovation

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
Excel in innovative, evidence-based urban design-related research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a clear research agenda <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct research in a methodological manner <input type="checkbox"/> Test the integrity of research through peer-reviewed academic publication
Be the source of transformative ideas and alternative ways of addressing critical issues in cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a collaborative, multidisciplinary creative environment <input type="checkbox"/> Support an environment of critical enquiry and debate
Be the testing ground for transformative ideas and urban propositions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure that research projects integrate exploration and evaluation of alternative design outcomes
Maximise the value of research outputs for partner organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Work closely with partner organisations to ensure targeted research outcomes with real-world application <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure research outputs clearly articulate policy implications <input type="checkbox"/> Showcase research in brief reports, presentations and workshops for partner organisations <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to the evaluation of draft policy documents
Expand research activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Engage with external organisations, researchers, and research centres to broaden resources, perspectives and impact <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct research relevant to diverse geographic contexts

AUDRC's vision for **education and experience** is to 'Improve professional expertise in the practice of urban design nationally and internationally.'

Education and experience

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
Maintain an enhanced reputation for cutting-edge and stimulating teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attract and retain the best staff, <input type="checkbox"/> Utilise UWA resources to iteratively improve units and <input type="checkbox"/> Respond proactively to student feedback <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate research findings into teaching
Develop specialist skills and knowledge areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage and support critical skill development in staff <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance course content with new specialist units <input type="checkbox"/> Maximise synergies between units
Provide practice-ready skills and understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create industry links through a new Work Integrated Learning unit <input type="checkbox"/> Involve industry and government representatives in teaching <input type="checkbox"/> Utilise real-life projects in studio teaching
Offer an experience-rich student life and campus experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Host social opportunities for students to meet each other and industry representatives <input type="checkbox"/> Provide integrated study options
Maintain a diverse cohort of students from varying cultural and educational backgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure teaching is relevant to local, national and international students and diverse skill sets <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure teaching is appropriate to students, both with and without a design background <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure teaching explores urban design-related issues in varying cultural contexts
Enhance the online experience for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Integrate improved online teaching technology <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to develop innovative blended in-person/ online teaching methods

Image opposite of student generated future neighbourhoods from AUDRC's Urban Design Studio 1 unit.

AUDRC's vision for **engagement and advocacy** is to 'Improve community knowledge and awareness of good urban design locally and nationally.'

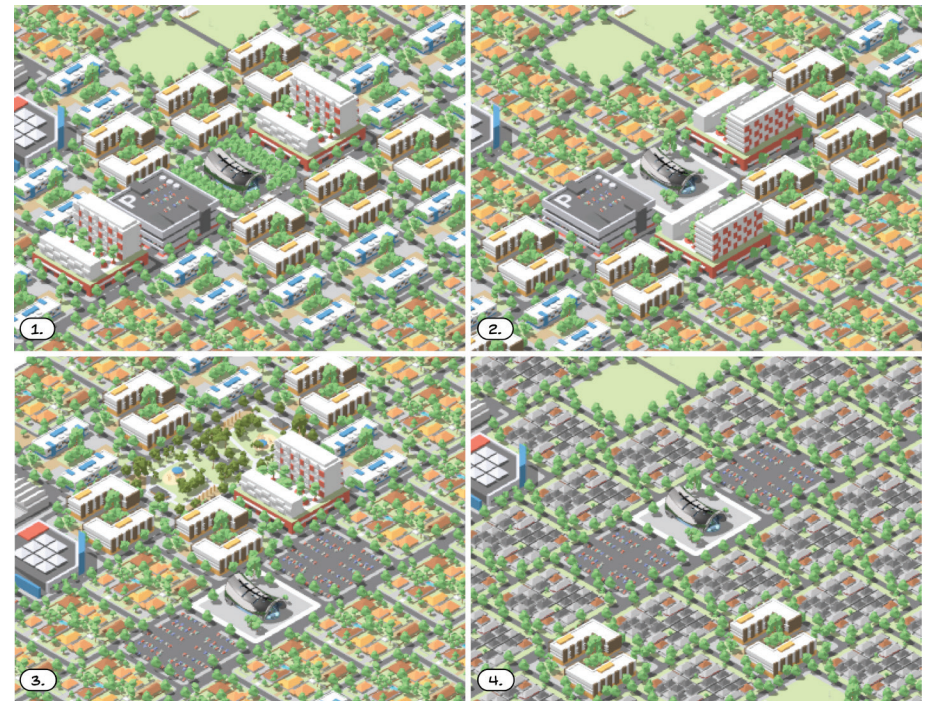


AUDRC staff contribute to public debate and discussion on critical urban issues

Engagement and advocacy

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
Be the 'go to' spokesperson for evidence-based commentary on contemporary urban issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Proactively target critical people in media to promote research and insights <input type="checkbox"/> Contribute to public debate and discussion on critical urban issues
Be an active advocate for good urban design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Publicly contribute to the evaluation of draft policy documents and independent proposals
Develop partnerships with key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Actively engage with fellow urban research, education, advocacy, and professional groups
Showcase the work of our people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Promote staff and student work through newsletters, social media posts, exhibitions, presentation, and reviews.

AUDRC's 'Accounting for carbon in the planning for residential neighbourhoods' project will examine how urban design and planning can reduce carbon emissions and create low or zero-carbon neighbourhoods.



AUDRC's innovative Density My Way survey tested community support for urban densification models around transit hubs.

Thank you

Thank you to AUDRC's partner organisations for their generous support.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



Department of **Planning,
Lands and Heritage**

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Development WA



Western
Australian
Planning
Commission



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

AUDRC
Australian Urban Design Research Centre