





# Big Data, Smart Cities and Urban Research Infrastructure

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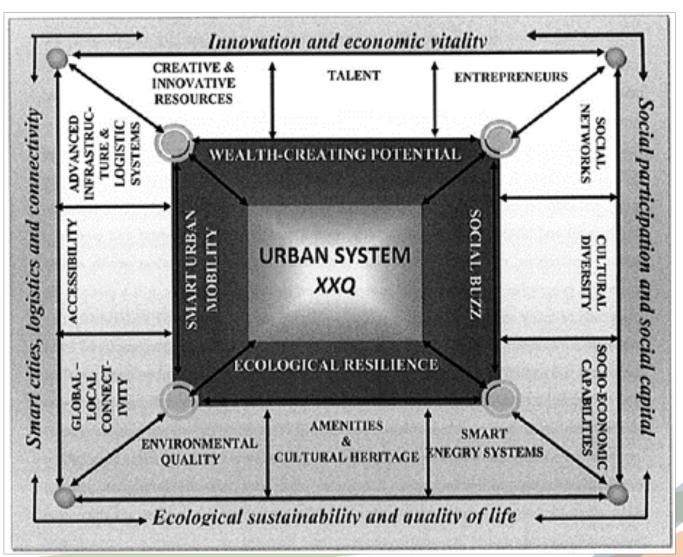


### **Overview**

<b>Urbanisation</b> is occurring at a rapid rate as cities continue to exhibit strong <b>agglomeration economies</b> .
The 'Smart City' concept has been capturing increasing attention as 'Big Data' opens opportunities to capture and interrogate vast amounts of new data and open up access to much more existing data through the implementation of 'Open Data' initiatives.
This has the potential to operationalise innovative new approaches to an integrated urban analysis, such as the 'New <i>Urban World-Urban Piazza' framework</i> proposed by <b>Kourtit, et al.</b> (2014).
Research infrastructure initiatives such as the Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN) are facilitating implementation of such an integrated approach to urban analysis in the context of 'Smart Cities' using 'Big Data'.

## The New Urban World – Urban Piazza framework

(Source: Kourtit, et al. (2014: p. 105).





## Centre for Applied Spatial Analysis (CASA 2012) at University College London sees 'Smart Cities' as being all about...

- "...how computers, data, and analytics which consist of models and predictions, are being embedded into cities. Cities currently are being extensively wired, thus generating new kinds of control and new kinds of services, which are producing massive data streams 'big data'. To this end, we need powerful analytics to make sense of this new world and our focus on doing this is through visualisation."
- ☐ However, the 'Smart Cities' concept is not particularly new.
- ☐ Michael Batty remids us that he first started writing about them in the 1980s when Singapore was being promoted as the 'Intelligent Island' in an era when the focus was on the idea of the 'wired city' (see Dutton, et al. 1987) using WAN technology, which was later followed by use of ICTs.



## The Evolutive User-centric Networks for Intraurban Accessibility (EUNOIA) web site

#### refers to 'Smart Cities' as...

- "... a holistic concept encompassing not only the use of modern technology (including transport or energy technologies, in addition to ICT), but also the investment in human, social, and environmental capital, to create sustainable development and high quality of life."
- ☐ This opens up opportunities to make progress in three important directions:
  - > automated collection of spatial and temporal movement data to enhance traditional data sources such as census data;
  - develop new theory and better models for the quantitative assessment of different scenarios andpolicy options; and
  - > support an increased participation of citizens to enable collaborative, multi-stakeholder policy assessment and decision-making.



## As with any "buzz term", the definition varies

#### **☐** Boima and Bonfa (2012):

"... a conceptual framework that enables a city or region, to be interconnected, in an intelligent way, to address ...[inter alia] ... social, economic, climatic and pollution issues through the infrastructure in terms of its structure, how it is managed, the relationships between its different components and how companies, organisations and the public interface with it. Key relevant components in the infrastructure include power, transportation, water, telecommunications, healthcare and big data (space and non) analytics cloud based. It allows more efficient use of resources by bringing together government, industry, organisations and individuals to pool resources for the common good."

#### **☐ Violino** (2014):

- "... in general, [Smart Cities]refers to using information and communications technologies to deliver sustainable economic development and a higher quality of life, while engaging citizens and effectively managing natural resources."
- The new urban technologies that are rapidly emerging already produce massive streams of data in real time and space that we now refer to as 'Big Data'.
- Boima and Bonfa (2012) claim t the 'Smart Cities' concept is
  - "... largely a result of the huge gains in computing", along with that the emergence of 'Big Data'
  - especially through wireless technologies.

### World Smart City Forum 2011: Conceptual Framework

#### Sustainable Living (Quality of life)

Smart meter

- -Energy displays
- -Energy advice
- -Energy Storage
- -Smart lighting
- -Telemedicin
- -Health & Support

#### **Smart Economy**

- -Smart Grids
- -Mobile payments
- -Teleworking
- -Document

dematerialisation

-Webalitics

#### Smart Mobility

- Electric vehicles
- Charging points
- New logistic solutions
- Infomobility
- Intelligent Transportation

Systems

- Dynamic traffic control
- GPS Systems

#### **Smart Governance**

- "The intelligent Nation"
- Shared Service Centres
- -Digital Citizenship
- Security Systems

#### **Smart Technologies**

- Smart Supply Chain
- -Life Cycle Assessment
- -Environmental
- -Digital Inclusion

## **Smart City**

#### Sustainable

#### **Environment**

- Smart buildings
- -Smart metering
- -Smart lighting
- -Smart corporation

#### Venezia: Dai Dogi al Digitale: I talenti della Città

### Smart people/Smart tourist

- -Education &
- Research
- -Authentication

#### Smart Grid and Smart Meter Technology (enabler)

Green IT | Broadband infrastructure & Technology Services | Smart Technology | Wireless & Wireline |
Security infrastructure & Services





## **Urban Computing**

- ☐ Yu Zhen (2013) says that 'Big Data' "implies rich knowledge about a city" helping it to tackle major issues when used correctly.
- ☐ Using it for what he calls 'urban computing', he notes that:
  - "... Urban computing is a process of acquisition, integration, and analysis of big and heterogeneous data generated by a diversity of sources in urban spaces, such as sensors, devices, vehicles, building, and human, to tackle the major issues that cities face. Urban computing connects unobtrusive and ubiquitous sensing technologies, advanced data management and analytics models, and novel visualization methods, to create win-win-win solutions that improve urban environment, human life quality, and city operation systems."



## Hilbert (2013) makes the important point that...

"... the crux of the 'Big Data' paradigm is actually not the increasingly large amount of data itself, but its analysis for intelligent decisionmaking". (p. 4)

### ☐'Big Data Analysis' is a more fitting term as:

"... the key feature of the paradigmatic change is that analytic treatment of data is systematically placed at the forefront of intelligent decision-making. The process can be seen as the natural next step in the evolution from the 'Information Age' and 'Information Societies" to 'Knowledge Societies': building on the digital infrastructure that led to vast increases in information, the current challenge consists in converting this digital information in to knowledge that informs intelligent decisions. (p. 4)



## 'Big Data' and computational and GIS advances

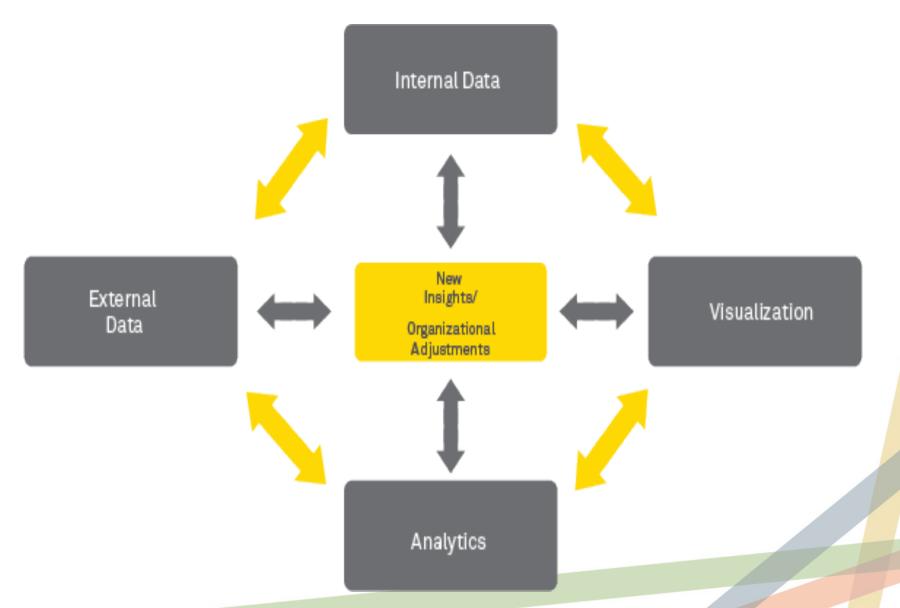
Advances in data modelling capabilities using 'Big Data' - such as <b>data mining</b> and <b>large scale simulation models</b> and <b>agent-based techniques</b> - have considerable potential to enhance urban research.
'Smart Cities' research using 'Big Data' is also enhanced through powerful advances in <b>Geographic InformationSystems (GIS)</b> technologies and what <b>Gilroy (</b> 2014) refers to as:
" the availability of consistent and accurate detailed geographic information [that] is a key enabler for the growth of national economies." (Gilroy 2014)
Geospatial data, and the maps derived from them, are:
" fundamental to effectiveness and productivity in sectors including government, utilities, building, construction, emergency services, defence, primary industry, mining, energy, transport and tourism." (Gilroy 2014)
Digitisation means geospatial data can now be 'intelligent':
" [it can] accurately reflect the world in terms of real world objects and their

inter-relationships that can be interpreted by other information systems rather than

through cartographic points, lines and polygons requiring human interpretation." (Gilroy 2014)

## The 'Big Data' revolution

Source: Malvey, et al. (2013)





## Big business and cities are now into 'Smart Cities' and 'Big Data'

Big business is joining the 'Smart Cities' bandwagon - including internationals such as IBM, Siemens, and Cisco - and that involvement is being driven by 'Big Data'.
<ul> <li>IBM sprukes the line that 'Smart Cities' will "drive sustainable economic growth" as their leaders have the tools to:</li> <li>" analyze data for better decisions, anticipate problems to resolve them proactively and coordinate resources to operate effectively." (Latimore 2013)</li> </ul>
Many city administrations are now engaged in 'Smart City', 'Big Data', 'Open Data' initiatives.
According to Ferguson (2012), 'Smart Cities' are  " popping up around the globe", and their development:
" involves a wide scope of technology, everything from renewable energy, green buildings and smart grids to traffic management, urban security and medical technology."

## Smarter Cities: Turning Big Data Into Insight



60%

of water allocated for domestic human use goes to urban cities. \$14 Billion

in potable water is lost every year because of leaks, theft and unbilled usage.

Source: World Bank

37,000 cloud experts supp

cloud experts support IBM's industry team alone.

#### \$6 Billion

has been invested by IBM in more than a dozen acquisitions to accelerate its cloud initiatives.



## **European Smart Cities**



























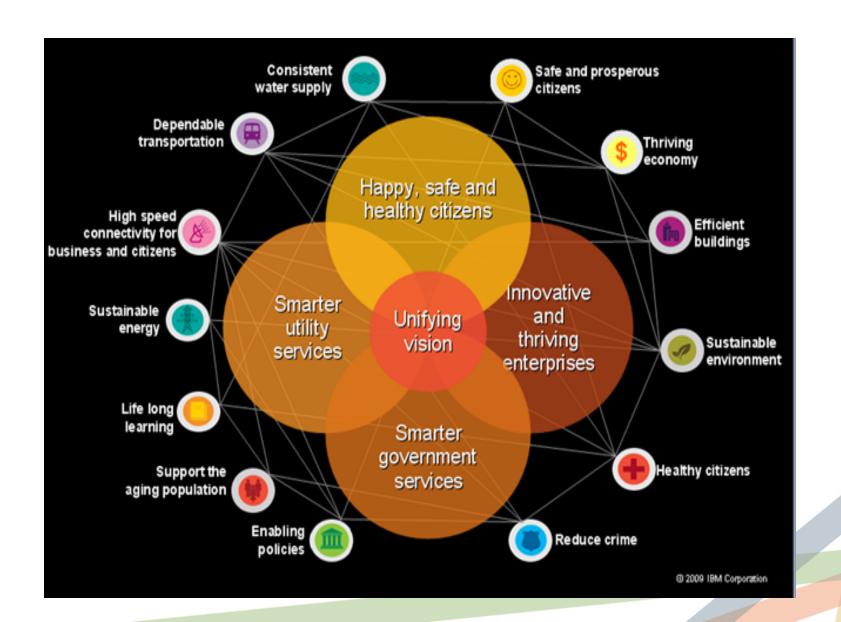








## 'Smart Cities' and 'Big Data': A unifying vision





## Research Infrastructure to Facilitate 'Smart Cities' Research and Analysis

- ☐ There are many initiatives occurring around the world to build the smart infrastructure to facilitate imntegrative urban research using 'Big Data' in the pursuit of 'Smart Cities' with a common objective being to provide spatial decision support systems which is being enabled through advances in e-researchinfrastructure approaches.
- ☐ Examples include:
  - The Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP) at the New York University and NYU-Poly.
  - ➤ The MIT SENSE*able* City Laboratory.
  - The Evolutive User-centric Networks for Intraurban Accessibility (EUNOIA).
  - Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE).
  - Urban Big Data Centre (UBDC), University of Glasgow.
  - > The Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN).



## The Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network (AURIN) Project

- AURIN (www.aurin.org.au) is a A\$24 million project funded by the Australian Government which was initiated in 2010 and continues in the current funding phase through to 30 June 2015.
   ▶ It is led by The University of Melbourne.
   AURIN's objective is to establish facilities that will:
   ▶ facilitate urban and built environment research and enhance urban resource use
  - by:
- providing a state-of-the-art e-research ifractructure that offers seamless and secure access to data from diverse sources and the on-line capability to integrate data and interrogate data using open source statiatical and spatial analysis and modelling and visualisation tools (including scenario modelling tools)

#### to:

- > support multiple research activities and policy analysis
- > that will:

and management

- enhance understanding of key issues across the urban components of Australia's settlement system.
- More than 75 institutions are involved in the AURIN network.







**Australian Government Department of Education**  **NCRIS** National Research Infrastructure for Australia An Australian Government Initiative











LOW CARBON LIVING CRC





































WESTERN AUSTRALIA











University of South Australia















Centre of Full Employment and Equity













## e-Research (or e-Science) has much to offer urban research through....

Software solutions addressing the <b>heterogeneity of distributed data sets</b> and <b>associated metadata</b> .
It:
facilitates data discovery
supports finer-grained access control and single sign-on reflecting the autonomy of the data providers involved
> enables inter-operability across data in a coordinated manner
supports accounting and auditing information on access to and usage of the facility.
It provides <b>definition and enactment of workflows</b> that allow researchers to share and repeat the way in which they access and use a wide variety of data sets and associated tools.



### The Challenge

Australia, as indeed is the case with many other countries, faces numerous challenges in the growth and planning of its cities.
There is surprisingly <b>little integrated infrastructure</b> that allows for the complex information that might inform policies and research agendas more generally to be accessed and processed for informed decision making based upon qualitative data.
Researchers have been left with having to tap into swathes of distributed data sets from multiple organizations.
<b>Stimson</b> (2011):
" It is fair to say that, till now, ad hoc data access and management solutions have been the primary way in which urban and built environment research has been undertaken. Organizations have created silos of data with their own heterogeneous access demands and data models that prohibit or severely restrict researcher access and use by the wider community." (p. 5)
The objective of the AURIN project is to overcome these deficiencies.



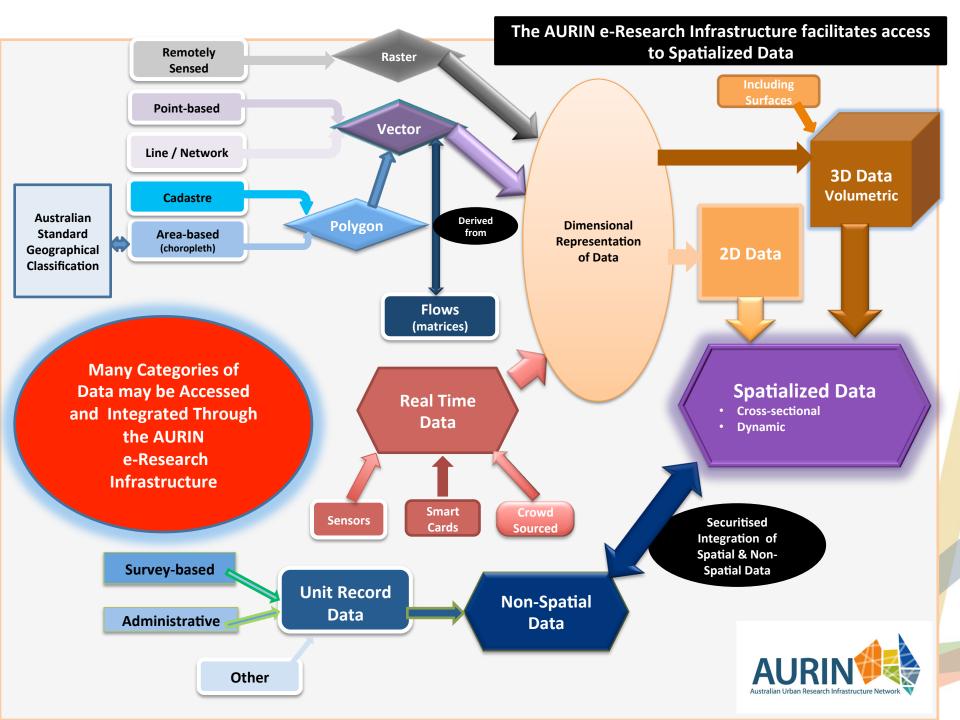
### **AURIN** core e-Infrastructure

☐ Single sign-on, Portal-bas



- ☐ Merit-based access.
- □ Security-based space for collaboration, secure data playgrounds.

- ☐ Supports both **domain-specific** and **multi-disciplinary** research:
  - Assists with wicked policy problems; eg. Ageing population, city resilience.



#### Accessing the Features of the AURIN e-Research Infrastructure Data Integration / **Linked Data AURIN END-USER Capabilities** Merit-based & **COMMUNITIES** Data integration, **Innovation Securitised Access** Interrogation & Researchers by AURIN **Protocols** Visualisation **Policy Analysis Functionality** Practitioners/Industry e-Research Tools Citizen Science & Urban Models Other **Data Providers** User Access to an (Data Access **AURIN Portal** Agreements) Open Restricted merit-based, **Public agencies** securitised Industry Researchers **AURIN** Links e-Infrastructure Data **Semantic Web AURIN** Information Supply **Portals** Services **Capabilities** Webe-Research Tool services **Providers** Data **Feeds** International Outputs from **Portals** Data **AURIN Data Hubs** Interrogation National State/City/Regional



### **AURIN** Lenses

### **AURIN EXPERT LENSES**



Lens 1: Population and demographic futures and benchmarked social indicators



Lens 2: Economic activity and urban labour markets



Lens 3: Urban health, well-being and quality of life



**Lens 4: Urban Housing** 



**Lens 5: Urban Transport** 



Lens 6: Energy and water supply and consumption



Lens 7: City logistics
Lens 8: Urban vulnerability
and risks
Lens 9: Urban governance,
policy and management

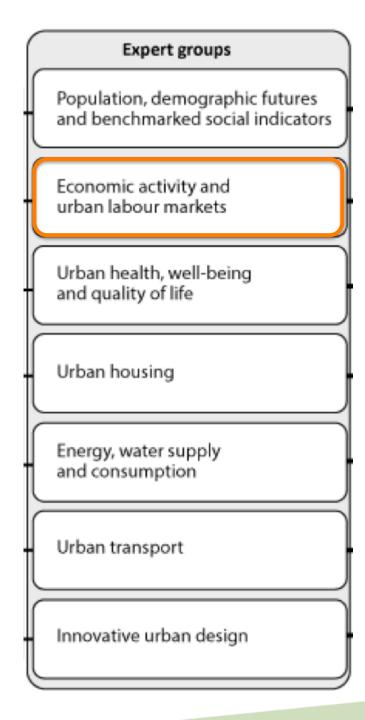


Lens 10: Innovative Urban Design

## Expert groups Population, demographic futures and benchmarked social indicators Economic activity and urban labour markets Urban health, well-being and quality of life Urban housing Energy, water supply and consumption Urban transport Innovative urban design

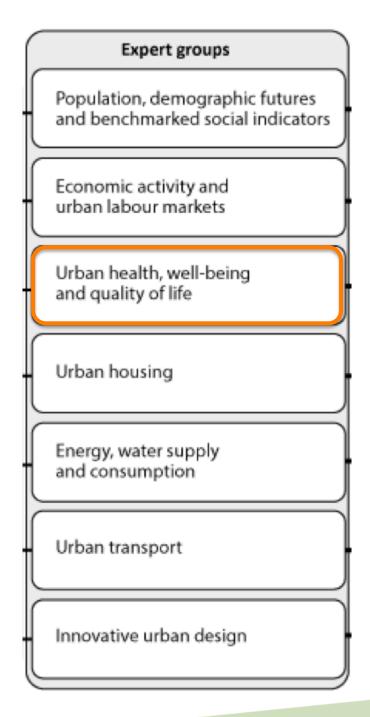
☐ Interrogation of inter-regional migration flows matrices ☐ Nationally consistent small area population projections OECD Benchmarked Social and **Economic Indicators** ■ NATSEM Small area social indicators for the indigenous population and Small area wellbeing /quality of life. □ Risk and Vulnerability (VAMPIRE)







- ☐ Functional Economic Regions
- ☐ Economic spatial statistics and Regional impact analysis
- ☐ Input-Output Tables for Australia,
- ☐ Assessing Risk with spatial Indexes of Economic Prosperity and Employment Vulnerability (API/AVI).
- ☐ National Industry Data project
- ☐ Provision of infrastructure and data integration for Functional Economic Regions 2011
- □ Economic Spatial Statistics addition of Concordance Table



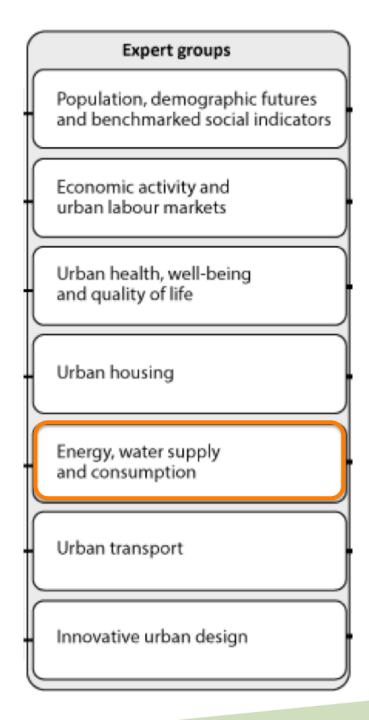


- □ National data set and infrastructure provision (NDIP)
- Walkability
- ☐ VicHealth Data Provision
- ☐ Development and trial of an automated open-source

## Expert groups Population, demographic futures and benchmarked social indicators Economic activity and urban labour markets Urban health, well-being and quality of life Urban housing Energy, water supply and consumption Urban transport Innovative urban design



- ☐ Provision of residential property data (TAD/2)
- ☐ Housing microsimulation e-Research tool
- □ Report on the state of play of housing related data and eResearch tools in Australia (Scoping Study)





□ Negotiation and development of consistent protocols regarding access and use of energy and water data for research and policy analysis.

## Expert groups Population, demographic futures and benchmarked social indicators Economic activity and urban labour markets Urban health, well-being and quality of life Urban housing Energy, water supply and consumption Urban transport Innovative urban design



- ☐ A model-free and multi-modal transport network coding for Australia
- ☐ Transport network performance (SCATS & micro-simulation centric)
- ☐ Household Travel Survey Harmonisation
- ☐ Harmonizing motor vehicle data and environmental efficiency for Australian cities

## Expert groups Population, demographic futures and benchmarked social indicators Economic activity and urban labour markets Urban health, well-being and quality of life Urban housing Energy, water supply and consumption Urban transport Innovative urban design



- ☐ Integrated infrastructure design for Australia's cities
- ☐ Socio-spatial Statistical Analysis,
   Modeling and Visualisation What If? GIS Planning Support tool
- ☐ ENVISION
- ENVISION Scenario Planning Tool



## **AURIN Data Hub Concept**



#### The Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network

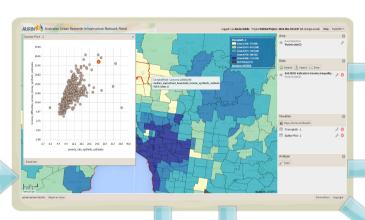
#### aurin.org.au



Federated access for urban researchers

**Over 1000** premium datasets

Federated data hubs from over 40 custodians





Raw data export/import





NECTAR, RDSI



& ANALYSIS





Cloud-based processing and user accounts

#### 100 Analytical tools

#### **Extended Applications** Jellyfish

Transport accessibility 3D Volumetric

FEDERATED

DATA ACCESS

Discovery and Linkages

Urban modelling and analysis

CKan

Metadata catalogue, discovery and delivery

Envision

Built environment typology analysis

Input/output

Economic impact assessment model What-if?

Multiple-criteria decision making Metadata tool

Online metadata management

ESP

Envision Scenario Planner



User Federated, securitised access (.edu.au + authorised .gov.au) Data Hubs Workbench Data **Expert groups** Urban Intelligence VIC db Population, demographic futures Portal.aurin.org.au ICA-OSGeoLab and benchmarked social indicators db NSW Standard aggregated geographies User-defined geographic geometry db Interactive Economic activity and QLD mapping urban labour markets Federated access to multiple providers and datassets db Securitised access to semi-open and restricted datasets WA db Urban health, well-being Information tools: Integrated workflow processing+analysis and quality of life ACT Visualisation tools: Maps, charts, graphs Spatial db analytics SA db Urban housing db T'ville Charts/graphs db Energy, water supply l'warra and consumption **Extended Applications** db Jellyfish 3D Volumetric CKan Envision APM db Metadata catalogue, Cloud-based Urban modelling discovery Built environment Transport Urban transport ABS and delivery accessibility and analysis typology analysis processing db ESP Input/output What-if? Metadata PSMA db tool Envision Innovative urban design Raw data Economic impact Multiple-criteria Online metadata Scenario BITRE export/import assessment model decision making management Planner

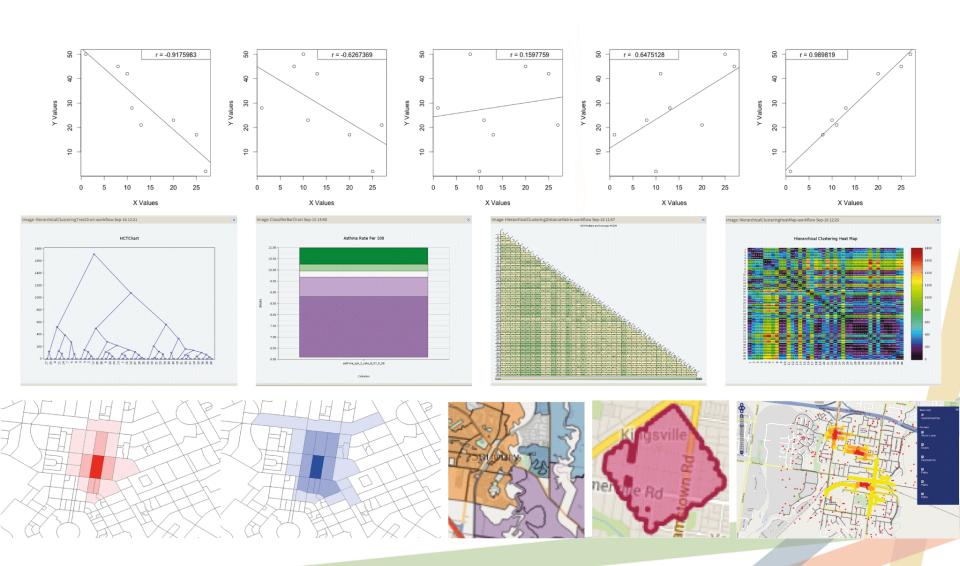


## Over 1,800 datasets





## 100+ Analysis tools @Beta 6





# Open Source e-Research Tools to facilitate data interrogation

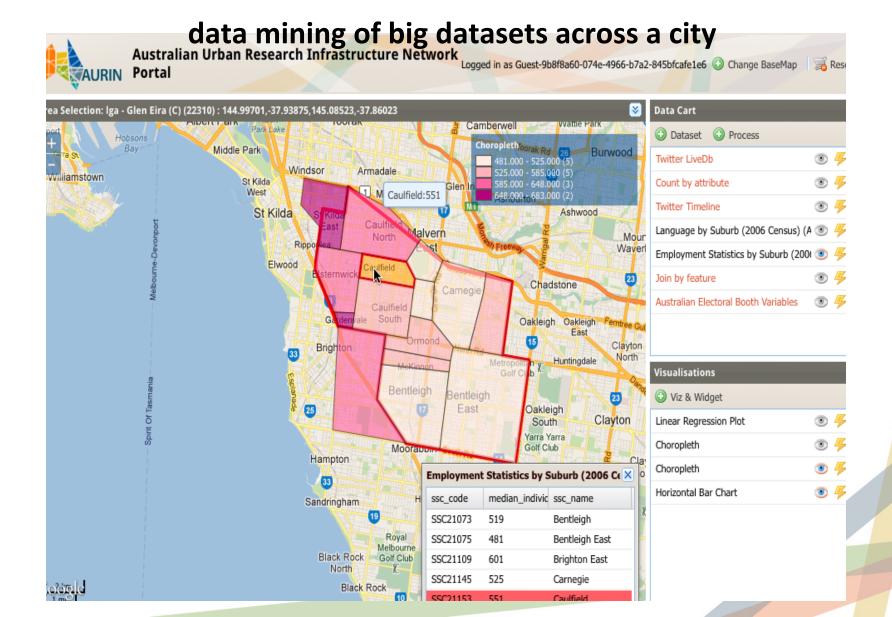
■ Simulation modelling which integrates ■ Statistical analysis and national sample survey data sets with modelling tools, including: spatial data sets from the census to correlation and regression generate small area synthetic estimates > factor analysis of survey data variables. multiple discriminant analysis 3D-volumetric modelling. > cluster analysis shift-share analysis. ■ Map and graphic visualisation, incorporating a range of classification routines, including the Location Spatial econometrics tools Quotient. that incorporate corrections to deal with spatial Spatial analysis and modelling, autocorrelation associated including land use and urban growth with the modifiable area unit simulation models - such as the Whatproblem (MAUP). if? Model - and a Walkability tool. The generation of reports. Network analysis tools.



### What will be now demonstrated

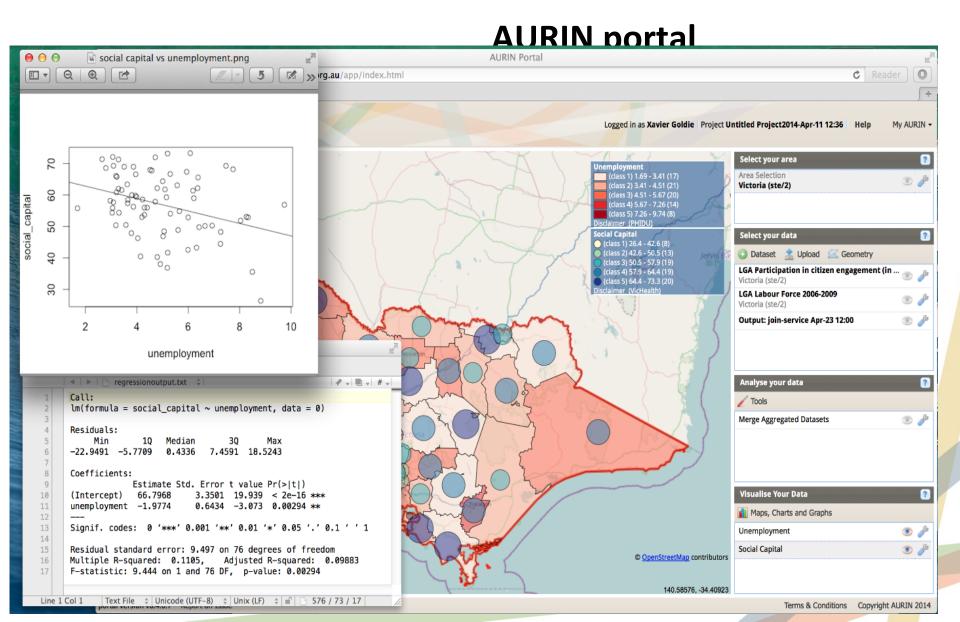
- ☐ I will present some of the **applications** that can be undertaken using the **AURIN e-infrastructure capabilities** The **Workbench**
- ☐ That includes:
  - harvesting spatial data and conducting statistical analysis and modelling;
  - applying customised tools open source developed such as a Walkability tool and a Planning What If? Tool; and

# Multiple view visualization capability enables analysts to automatically link tabular and map data to support visual





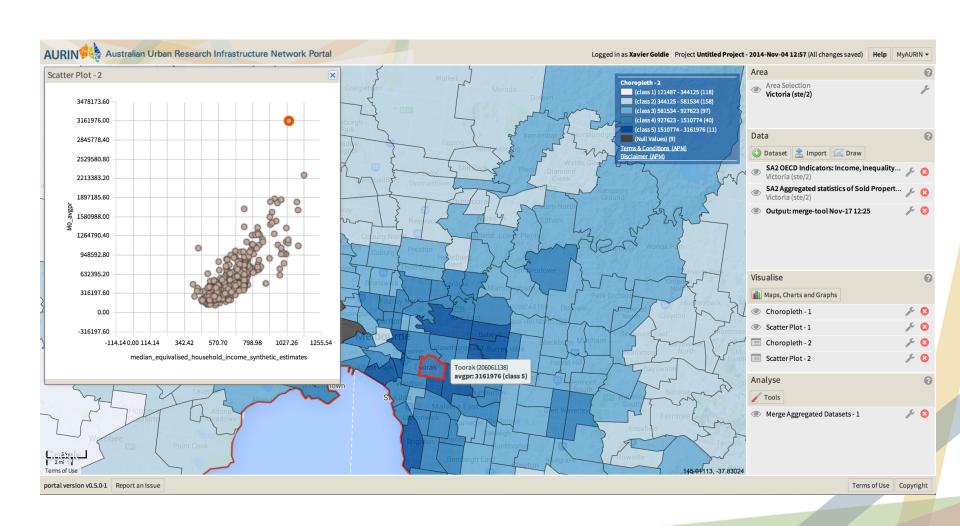
# Statistical tools and supporting charting and mapping visualisations available via the





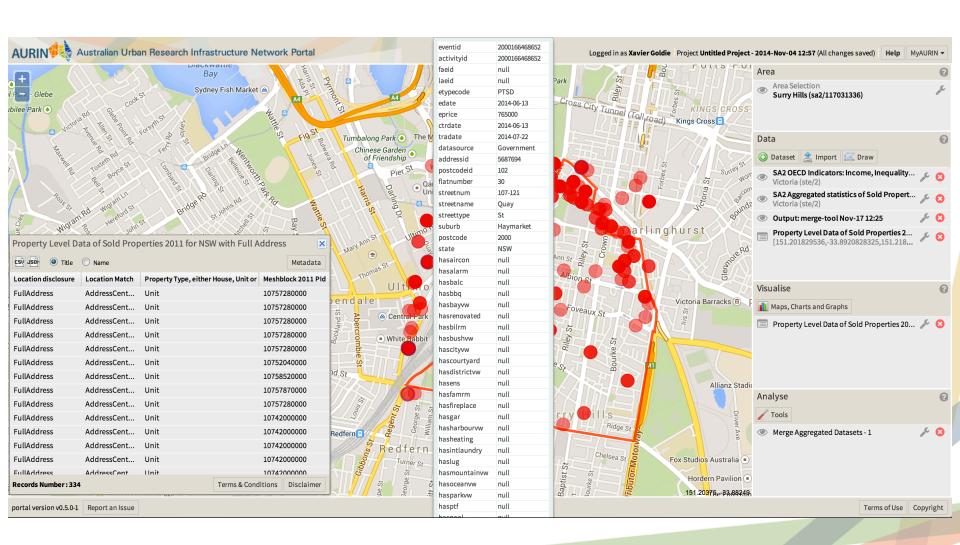
# **APM Property Data – Aggregated**

(Median Price vs. Median Income)





# APM Property Data - Unit Records







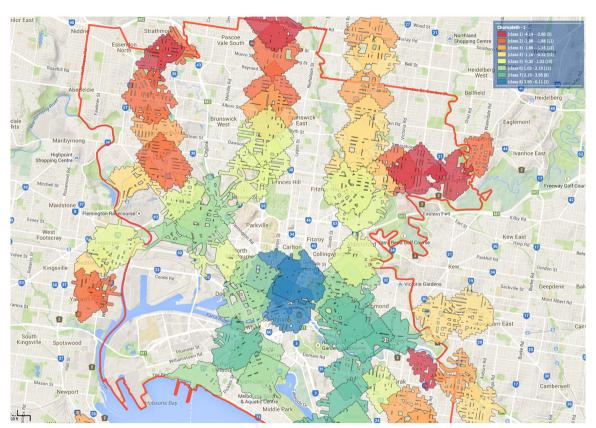
# AURIN Agent based Walkability tool:



Calculating walkability
from Transport
Oriented Developments
and enabling
communities and
planners to redesign the
city to optimize
walkability



# Urban WalkabilityAnalysis 800m from train stations in Inner-Melbourne



Comparative analysis of a neighbour-hood's walkability profile.

Z-scores in red indicate walkability below-average around trains stations, while Z-scores in blue indicate relatively high walkability catchments.

#### **INPUT:**

Points of interest Street networks Population data Land-use data

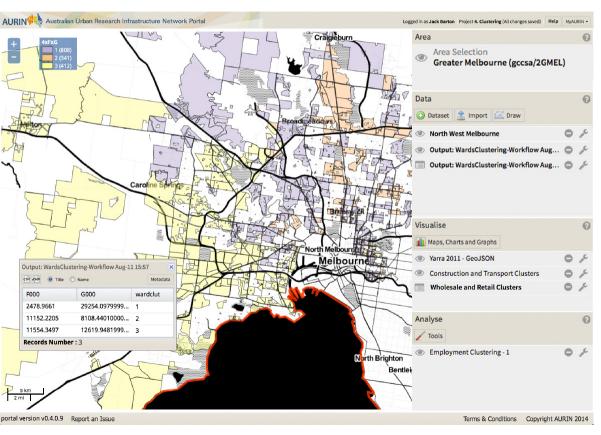
#### **OUTPUT**:

Proximity catchments (downloadable)
Density analysis + Z-score
Number connections + Z-score
Land-use mix + Z-score



### **Industry Clustering Analysis:**

#### Wholesale vs Retail in North-East Melbourne



#### **INPUT:**

Australian Bureau of Statistics destination zone job counts +input parameters from user

#### **OUTPUT:**

Wards clustering analysis by industry type

= Comparative analysis of a neighborhood's industry clusters



# Planning Decision Support Systems Tools

**□** What if?

Envision

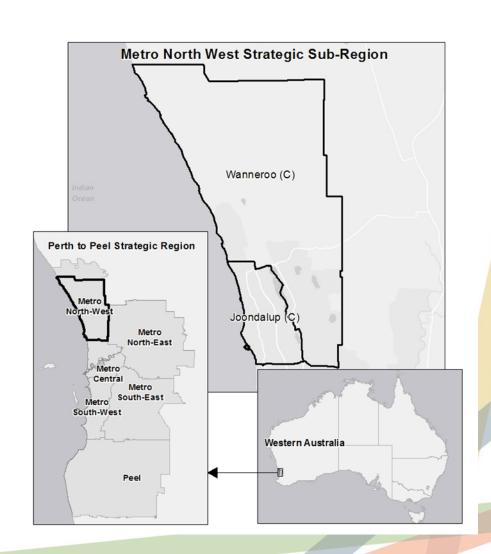
☐ Envision Scenario Planner (ESP)

■ MapTables



### What-IF? Tool applied to Perth

- ☐ Perth Australia's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city.
- ☐ Estimated population 1.65 m.
- ☐ Projected population
  - > 2.2m (2031)
  - > 3.5m (2050).
- ☐ Significant environmental assets surround the city.
- ☐ Growth corridor North West region.

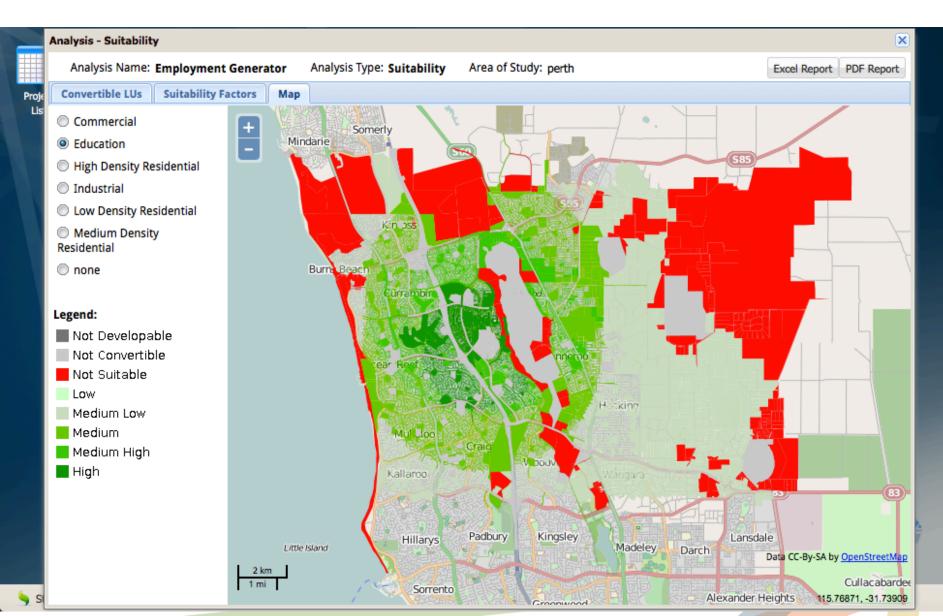


# What if? Suitability Analysis

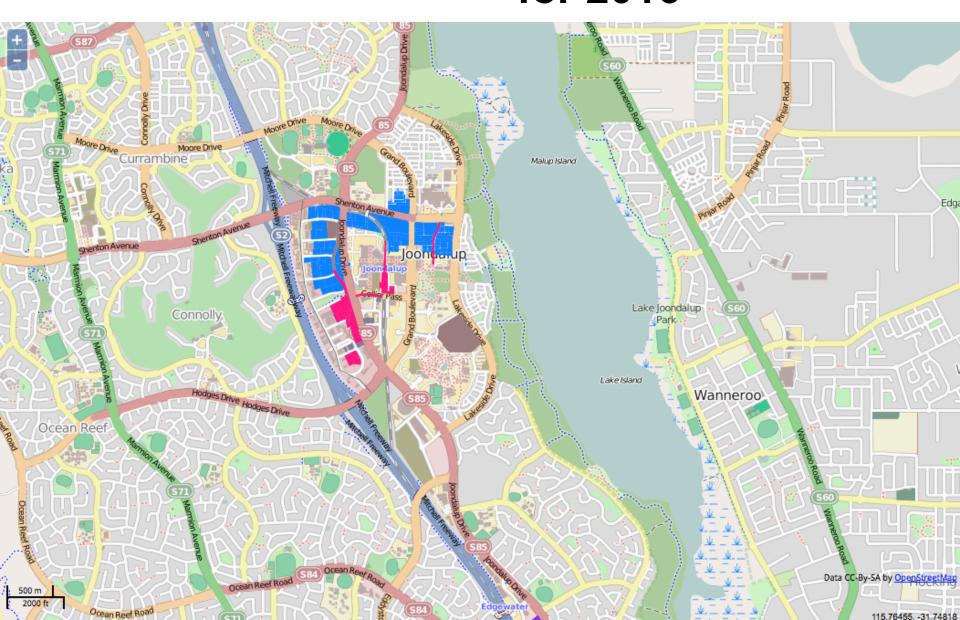
	Analysis - Suitability							×
	Analysis Name: Employment Generator	Analysis Type: <b>\$</b>	<b>Suitability</b> Are	ea of Study: perth			Excel Report PDF R	leport
Proj∈	Convertible LUs Suitability Factors Map							
Lis	Suitability Factors							
	Factor	Commercial	Education	High Density Resid	Industrial	Low Density Reside	Medium Density Re	
	△ 🔄 Public Water Supply	20	20	20	20	20	20	
	Not Public Water Supply	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	<u>₹</u> P1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	<u>≅</u> P2	0	0	0	0	20	0	
	<b>≣</b> P3	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	△ 🔄 Railway Station Distance	100	0	100	40	40	80	
	🔄 Greater than 8000m from Railway Sta	1	20	0	70	60	1	
	🔄 Within 1600m of Railway Station	80	80	75	80	90	80	
	🔄 Within 4000m of Railway Station	50	60	50	70	80	60	
	🔄 Within 8000m of Railway Station	20	40	0	70	60	1	
	丟 Within 800m of Railway Station	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	△ 🔄 University Distance	100	100	80	20	40	80	
	E Greater than 4000m from University	40	20	30	100	100	40	
	E Within 1000m of University	100	100	100	0	40	80	
	E Within 2000m of University	100	90	90	40	60	100	
	E Within 4000m of University	60	50	60	80	80	60	
	△ 词 Wetland Proximity	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Outside 50m of Wetland	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	E Within 50m of Conservation Geomorp	0	0	0	0	30	10	
	E Within 50m of EPP Lake	0	20	0	0	30	10	
	E Within 50m of Important Wetland	0	20	0	0	20	0	
SI	E Within 50m of Migratory Shorebird W	0	0	0	0	20	0	



## What if? Suitability Analysis

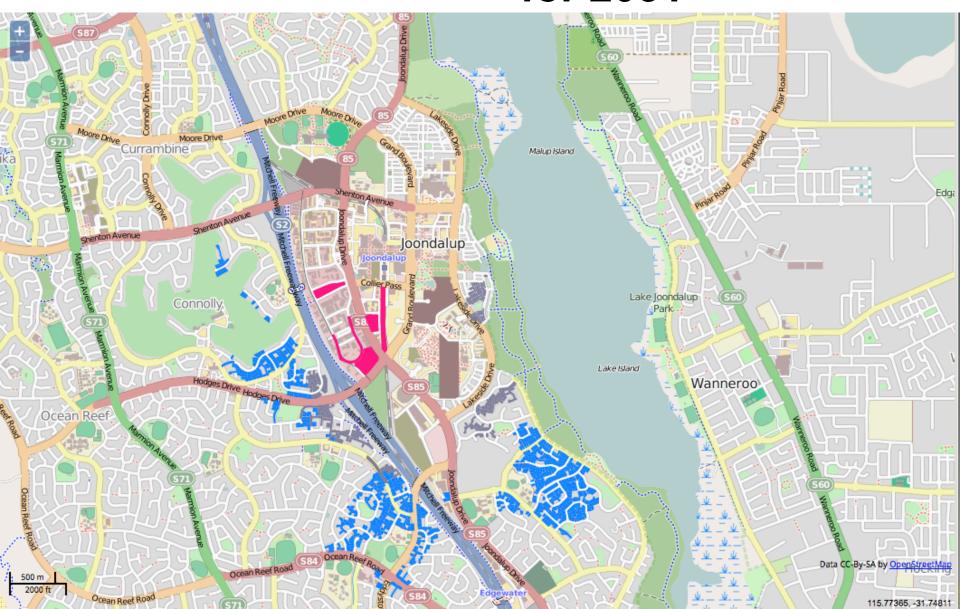


# What if? Allocation Results – for 2016



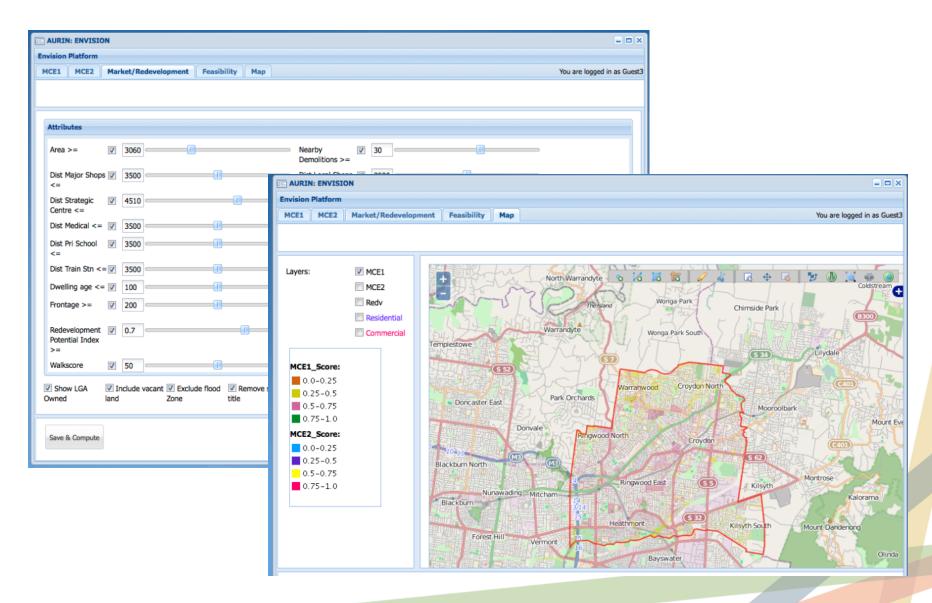


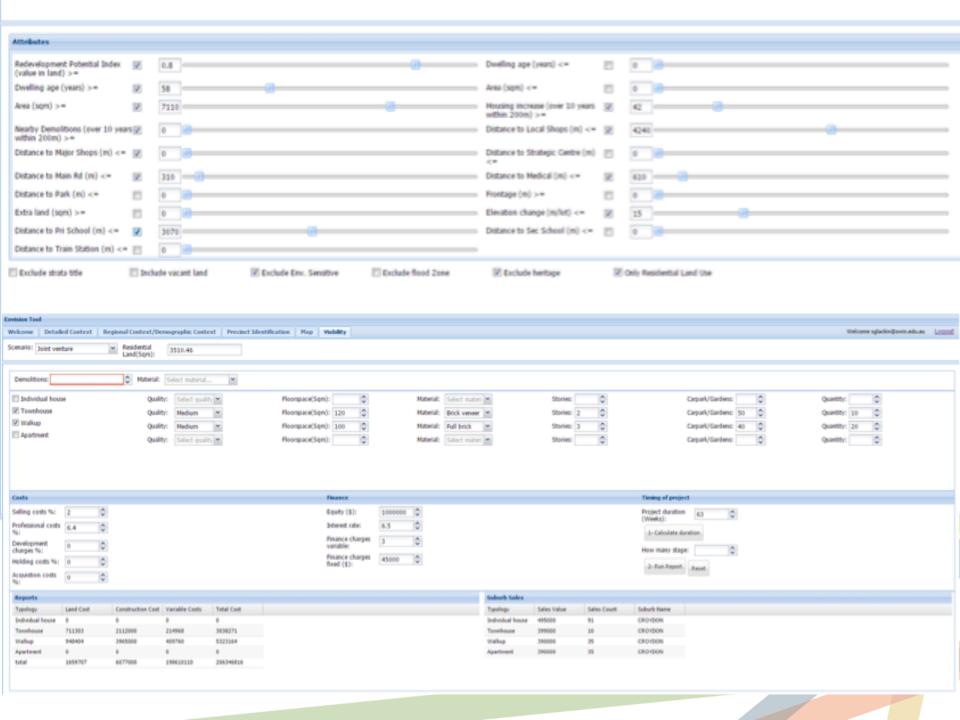
# What if? Allocation Results – for 2031

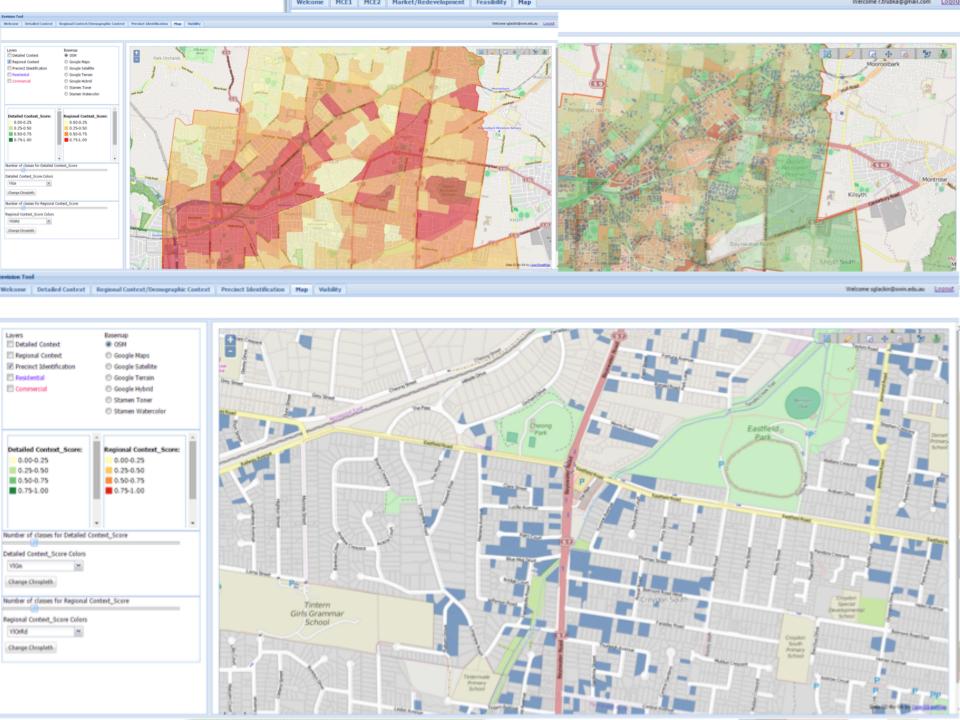




# **Envision planning support system**









## **ESP Precinct Planning tool**

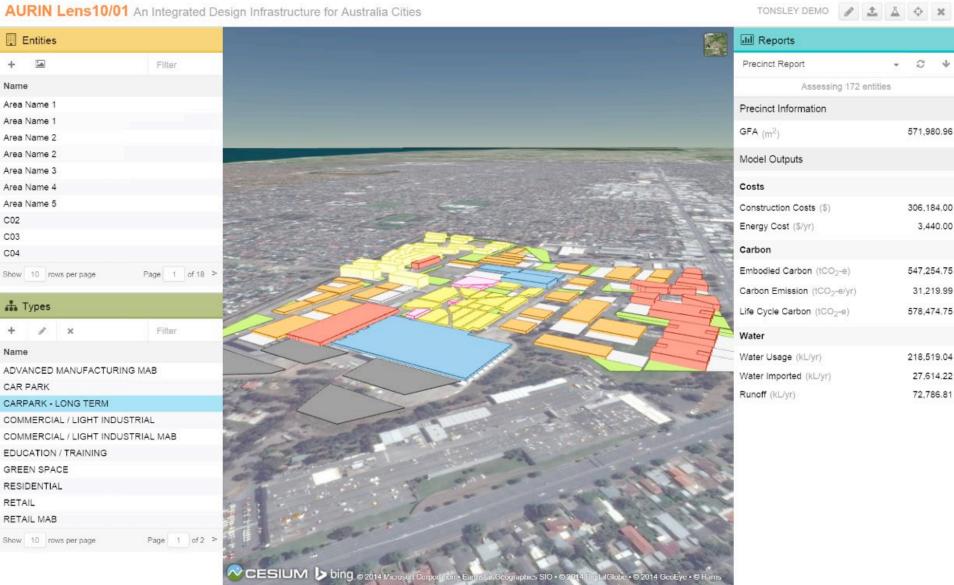








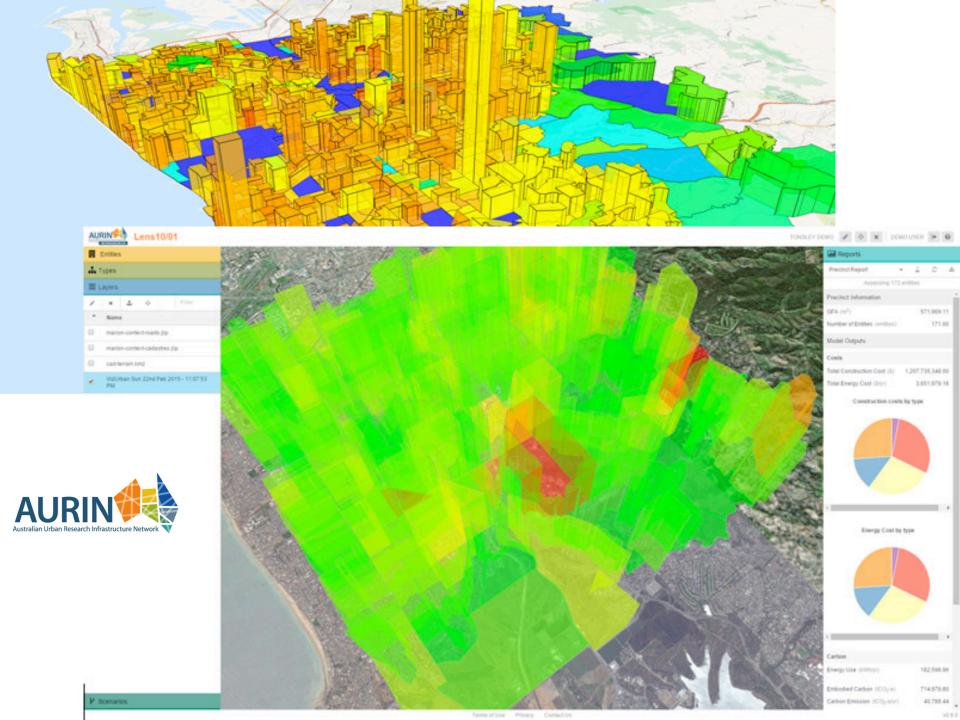






#### AURIN Lens10/01 An Integrated Design Infrastructure for Australian Cities







# Interactive MapTable







# MapTables to support group decision-making







# Can big data fix Australia's traffic clogged cities?

PUBLISHED: 24 JAN 2015 04:49:23 - Australian Financial Review





# Benefits for AURIN to end-

- ☐ Savings in time and money by removing barriers to data access.
- ☐ Access via AURIN Portal to:
  - > wide range of data types
  - > at various levels of spatial scale
  - > from multiple data providers.
- ☐ Connections and exposure to relevant but previously 'locked-up' datasets.
- Support to help utilise open-source e-research research tools to interrogate, visualise and analyse data.
- ☐ Ability to **download data** where permitted by the data custodian.



### **Future work**

- $\square$  Move beyond a data portal the semantic web.
- Develop and urban data dictionary driven by urban data ontologies.
- ☐ Increase focus on data standards (ISO37120) harmonisation of data sets across jurisdictions.
- Implementation of 3D data structure and querying ability.



# Conclusions (1)

#### **□ Bettencourt** (2013):

- "... The rise of information and communication technologies (ICT) and the spread of urbanization arguable the two most important global trends at play across the world today.
- ➤ Both are unprecedented in their scope and magnitude in history, and both will likely change the way we live irreversibly.
- If current trends continue, we may reasonably expect that the vast majority of people everywhere in the world will live in urban environments within just a few decades and that information technologies will be part of their daily lives, embedded in their dwellings, communications, transportation and other urban services." (p. 2)



# **Conclusions (2)**

□Anderson (2013) argues that with new modelling approaches taking advantage of the "miracle of big data" to understand and predict system response using modern electronics we can "bypass complexities in systems at longer temporal at larger spatial scales" to solve difficult and important problems without recourse to theory.



# Conclusions (3)

- □ In his book providing an overview of the historical forces that have shaped the planning and design of cities and information technologies since the industrial revolution to the current ICT age and the spread of ubiquitous computing, **Townsend** (2013) says that:
  - "... never before has humanity faced such enormous global challenges ... nor has it amassed such a massive technological and organizational toolkit to tackle them."

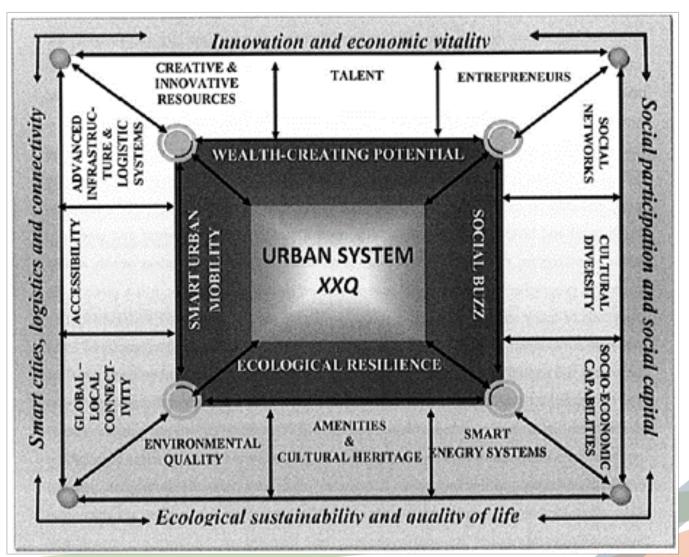


# Conclusions (4)

□With 'Big Data', 'Open Data', and 'Big Data Analysis' we are now starting to have the where-with-all to make substantial progress in operationalising the 'New Urban World - Urban Piazza' framework proposed by Kourtit, et al. (2013) and to undertake the integrative urban research that is essential for not only generating "accurate and consistent definitions and terminology" but also for producing "quantitative benchmarks" (p. 117).

# The New Urban World – Urban Piazza framework

(Source: Kourtit, et al. (2014: p. 105).



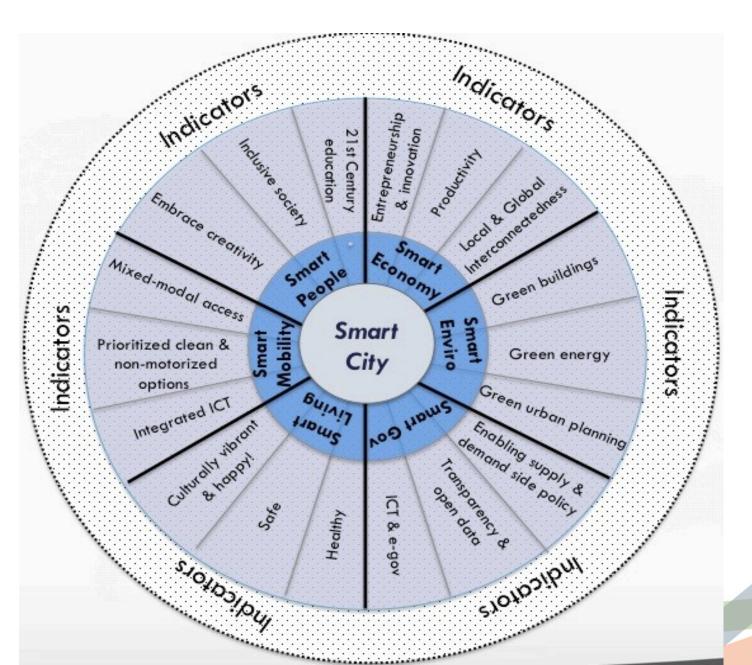
### ☐ We can now develop the:

"... benchmarks, scorecards, or report cards that capture the imagined elements of the urban piazza on a regular basis and allow for comparisons across time periods and areas. This urban monitoring, like testing out our statistical definitions, is both basic and fundanmental .... [and] ... until initial benchmarks have been calculated, it is difficult to know where we stand on many issues." (p. 117)

## ☐ This potentially enables a:

"... systems approcah in urban research" (p. 117), to "connect modern technology with life styles and urban architecture" (p. 117) with an emphasis on the "human factor" (p. 117) through an activity-oriented approach.

## **Smart City Indicators**





# Conclusions (5)

- □ Research infrastructure facilities that are starting to be developed around the world through projects such as AURIN in Australia and UBDC in the UK are important initiatives.
- ☐ They are:
  - harnessing 'Big Data'
  - > providing e-research technologies as 'Big Data Analysis'.
- ☐ They have the potential to enable an integrated approach to urban research to materialise in the context of a constantly changing, increasingly uncertain and complex 'New Urban World'.



# **Conclusions (6)**

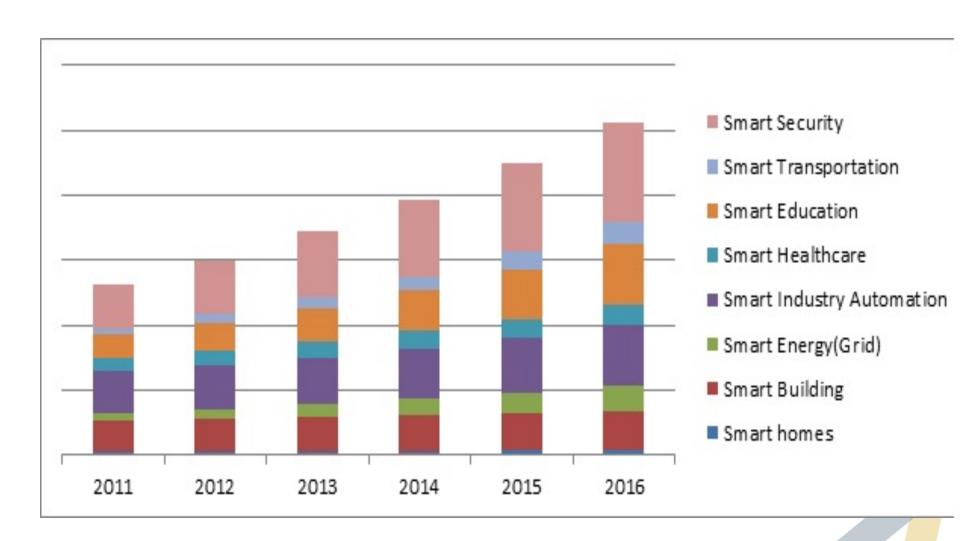
☐ However, despite the initiatives that are occurring in 'Big Data' and research infrastructure initiatives such as AURIN, progress towards implementing government 'Open Data' policies remains less fast than desirable. ☐ This is demonstrated in the **study of 23 countries** by **Capgemini** Consulting (2013) referred to earlier which divided countries into three categories in opening their data – beginners > followers > trend setters. ☐ It was found that only just over one-fifth shared data that had significant breadth and was granular at the same time. ☐ Over 60% of the countries analyzed lacked enhanced search capabilities.



# **Conclusions (7)**

- ☐ Acording to **Gilbert** (2014), governments will:
  - "... need to aggressively embrace open data standards, cloud computing platforms and big data analysis techniques for the management of geospatial data."
- ☐ Perhaps the 'Open Data' trend will be supurred on by the new business opportunities that have been developing out of governments publicising their open data, as seen in "the rise of data marketplaces or data supermarkets." (Rijmenan 2014)

## **Growth in Smart City Dimensions**





# Conclusions (8)

- ☐ There are some **significant issues** regarding aspects of **'Big Data'** and **'Smart Cities'** concerning:
  - data representativeness and inclusion;
  - trust and privacy;
  - > State and corporate control and manipulation; and
  - > the blind trust in imperfect algorithms.
- ☐ Serras, et al. (2014) warn that :
  - "... While the potential of the [big] data is huge, it also comes with many hurdles. We have more data, but often with lower explanatory power about the underlying decisions and behaviours of city users."
- ☐ Kitchen (2013) argues for citizens' rights to privacy in the face of unrelenting data and image surveillance. In the end it all depends on what Aikat (2013) refers to as:
  - "... a commitment to ethical values and best practices sustains big data mining." (p. 107)



# Conclusions (9)

#### ☐ **Aikat** (2013) says:

"... From a socio-economic development perspective, people in all modern societies are surrounded by big data surveillance with meticulously-designed computer algorithms that sift through big data to reveal important insights about people, products and perspectives. Ethical big data mining has the unique potential to measure and monitor trends that are critical for socio-economic development."

### ☐ But Batty (2012) provides us with a timely caution saying:

"... Smart cities and big data may be the hot topics of today, but the implications of new theories and models relevant to our understanding, how we might use our strategic models and intelligence to plan the city, building on this new understanding these are all crucial questions to be explored."



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