

An aerial photograph of a city skyline at night, featuring a prominent skyscraper with a distinctive top section. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark red filter. The title "Changing Populations" is written in large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Changing Populations

John Utting

What is the ALP national pollster doing at an event like this?





John Utting

30 years of campaign experience in the cities and towns across Australia.

- Unique insights
 - Changing population structures
 - Demographics
 - Social attitudes
 - Media consumption
- The interplay between voters, government and the big end of town.



We have done a huge amount of infrastructure work and community consultation.

- Companies
 - Macquarie Bank
 - Transurban
 - NSW Transport
 - Auckland Transport
- Projects
 - Rail : Airport Link , City Rail Link, North West Metro.
 - Road : Land Cove Tunnel, Clem Jones Tunnel.

How do changing populations
impact the political scene?





Three Examples

- Rise of the Inner City Greens.
- Exile to outer suburbia, marginal Australia under pressure.
- Anger in regional Australia, the Palmer Effect.



Rise of the Inner city Greens

- Concentration of well educated, affluent professionals in the inner suburbs of our major cities
 - Balmain (Sydney)
 - Fitzroy (Melbourne)
 - South Brisbane (Brisbane)
- Economically secure and almost post materialistic, which is reflected in the issue agenda.
 - Climate Change
 - Refugees
 - Animal Rights



Volatile outer suburbia

- Under pressure, angry and confused
- Families are driven to affordable accommodation far from the CBD and their employment.
- Looking for answers
 - Politically volatile
 - Suspicious
 - Missing out on the Australian Dream
 - The cargo cult of infrastructure “promises, promises, promises”



Anger in Regional Australia

- The Palmer Effect
- Isolated from the wealth generating metropolitan CBD's
 - Townsville (Qld)
 - Wollongong (NSW)
 - Geelong (VIC)
- Looking for answers
 - Jobs, jobs, jobs,
 - Narrow media diet
 - Feelings of resentment
 - Left out and left behind



Fundamental Planning Failure

- The voters know something is wrong
- How do you reconcile the gap between
 - What they want and expect?
 - What they get?
- The “Singapore effect”
- Plenty of visible failures
 - Canberra (ACT)
 - Docklands (VIC)
 - Parramatta CBD (NSW)
- Decades of motorway development has not fixed congestion



Grief —

- Traffic Congestion
 - 70% of Australians drive to work
- Decades of motorway development has not fixed congestion
- High Tolls
 - Major social equity issue.



Cargo Cult

- Infrastructure provision now dominates the political landscape
 - Melbourne to Brisbane fast train
- Infrastructure is the new political battleground
 - Community thinks it is the panacea for all our problems
 - Jobs, growth, social equity, climate change
- Labor lost power in NSW because of their infrastructure failings.
 - Premier Mike Baird has learnt this lesson
- Lets look at Victoria
 - East-West Link
 - Premier Dan Andrews is very strong
 - Level Crossings, Melbourne Metro, Free CBD trams



Social Equity

- Who benefits and who misses out?
- The big social and political issue of our time
- Easier to serve the inner city than the outer suburbs
- How do we deal with this?



Tomorrow

- Increasingly voters think that there are two things that in a society can change their lives for the better.
- Technology and internet (NBN)
- Better infrastructure (Roads and Rail)
- If infrastructure and planning is big now, it will be even bigger in the future. In a world of stagnating incomes, unaffordable housing better planning and infrastructure is probably the only way of improving the lived experience.

An aerial photograph of the New York City skyline, featuring a dense cluster of skyscrapers. The image has a warm, reddish-pink color cast. The Freedom Tower is the most prominent building in the center. The text "Thanks" is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

Thanks

John Utting