BUSINESS AS
Unusual

imagining a future Australian city

Tell us about your future city.

1.   What is the name of your city?
Mandjoogoordap (Meeting Place of the Heart)

2.   Where is your city located?
Mandurah, Western Australia 6210

3.   What is the ideal population of your city?
500000

4.   What is the impetus behind your city?
Moving into the second half of the 21st century, Australia will face challenges related to social, political, economic, and environmental forces. What the extent of these challenges will be remains unknown. We can only make educated guesses, based on the latest modelling, as to where and when events like extreme weather, droughts, skills shortages, pandemics, and political unrest may occur. Essentially it is very hard to plan for an unknown future. What we do know, however, is that a robust social fabric is essential when these things happen. If we look to places that have trust in their leaders, a strong sense of identity and connection to place, we see resilience in times of hardship, collaborative rebuilding, and unity in shared goals.

Population growth can be a politically divisive issue, but a reality for future Australia with 36 million Australians forecast by 2050. Interestingly, this growth is predominantly from immigration which suggests an urgent need to develop strategies for managing the influx of new Australians. Major cities are likely to absorb the increasing population and most of the development to support this growth is in the form of low density, sprawling suburbs. Density has long been misunderstood in the Australian mindset, and understandably so, with most new developments operating within strict profit margins and a lack of integration with public transport and social infrastructure. This mistrust of the capacity to accommodate a growing population can only be eased with substantial investment in social infrastructure and commitment to providing quality housing options outside of the suburban model.

The reimagined Australian Dream is not one of property ownership, competition, and long commutes. When we tie our identity to the physical manifestations of capitalism, the outdated dream of the BBQ, the boat, and the backyard, we lose what really matters: community, connection, and respect for Country.

5.   Describe the design of the city.
The foundation for the design involves a combination of green urbanism, new urbanism, and incorporated principles for increasing social capital and respect for significant cultural sites. The guiding principles are as listed below:
1.   Metropolitan region is finite- clear growth limits
2.   Supported by transport- eco-mobility
3.   Compact, dense, walkable neighbourhoods

4.   Collective spaces have clear function, streets and squares are interesting
5.   Circular waste, water and energy systems
6.   Landscape gardens and biodiversity woven throughout- the natural environment is protected, maintained and/or enhanced
7.   Identity- sense of place expressed
8.   Traditional names are celebrated
9.   Traditional owners significant sites and cultural landmarks acknowledged- cultural heritage respected
10.   Buildings of various ages and functions- construct using regional and diverse materials
11.   Broad range of housing and special consideration for affordable housing
12.   Deep green building design

Mandjoogoordap promotes dense, energy efficient development supported by public transport and integrated governance for low impact living. Connected to other centres by high-speed rail and seeking to transform existing urban areas into socially, environmentally, and culturally sustainable places. The interlinked centres are dense transit oriented urban environments where inhabitants are able to meet most of their daily needs within a short walk, cycle or public transport journey.

6.   How does your city embody an alternative Australian dream?
Nature and the city share similarities in that they are both complex ecological systems with many converging forces interacting at any given time in constant adaptation. With this in mind it is imperative to state that there is unlikely to be a static solution to the changing landscape of social, environmental and economic drivers. The aim then, is not perfection but a system that is resilient Mand can be adapted.

Cities' functioning is critical to achieving sustained liveability, economic stability, and environmental preservation. Population increases and intensified urbanisation are not necessarily problematic. Cities are, after all, historically the drivers of social change and most likely hosts to innovations that could help to address the global environmental crisis. If managed well, Australian cities have the capacity to accommodate even the extreme projections of population growth in the 20th century, however, there is a need for fundamental shifts in the current urban structure and more importantly, in urban infrastructure to support this growth.

The city of Mandurah, originally Mandjoogoordap, is a city woven by gabi (waterways), a city with a mandjoo koort (village heart). Bindjareb people of the Bibbulmun nation are the original inhabitants and traditional owners of the land in and around the city, which abounded in fish, game, berries, and fruits. During these times, Noongar people would travel down the waterways to the shores of Mandjoogoorap to meet potential partners from other local groups. Hence the name Mandjoogoorap, meaning: 'Meeting place of the heart'.
With respect for Country as a core guiding principle, Mandurah will become a meeting place once again. A re-imagined Australian Dream will unfold that builds on existing infrastructure to become a model city for retrofitting and a socially thriving center for art, culture, and sustainability excellence. A re-imagined Mandurah envisions a city connected by transit and intertwined with public spaces, green areas, environmentally responsive design, playgrounds, and public art. It will attract migrants and immigrants, both domestic and international, seeking a different life than that offered in the sprawling, car-dependent capital.

Restructuring the problematic land-use patterns and transport deficits that are characteristic of Australian cities will require new governance models and acceptance of the socially changing Australia that no longer desires to live in the endless suburbs, separated from work, sustainable mobility and social amenity. There is a need to put in place and agree on a set of guidelines that all are excited and motivated to uphold so that the limitations of a capitalist society don't blur the developments into recognisable Australian norms. This requires management of public anxieties through education and promotion of a new Australian Dream that is able to serve all Australians.

Train Station

Library

Information centre

Skate park

Community gardens

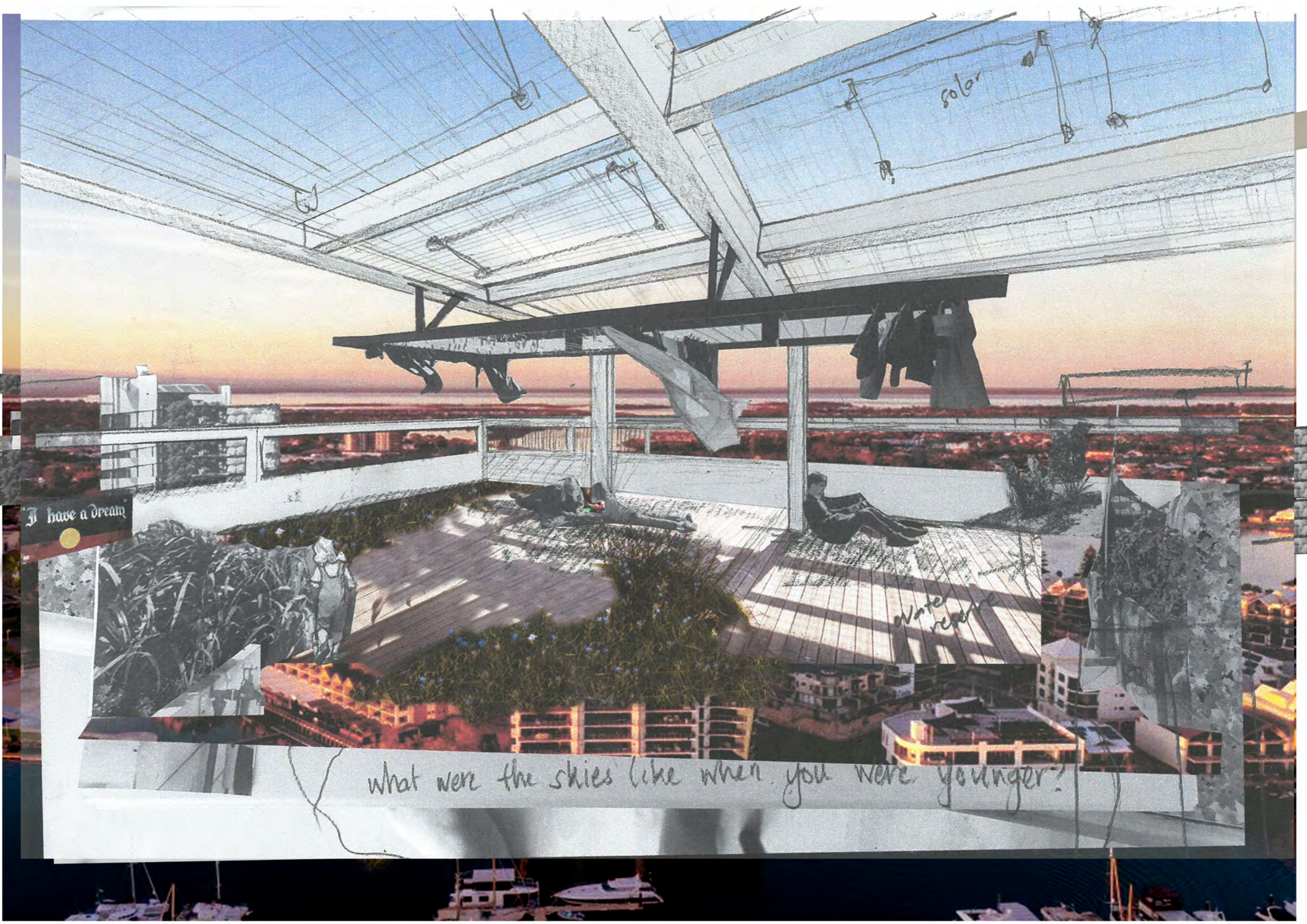Workshop

Green belt

Green school

Swimming lagoon

Bike path

Existing

Proposed

Public

Private

Mixed use

Plan 1:5000

Section 1:5000

solar

I have a dream

water reserve

what were the skies like when you were younger?

Mandjoogoordap
Meeting Place

Perth

Rockingham

Mandurah

Bunbury

Dunsborough

Busselton

35min

1hr

2

1km²

Mandjoogoordap