



City vision

Demolish the Cahill Expressway, enlarge Town Hall Square and remove most of the traffic from George Street – these are just some of the proposals by Danish architect Jan Gehl to improve the Sydney CBD.

Professor Gehl's vision is for Sydney to have reduced traffic and better public transport – including more light rail – to enable more pedestrians and cyclists to share the city.

He also recommended creating three large squares that would be linked across the city – at Circular Quay, Town Hall and Railway Square.



Superb water views

If you're ever dreamed of living in a castle, this might be the next best thing ... Knight Frank in the UK has been appointed to sell a redundant sea fort in the Solent, near Portsmouth.

No Man's Land Fort is a massive concrete structure with full armour plating, measuring 61m in diameter. Currently the only access is via helicopter, but planning permission has been obtained to build a floating harbour that could accommodate 40 berths.

Knight Frank suggests the fort could be converted into a hotel or restaurant – or perhaps a unique private home with "unrivalled seclusion and spectacular views".



Renting Guide and Tenancy Handbook

The Office of Fair Trading will no longer automatically send out updated copies of the Renting Guide and Tenancy Handbook.

Instead, agents can now order copies directly online via the Fair Trading website at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au.

Both publications are reviewed every six months to make sure the information remains current, so make sure you stay up to date by checking the website and ordering the latest editions.

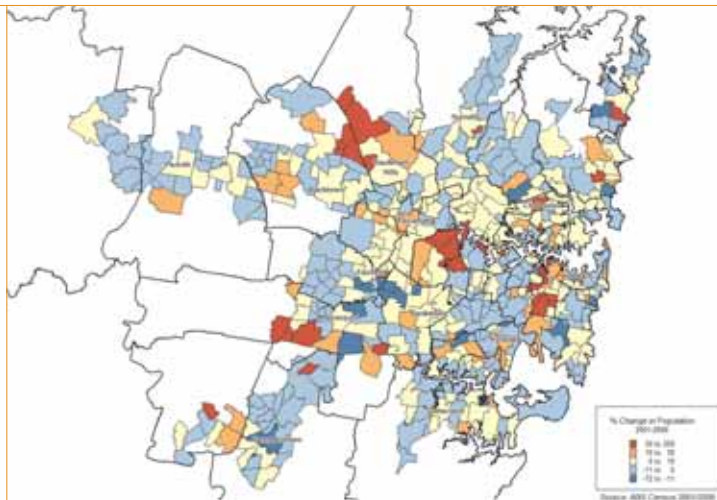


Moving house

The construction of a new platform at Hornsby Railway Station, in Sydney's north, faced a challenge: the 1920s signal box building was in the way, but due to its heritage value, could not be knocked down.

The solution: relocate the building.

Using special hydraulic jacks and trolleys, a company called Mammoth Movers transported the two storey building – weighing as much as two 747 aircraft – approximately 150 metres from the station so that its heritage value could be preserved.



Going or growing?

Sydney's overall population increased by 4.3% to 4.12 million people between 2001 and 2006. But where are the biggest growth areas?

A report based on figures from the latest Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows three growth zones:

- 1) The urban fringe – suburbs like Kellyville, Hoxton Park, Glenmore Park and Camden, where new housing is being built.
- 2) The inner city – including the City of Sydney, which increased its population by more than 21% between 2001 and 2006.
- 3) Older middle suburban areas including Bankstown, Parramatta and Holroyd, where lower income families are still able to afford housing within a reasonable distance to the city.

Other areas of Sydney have experienced population losses.

"Campbelltown, Penrith and parts of Fairfield, Liverpool and Blacktown stand out here," said the report, *Our changing city* by the City Futures Research Centre at the University of New South Wales. "There is the demographic time bomb lurking in these areas where a population who were young in the 1970s are now aging and declining in economic clout."

International award

REINSW member Leonarder Collins Luxury Homes has won the "Best International Real Estate Agency" award at the CNBC International Property Awards 2007 gala dinner held in Las Vegas.

The competition attracted entrants from 56 countries and was judged by 32 industry experts.

Jennine Leonarder-Collins, who founded the speciality luxury homes agency in 2005, said she was thrilled about the win. She said it recognised the agency's commitment to innovative marketing strategies, which include a complimentary concierge service and an in-house property styling service.

"We also maintain a discreet stance to protect our well-known clientele," Jennine said.