The rise of peri-urban areas in regional development and land use: A South-East Queensland case study

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This presentation

1. ‘Urban trends’ – how uniform and what causes?
2. The concepts of ‘peri-urban’ and ‘optimum size’
3. A contemporary example – South East Queensland
1. ‘Urban trends’ how uniform and what causes?

- the remarkable spread and impact of this ‘migration’
- a profound effect on land use, development property
- overall, there are real benefits in this trend (social, economic, environmental)
- global
  - developed
  - developing

but are the causes/outcomes necessarily the same?
1. ‘Urban trends’ how uniform and what causes?

Rapidly emerging research/’opinion’ base

- Brugmann
- Glaeser
- Florida
- Kotkin
- Polese
- etc. etc. etc.

Diverse but recognise

- scale/importance
- complexity / interrelationships
- **economic** drivers
Some definitions (not precise)

▲ Regions - geographically and statistically defined, identity/cohesion, significant, ‘community of interest’ (often based on product), population concentration/centre

▲ Cities (≈ primary centre/central place)

- large scale, catchment, level of dominance over surrounds (cumulative causation), dense core, government and institutional centre, corporate, education, judicial, health, cultural etc.

▲ Peri urban - (traditionally) the fringe areas surrounding large population centres (in transition, accommodation land, typically lightly used)
2. The concepts of ‘peri urban’ and ‘optimum only size’

Spatial layout (peri-urban and concepts of optimum city / urban size) …

▲ Peri-urban myths …. 

… it is just not like that in reality! geographic, infrastructure routes, multi-nodes

… multiple centres (multi-nodes of various sizes and states of development – all applying different forces on ‘economic commons’ between them – creating an urban mosaic
Peri-urban

Traditional concepts

- Central place
- Inner city/transition
- Residential/dormitory
- ‘Commuter zone’/accommodation land/‘en globo’ land
Peri-urban contemporary reality

Physical /transportation distortions

- Central place
- Residential/dormitory
- High value residential
2. The concepts of ‘peri urban’ and ‘optimum only size’

▲ Peri-urban myths

…. it is just not like that in reality! Geographic, infrastructure routes, multi-nodes

…. multiple centres (multi-nodes of various sizes and states of development - all applying different forces on ‘economic commons’ between them - creating an urban mosaic)

▲ Calls into question the whole concept of optimum size / population caps etc. – porous boundaries, sets up all manner of market distortions and negative, unintended consequences that can be very difficult to reverse.

There are far more effective ways to manage growth and development to desirable outcomes.
3. A contemporary example – South-east Queensland (SEQ)

- 11 local authority areas/regions
- geographically adjoining; home of 70% of State’s population
- share similar interests/issues – e.g. infrastructure, urbanisation, catchments etc.
- political and other value in association

... but not a ‘region’ by traditional definition
South-east Queensland (SEQ)

Central place - Brisbane

Commuter regions - Redlands, Logan, Ipswich, Moreton Bay

Rural/low density - Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley, Somerset

Emerged economic node - Gold Coast

Emerging economic node - Sunshine Coast
Observing SEQ

- changing relative size / role / importance of the Brisbane City central node
Observing SEQ

• changing relative size / role / importance of the Brisbane City central node

• differing relationship with central node (esp. for commuter areas)

• geography, infrastructure corridors and the urban footprint

• overlapping of economic forces and of master planned communities etc. – regardless of political / planning boundaries

• the ‘special case’ of the Gold Coast and the emerging ‘special case’ of the Sunshine Coast.
Conclusions

△ the urban shift (aggregation, dominance) continues but now at an ever greater rate

various mainstream theories to explain – but most emphasize economic drivers, scale and complexity

△ the (traditional) concepts of ‘peri-urban’ and of ‘optimum city size’ are losing relevance because of these urban changes and the rise of multi-node, greater regions

△ SEQ provide a case in point where component parts are (arguably) becoming more (not less) individualistic and diverse, particularly outside the normal commuter zone.
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