

The outer west of Sydney: Population Power: West meets East?

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In a recent city focused university seminar, a key speaker illustrated the changing face of Sydney and other cities around the world through a mind spinning array of charts and graphs inter-spaced with topical strategic maps of the Sydney Metro which in some cases simply lost definition just west of Parramatta. The presentation was in effect east-centric in some cases and was finished with the statement 'what is Sydney going to do with Parramatta'.

By 2036 Western Sydney will be home to 3m people, representing 50% of the population of Sydney.

With a workforce of some 1.4m and only 1.1m jobs, the region will face a jobs gap of some 290,000 by 2036.



FIGURE 1:
Population growth in Sydney basin (Cox 2006)

The question might be 'what is the outer west going to do about Sydney?'. In one of a recent advocacy document issued by the Penrith Business Alliance for the March State election a telling graphic was included which quantified the future sheer population power of the outer west of Sydney.

The chart (below) shows the before and after over the next 25 years to 2036. Whilst the suburb dense east of Sydney grows marginally (in population), the west increases from 2 million to 3million people. The advocacy power this brings to the mid-metro and outer west centres is clear.

Source: Penrith Business Alliance , 'Five Key Advocacy Issues' March 2015

The actual dynamics of how this manifests in the new forms of the city beyond the great divide between east and west is the subject of my key interest and research work. Stay tuned.

Doctor Jonathan Drane

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