

Second-tier cities: setting the context: definitions, opportunities, issues

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Four areas

- The main ideas about what a second-tier city is
- Why we should be interested
- Some characteristics of second-tier cities
- Contemporary research and thinking, here and now

What are second tier cities?

- Not global cities, not part of extended metropolitan regions
- May be the *leading* city in their region but do not *dominate* regions as larger cities can do, eg, have limited capacity to decentralise & outsource activity (Cardoso 2016)
- Performance is sufficiently important to affect the potential performance of the national economy (Parkinson and Meegan 2013)
- Population of between 50,000 and 1 million common definition in the research (Correia and Denham 2016)
- Jakarta no, Yogyakarta, Denpasar yes; Brussels no, Antwerp yes; Bangkok no, Chiang Mai yes...
- But Australia? O'Connor (2002) – classifies Melbourne as a second tier city
- It depends whether your reference point is global (Melbourne is a second-tier city) or national (Melbourne is a major city)

Brian Roberts, (2014) *Managing Systems of Secondary Cities* further subdivides second tier cities

(a) 'Subnational urban centres' of administration, manufacturing, agriculture or resource development. Canberra, Dubbo

(b) 'Metropolitan clustered', which develop on the periphery of metropolitan or urban regions and take the form of new towns, spill over growth centres and linear cities. New towns around Jakarta eg, BSD City.

(c) 'Corridor secondary cities', which develop as growth poles along major transportation corridors.' East-West Economic Corridor, connecting Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Vietnam, the proposed high-speed railway connecting Thailand, Laos and China, Gold Coast QLD, Ballarat, Bendigo.

Singapore vs. Johor (30-50km)

5.6 million
1.4% growth

0.42 million
0.8% growth





Seoul vs. Incheon (30-50km)

9.8 million
-0.4% growth

2.9 million
1.3% growth

Hanoi vs. Hai Phong (100-120km)



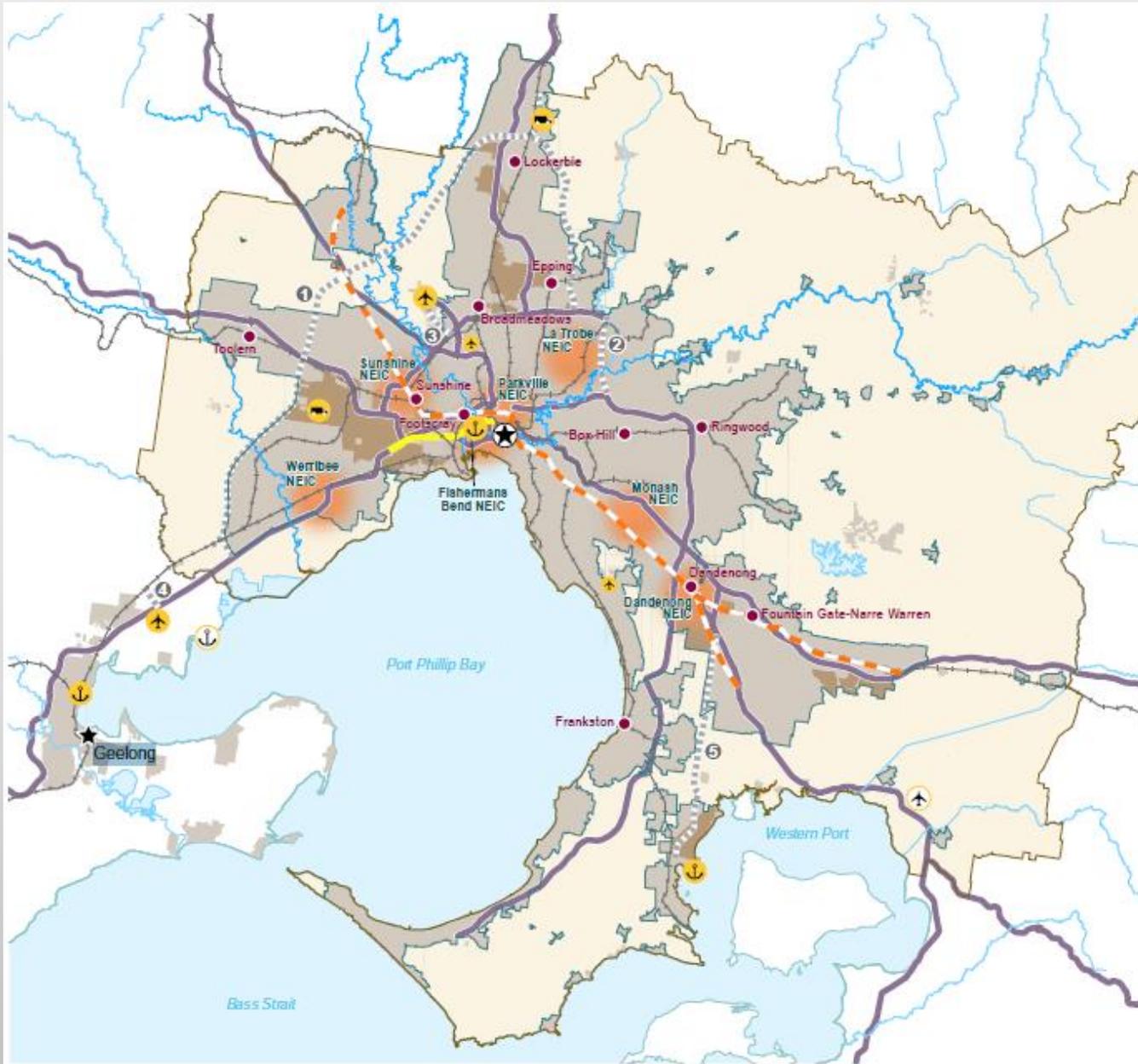
7.6 million
2.7% growth

1.9 million
1.0% growth

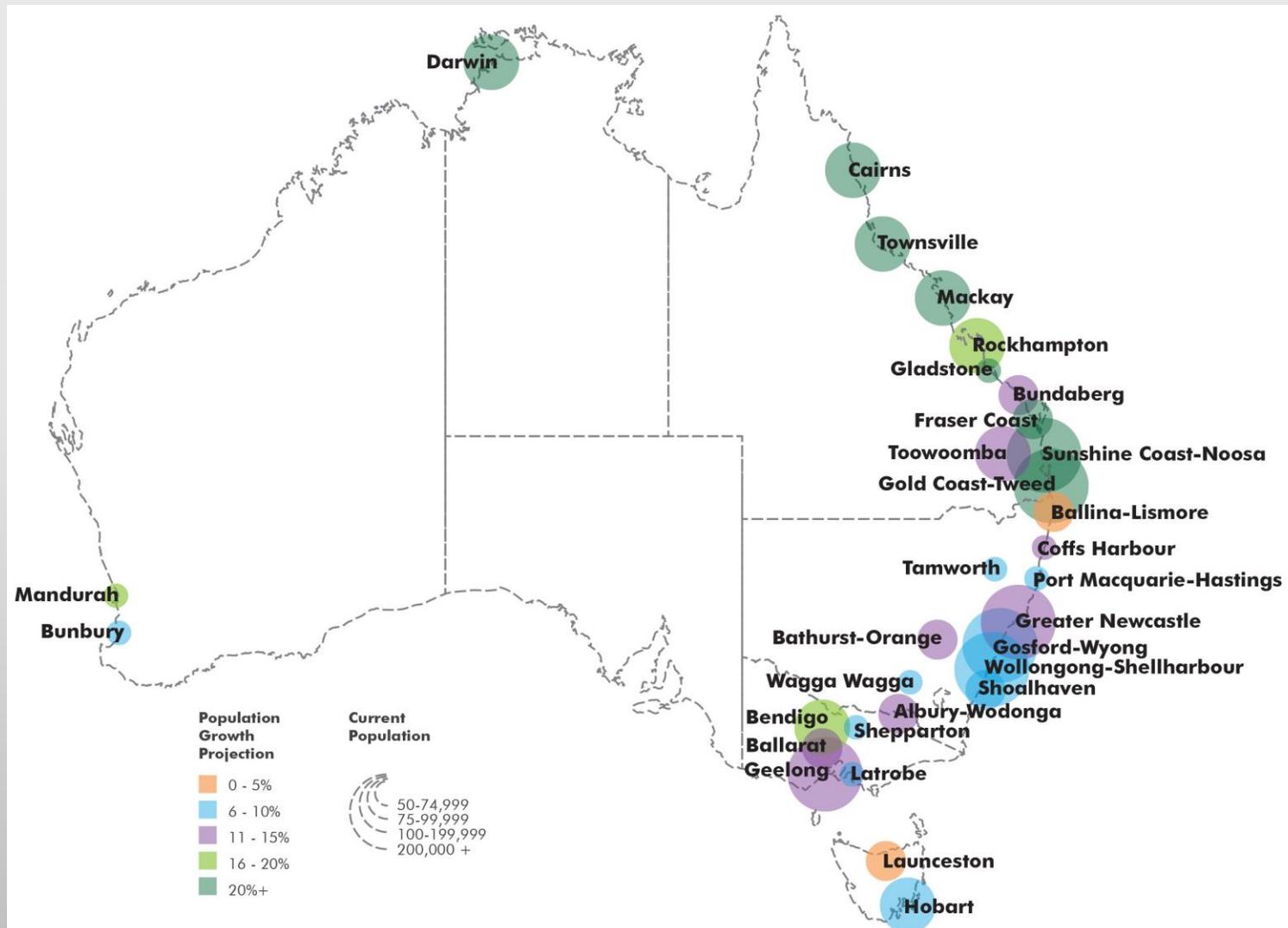
Melbourne vs. Geelong (70-80km)

4.8 million
3.8% growth

0.2 million
1.5% growth



Regional Australia Institute: 'regional cities' – good indicative map for existing and potential second-tier Australian cities Population growth estimates to 2026



'Most small cities high in amenity (found in Northern Australia) top the growth list with a population growth rate of over 25 per cent in the next decade.'

Why are they seem as increasingly important?

- Congested, even dysfunctional capital cities, declining housing affordability, increasing commuting distances, poor service provision in outlying suburbs, massive infrastructure needs and costs
- Increased virtual and transport proximity: rapid growth of ITC, NBN, improved transport, workplace flexibility leading to more polycentricity and less hierarchy – opportunities for second tiers (Roberts 2014)
- An overall argument – life in second tier cities can be of higher amenity, better connectivity and more affordable than many outer suburbs of major cities which are continuing to be added to. Question mark – can they be better for economic outcomes?
- A proposition – divert growth from outer suburbs to second tiers
- Many second tiers have faster growing GDPs than the capitals, eg, Western Europe. (Roberts, 2014)

Many second tiers with specialisations are successful

- Culture and religion: Mecca (Saudi Arabia), Amritsar (India), Lourdes (France), Hue (Vietnam), Bethlehem (Palestine), Kandy (Sri Lanka), Timbuktu (Mali)
- Government: Abuja (Nigeria), Brasília (Brazil), Islamabad (Pakistan), Washington (USA), Canberra (Australia), Pretoria (South Africa)
- Advanced manufacturing: Toulouse (France), Basel (Germany), Seattle (USA), Pusan (South Korea), Curitiba (Brazil)
- Knowledge services: Cambridge (UK), Yogyakarta, Denpasar (Indonesia), Seattle (USA), Kumasi (Ghana) (Roberts, 2014)

Research Development Grant: School of Design, University of Melbourne

Project title: *The fate of second-tier cities in regional development*

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- Do second-tier cities grow as top-tier global cities grow, or is there a growing imbalance between them due to geographical preference towards top-tier cities?
- How successful have second-tier cities been in attracting knowledge workers? What are the necessary conditions to attract knowledge workers?
- Where has knowledge-intensive manufacturing been geographically located? How significant is knowledge-intensive manufacturing in regional economic development?
- How has government policy been implemented to strengthen second-tier cities in response to the evolution of global city-regions?
- Four second-tier cities in the Asia-Pacific region: Songdo (South Korea), Suzhou (China), Iskandar (Malaysia) and Geelong (Australia). Selected due to their regional significance with a focus on the above elements – knowledge workers, knowledge-intensive manufacturing, government policy in the context of global city-regions.

Important additional areas

- Fill in and consolidate our understanding of what second-tiers mean – in the global economy, against the SDGs NUA
- ‘The Asian Century’
- Australia – the hard facts

Thankyou

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