



# Planning for Sustainable Accessibility

Carey Curtis

Curtin University, Australia

“Access is what cities are all about. Man invented cities as an economic and social tool to create easy accessibility through co-location”  
(Schaeffer and Sclar, 1975, p.2)

Cities worldwide - interest in a more coordinated approach to growth management → sustainable urban form → sustainable transport outcomes.

A popular planning strategy → public transport oriented development (PTOD), more commonly referred to as transit oriented development (TOD)

→ need to consider both land use planning and transport planning in an integrated way

→ city planning framed around public transport

→ address both the form and structure of the city and

→ quality of the public transport network

to ensure each are mutually supportive and provide for improved accessibility.

We need to distinguish between these terms...

## Accessibility

**The ease and convenience of reaching some destination**

Measured by: -

- Number of people with access to certain facilities;
- Access to the transport system itself

## Mobility

**Reflects the travel needs and behaviour of individuals and businesses**

Measured by:

- Vehicle kilometres travelled
- Traffic speed

My belief is we should focus on accessibility – who gets access and how... rather than simply how much travel is made and how fast

## Sustainable Accessibility?

Achieving movement (travel)  
through accessibility  
rather than mobility

# "A sustainable transport system<sup>5</sup> is one that:

- Allows the basic access and development needs of individuals, companies and societies to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and **eco-system health**, and **promotes equity** between successive generations...

- Is affordable, operates fairly and **efficiently**, offers a **choice** of transport mode, and supports a competitive economy, as well as balanced regional development...

- Limits emissions and waste within the planet's ability to absorb them, uses renewable resources at or below their rates of generation, and uses non-renewable resources at or below the rates of development of renewable substitutes, while minimising the impact on the use of land and the generation of noise"

# The New Realism

- Goodwin et al, 1991 – the package approach:
  - improvements to public transport;
  - traffic calming;
  - provision for cyclists and pedestrians;
  - traffic management to maximise the efficiency of the existing road network;
  - road pricing;
  - using land use and urban form to manage transport demand; and
  - providing minimal or no increases to road capacity.

# Land use transport integration emerges as the solution (the birth of sustainable accessibility?)

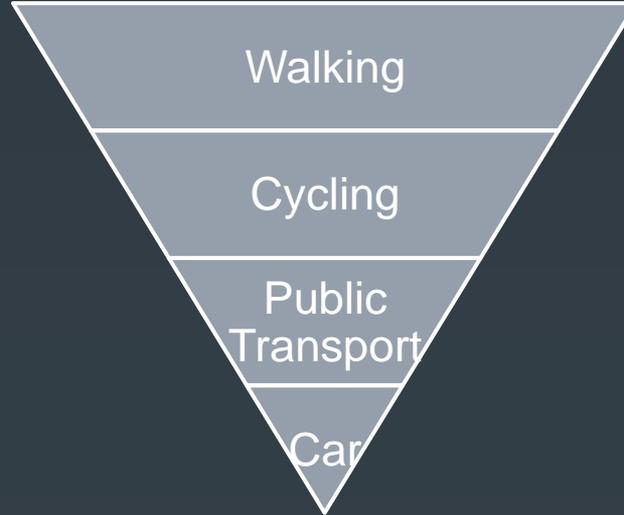
- UK – 1984 - PPG13 :Transport a critical point where transport planning seen as an integral part of the land use planning process.
- Planning policy on:
  - location, scale, density, design and mix of land uses with the aims of reducing the need to travel, reducing journey lengths and making it easier for people to walk, cycle and use public transport.

# Australia

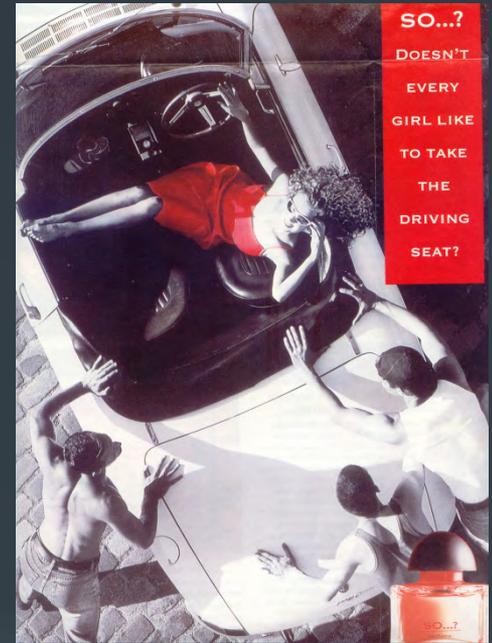
- Better Cities – 1992-1996:
  - urban consolidation
  - Mixed use higher density devt. at transit nodes
- Australia's National Charter on Integrated Land Use and Transport Planning (2000)

# ...what is sustainable transport?

Planning for all modes of transport – but dominant mode is not private car



Integrating transport planning with land use planning



Hardware, software, people (behaviour change)

Multi-Scalar – from city wide to street-cross section design

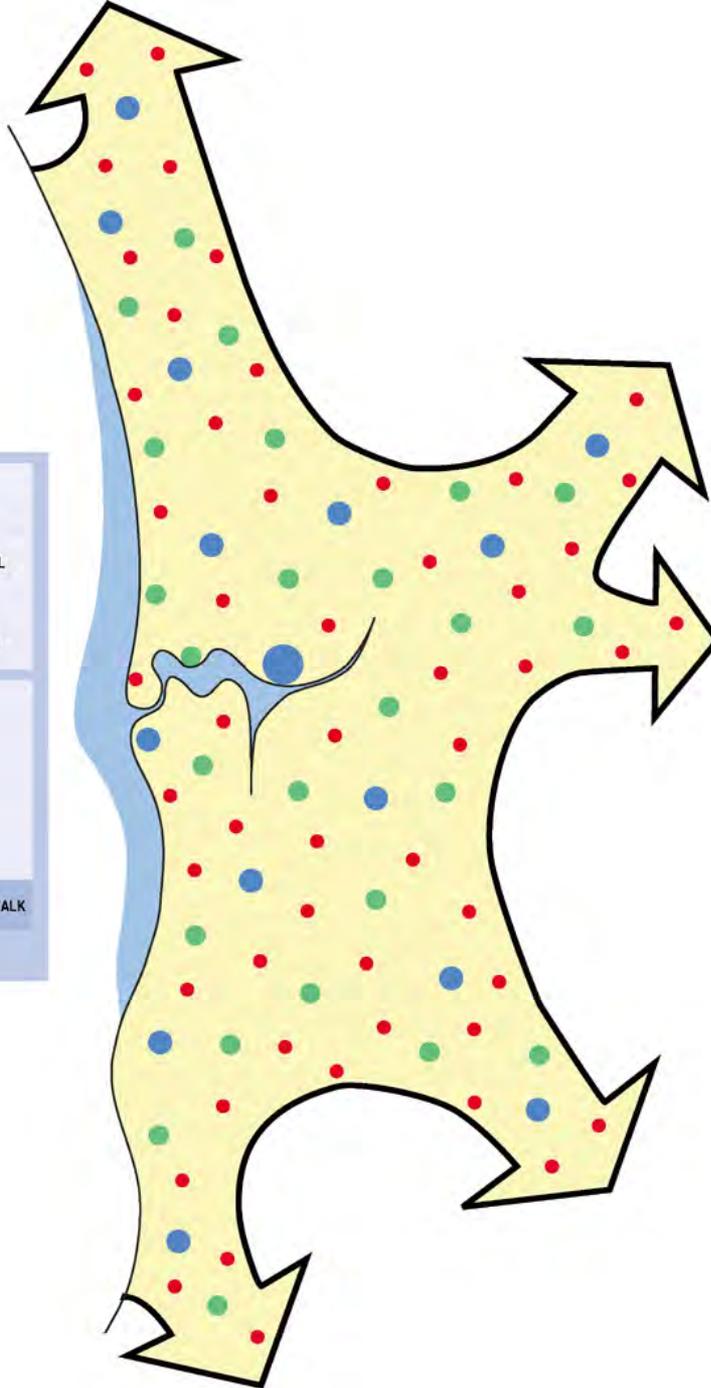
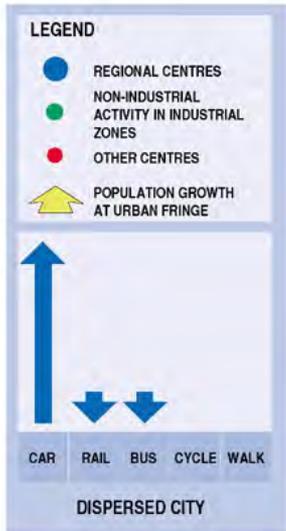


Integrating Transport with Land Use:

Using an accessibility tool to capture the strategic transport and land use choices for the city



# Starting point – Perth – ‘polka dot city’



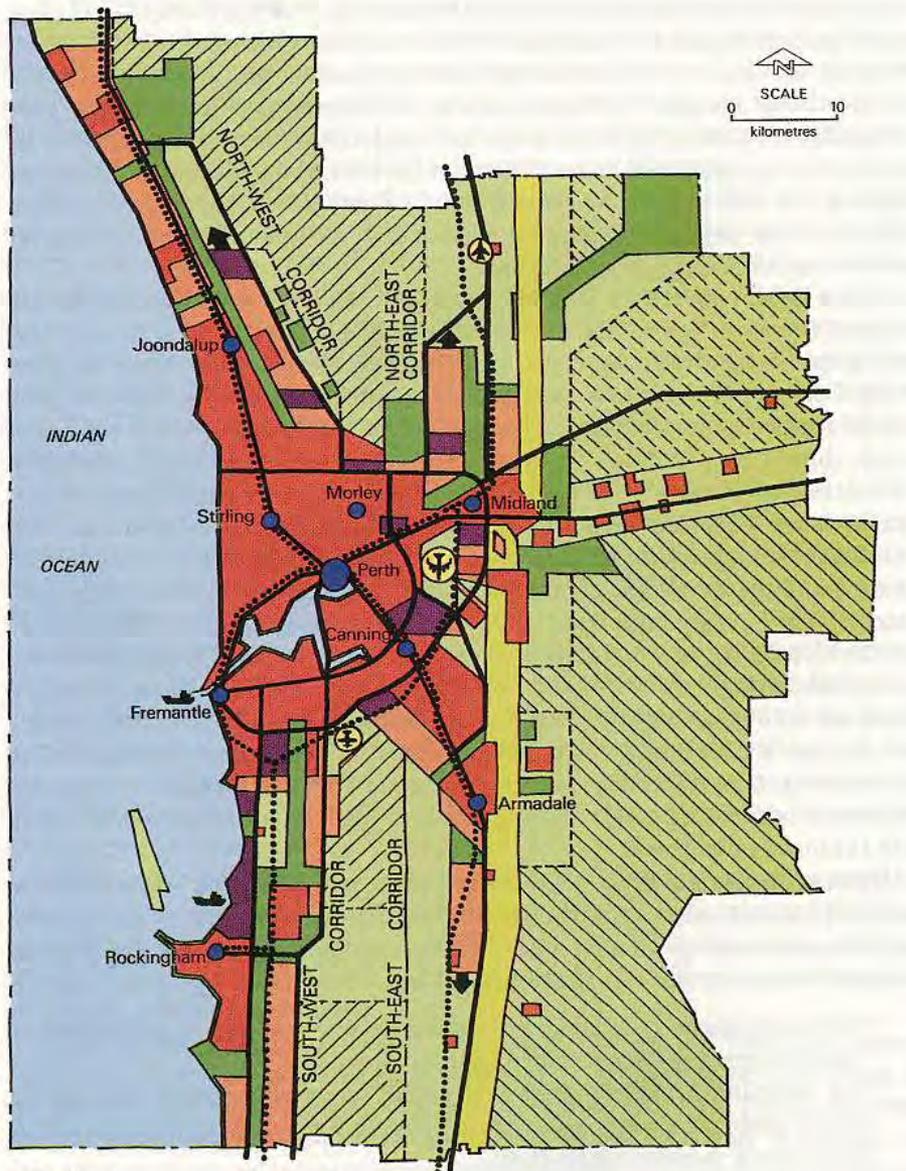
Reality check...  
>100 activity centres  
(defined by non-home based trip destinations)

Some planned but many ‘unplanned’

Possibility of supplying high frequency PT system to serve all centres is a significant and expensive challenge

# Metroplan 1990

14



## LEGEND

Urban	Rural/Non-Urban	Airports
Future Urban	Groundwater Catchment	Harbours
Region Open Space System	Surface Water Catchment	Major Road
Major Industry	Proposed Surface Water Catchment	Railway
Escarpment Protection	Strategic Regional Centre	Future Urban Growth Option

- Centres defined and controlled only by retail floorspace targets
- - 8 Strategic centres, 14 regional centres
- Not all (100+) centres recognised as centres in plans
- 'Lip service' paid to LUPTI
  - No practice of considering access to centres by PT
  - PT aim was social welfare – minimum service levels not a real alternative to car

# Network city framework

Managing growth by sharing responsibility between industry, communities and government

- Plan with communities
- Nurture the environment
- Make fuller use of urban land
- Encourage public over private transport
- Strengthen local sense of place
- Develop strategies which deliver local jobs
- Provide affordable housing

## Activity centres bring people together

- Activity centres on activity corridors (diagrammatic)
- Other activity centres

## Networks connect people and places

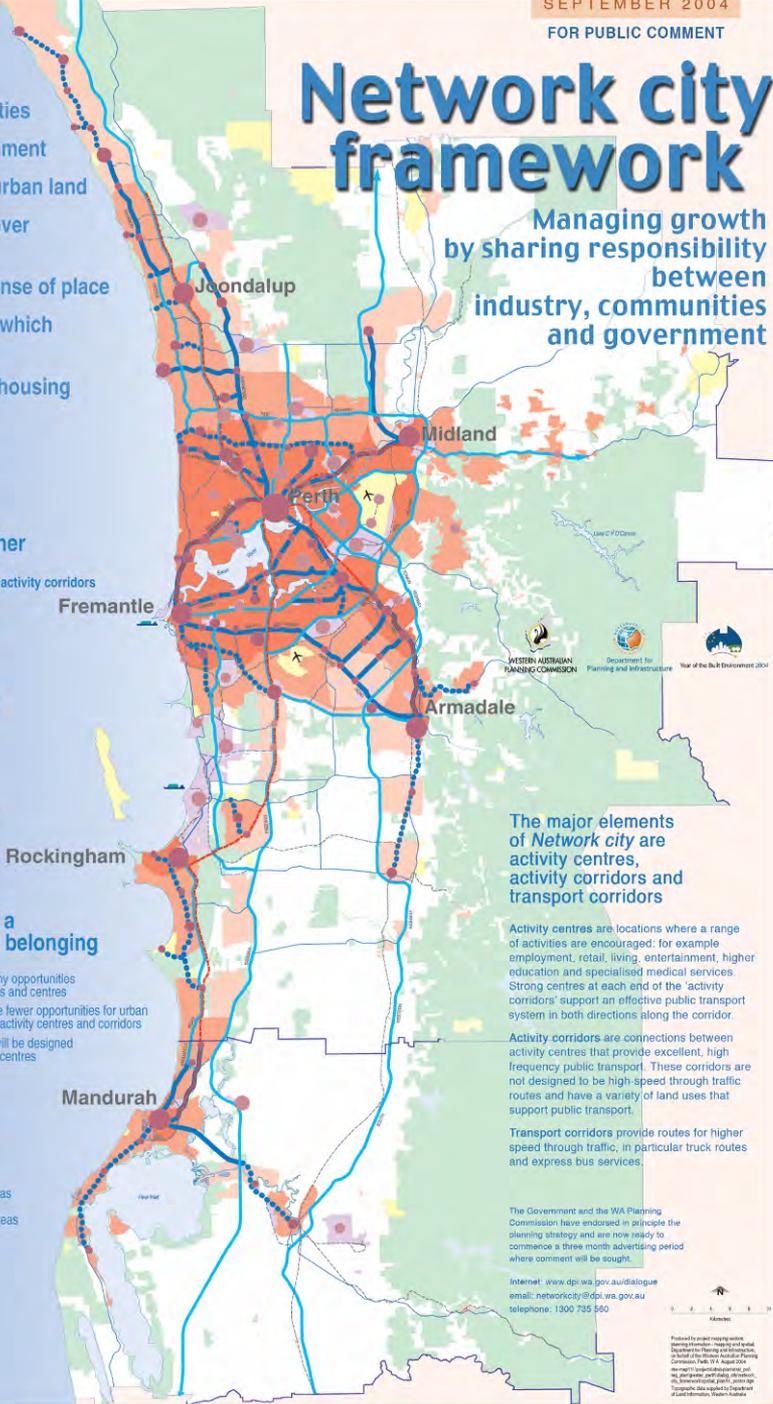
- Passenger rail
- Activity corridors with excellent public transport
- Transport corridors for cars, trucks and express buses
- Other transport corridors

## Communities have a sense of place and belonging

- Older areas have many opportunities to strengthen networks and centres
- Areas where there are fewer opportunities for urban consolidation outside activity centres and corridors
- Future communities will be designed around networks and centres

## The environment sustains the city

- Non-development areas
- Rural and resource areas including natural vegetation
- Urban
- High pressure
- Flight path



The major elements of Network city are activity centres, activity corridors and transport corridors

Activity centres are locations where a range of activities are encouraged; for example employment, retail, living, entertainment, higher education and specialised medical services. Strong centres at each end of the 'activity corridors' support an effective public transport system in both directions along the corridor.

Activity corridors are connections between activity centres that provide excellent, high frequency public transport. These corridors are not designed to be high speed through traffic routes, and have a variety of land uses that support public transport.

Transport corridors provide routes for higher speed through traffic, in particular truck routes and express bus services.

The Government and the WA Planning Commission have endorsed in principle the planning strategy and are now ready to commence a three month advertising period where comment will be sought.

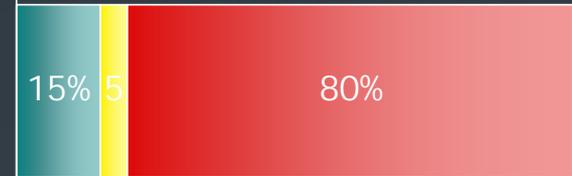
Internet: [www.dpi.wa.gov.au/dialogue](http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au/dialogue)  
 email: [networkcity@dpi.wa.gov.au](mailto:networkcity@dpi.wa.gov.au)  
 telephone: 1300 735 550

# new policy context

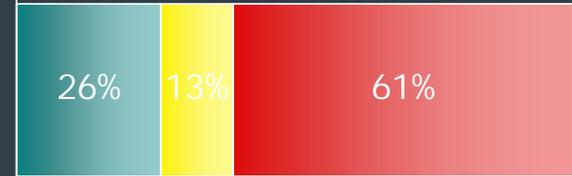
15

- Mode Share Target by trips (1995)
- Metropolitan Strategy (2004)

Perth 2000



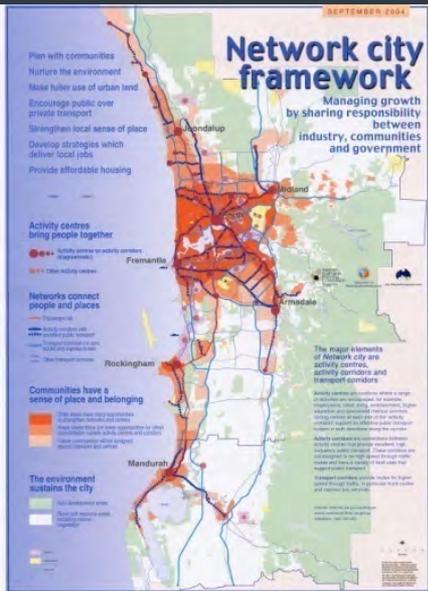
Perth 2029



- Non-motorised modes
- Public transport
- Private vehicle

...targets imply that public transport patronage needs to grow four-fold between 2000 and 2030...

# Network City spatial framework



- did not determine which centres should perform which role within the goal of sustainable accessibility
- demanded a multi-dimensional perspective... which centres have or could have mixed use development ...also which have or could have more sustainable accessibility
- centres must not be considered in isolation from each other... the way in which they are networked which forms an important component

## ....the driver

- How to compare regional accessibility of one place over another
  - Focus on public transport

# spatial network analysis for multimodal urban transport systems (SNAMUTS) <sup>18</sup>

## Accessibility → Transport Network & Place

Purpose: To assess and quantify how transport networks, in terms of geographical configuration and service levels, perform in their urban context (distribution of land use activities).

SNAMUTS is a supply-side tool: it does not provide predictions about usage or capacity levels. Rather it asks: What is the role of the public transport system in facilitating movement and activity across a city region?

SNAMUTS was inspired by the Space Syntax approach (Hillier and Hanson, 1984), and the Multiple Centrality Analysis tool (Porta, Crucitti and Latora, 2006)

# compiling a base network ...

Our focus is on measuring the ease of movement on a public transport network in ways that come close to user perceptions and motivations...

Public transport users are only marginally interested in geographical distance: the main factors of travel impediment (or spatial separation) are travel time, and the ubiquity of travel opportunities (service frequency).

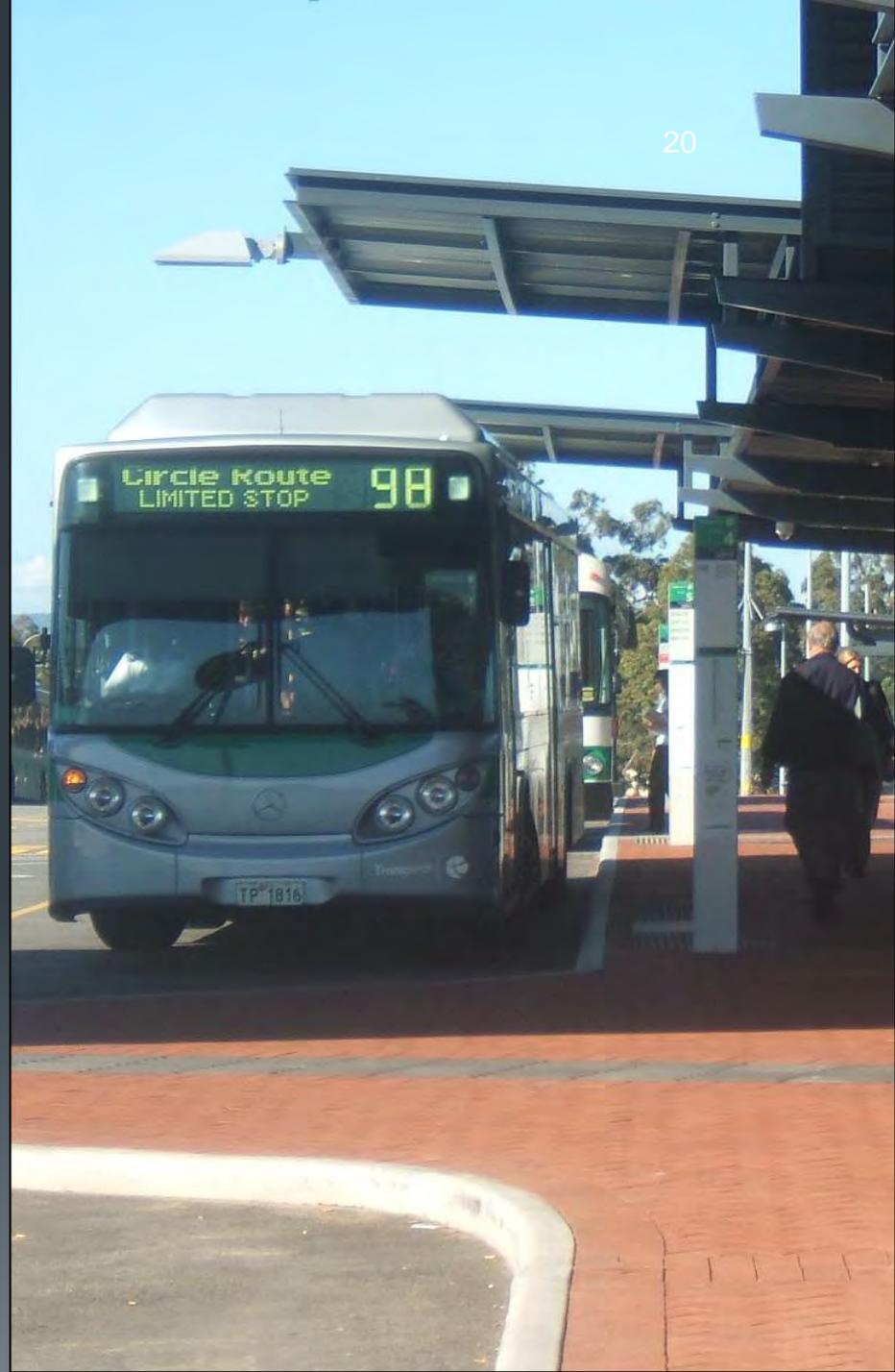


# compiling a base network ...

Our network model:

- applies a minimum service standard
- a 30-minute frequency (or better) during the weekday inter-peak period

- determines a transfer point according to intersections of routes that offer a level of convenience that is functionally and visually co-located, with signposting as required and (relatively) barrier-free access between modes.



# 6 key snamuts indicators

21

Service  
Intensity  
'Operational  
Input  
Required'

Closeness  
Centrality  
'Ease of  
Movement'

Degree  
Centrality  
'Transfer  
Intensity'

30-minute  
Contour  
Catchment

Betweenness  
Centrality  
'Geographical  
Distribution of Travel  
Opportunities'

Network  
Stress  
'Identifying Squeeze  
Points and Underused  
Potential'

# 6 key snamuts indicators

22

Service  
Intensity

*# trains, buses,  
trams, ferries  
needed*

Closeness  
Centrality

*Ease of movement  
– time/frequency*

Degree  
Centrality

*How many transfers  
separate one node  
from the rest*

30-minute  
Contour  
Catchment

*How many residents  
& jobs are accessible  
within 30 mins*

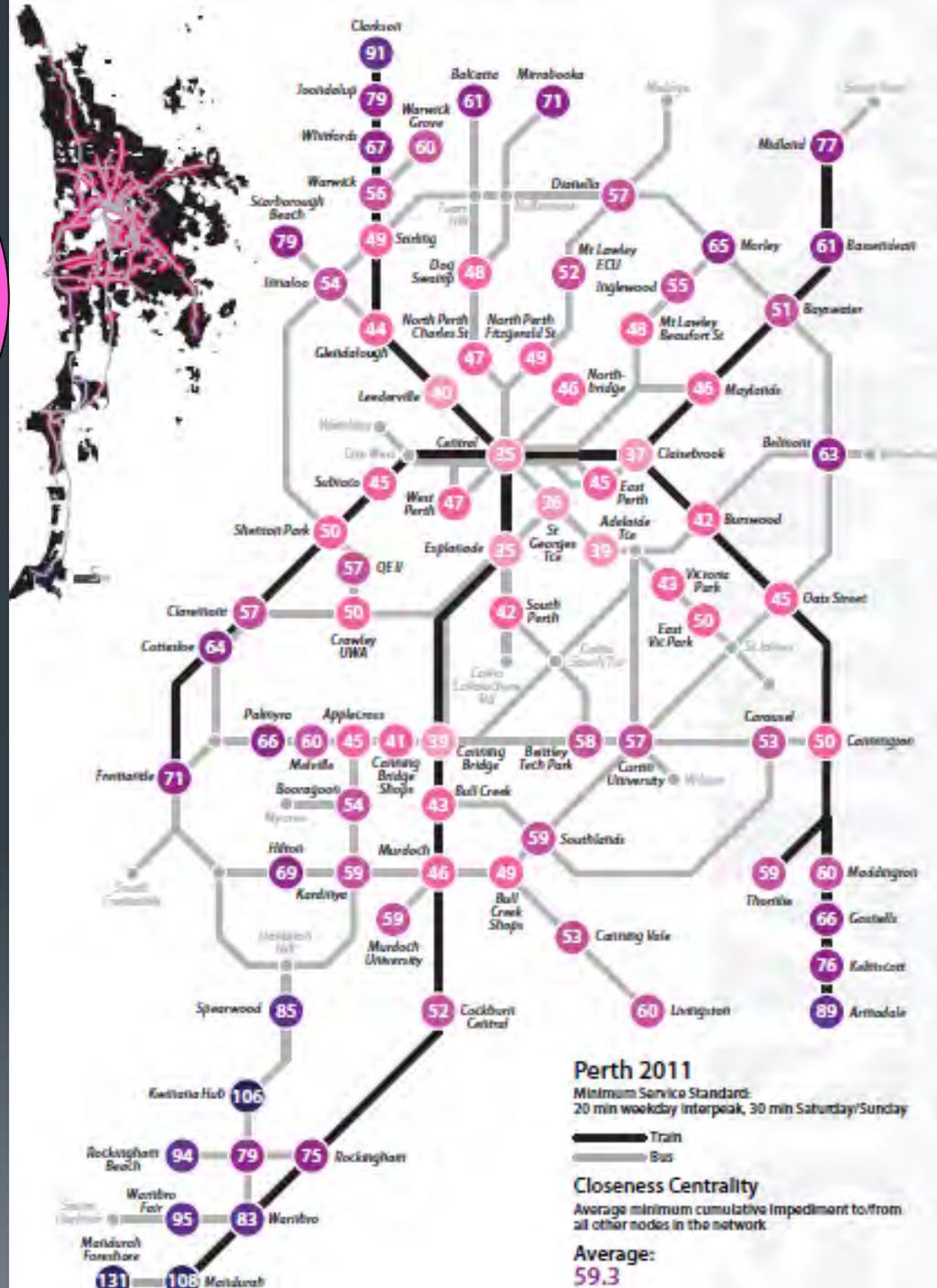
Betweenness  
Centrality

*'Geographical  
Distribution of Travel  
Opportunities'*

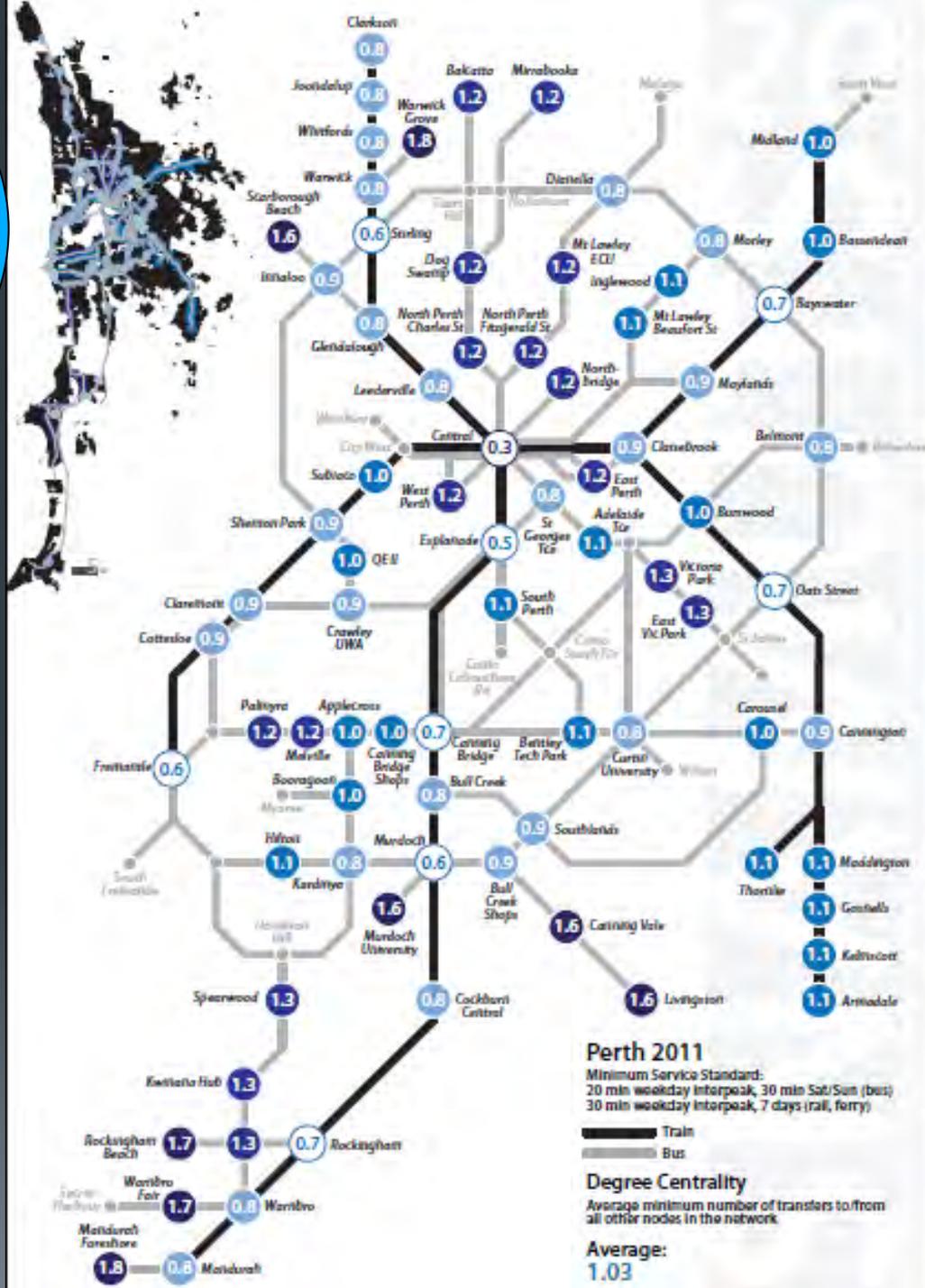
Network  
Stress

*'Identifying Squeeze  
Points and Underused  
Potential'*

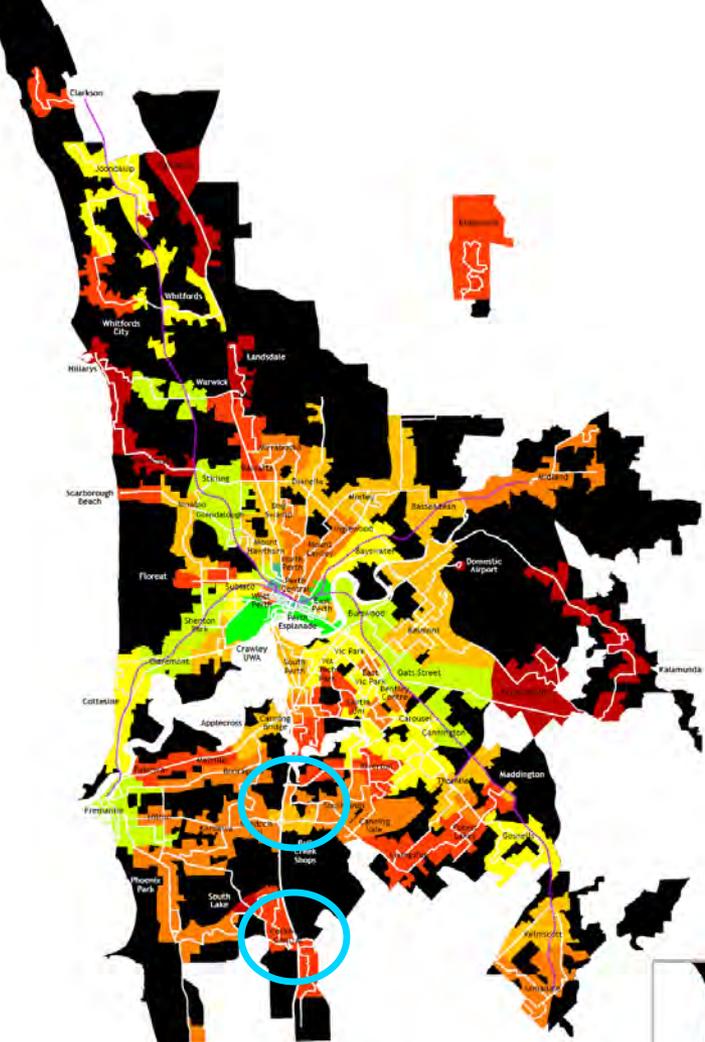
Closeness  
Centrality  
'Ease of  
Movement'



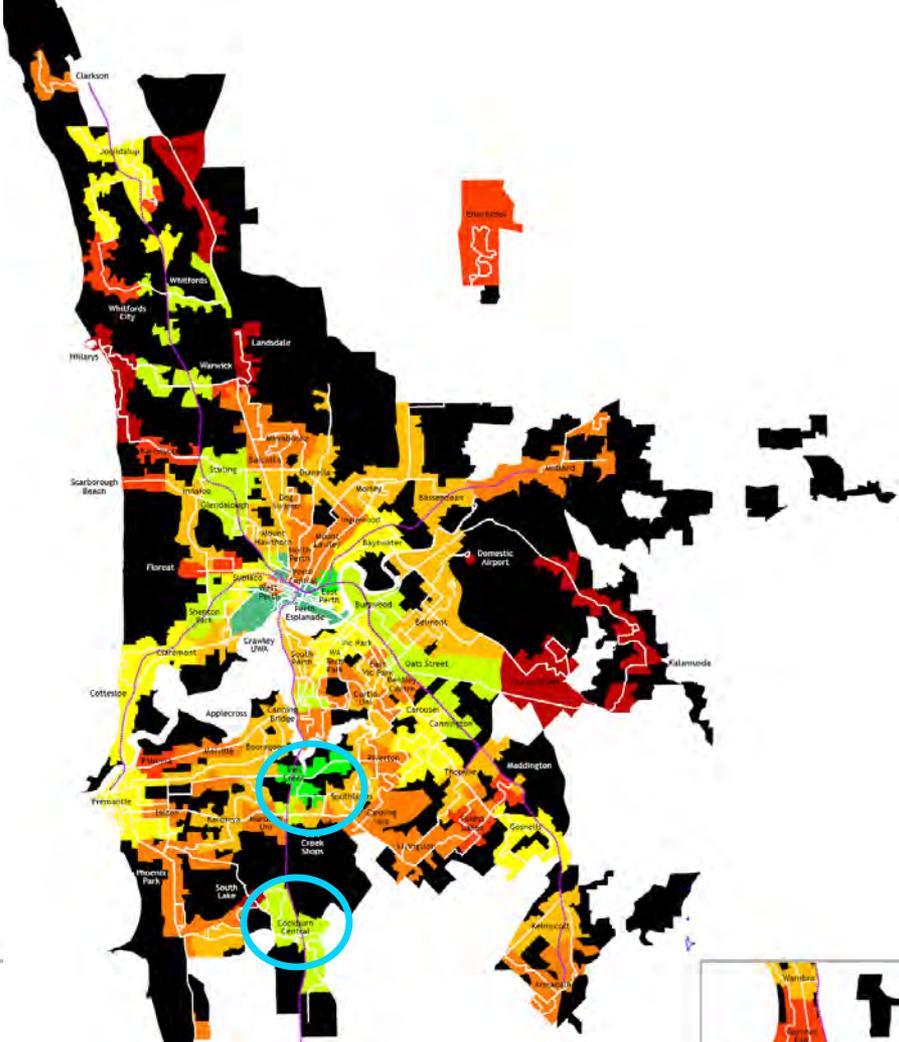
# Degree Centrality 'Transfer Intensity'







**PERTH 2007**  
Public Transport Accessibility Synopsis



**PERTH 2008**  
Public Transport Accessibility Synopsis



# Black hole for buses, trains

A high proportion of the western suburbs is a public transport-unfriendly "black hole", according to a study.

Much of Cambridge, parts of Chelmsford and Chelmsford and over-ride suburbs get the worst possible rating by the study.

They are described as "urbanised areas without minimal service", the lowest of eight ratings in the Spatial Network Analysis of Multimodal Transport Systems.

The 52 page study was produced last year but hasn't been publicly launched.

The study's main focus is the M119 rail line, which it says has generally improved public transport across the metropolis.

But relative accessibility for the Fremantle rail line stayed the same or dropped.

Curran University's Cheryl Curtis told the *PA* she was surprised by some central and western areas showing poor public transport options.

"We expected that in outlying areas," Professor Curtis said. "It was quite a surprise western suburbs areas were so poor"

Professor Curtis is modelling four scenarios to see what might improve the situation.

A combination of light rail servicing inner and western suburbs and a middle ring of improved public transport could improve public transport options for people in the west.

"The finding is dramatic and not what we were expecting" she said.

Cambridge mayor Simon Wubben said planners wanted to make car journeys more difficult to encourage public transport use.

"But they are not providing the public transport the road will be a mess," he said.

"When I lived in London our local tube ran every five minutes and it was my main method of transport.

"I now live in City Beach and the bus comes past my house once an hour - guess how often I catch the bus?"

He said there would have to be a massive increase in public transport spending to get people out of their cars and on to buses and trains.

"And I don't see that happening any time soon," he said.

	Walkable Catchment Population 2008	Walkable Catchment Employment 2008	Walkable Catchment Activities 2008	30 min Catchment Population 2008	30 min Catchment Employment 2008	Composite Public Transport Accessibility	Rank	
Activity Centres								28
High Accessibility								
Perth Central-Northbridge	9,992	50,987	60,979	352,512	245,786	31.3	1	(could do with more housing)
Perth Esplanade	4,011	30,589	34,600	328,179	233,050	27.9	2	(could do with more housing)
Bull Creek	14,462	2,019	16,481	215,569	182,530	20.4	3	(could do with more jobs)
Claisebrook-East Perth	5,305	6,514	11,819	215,102	194,974	20.0	4	(could do with more housing)
Oats Street	5,825	12,430	18,255	176,996	177,829	18.7	9	(could do with more housing)
Canning Bridge	8,353	1,653	10,006	227,962	190,196	17.8	10	Unbalanced Node: Intensify Land Use
Medium Accessibility								
Cottesloe-Mosman Park	12,497	1,205	13,702	142,927	157,303	17.2	12	(could do with more jobs) Unbalanced Node: Intensify
Gosnells	6,687	1,219	7,906	161,131	164,651	16.6	14	Land Use
Subiaco	11,355	4,073	15,428	145,324	178,868	15.1	16	Unbalanced Place: Improve Accessibility
Thornlie	16,828	1,803	18,631	131,001	164,672	14.5	18	Unbalanced Node: Intensify Land Use
Low Accessibility								
Balcatta	16,828	1,803	18,631	131,001	164,672	14.5	18	Unbalanced Place: Improve Accessibility Unbalanced Place: Improve

Using SNAMUTS to inform future metropolitan growth

# ...research questions

30

What is the contribution land use-transport integration can make towards the Network City and Metro Transport Strategy goals?

How can SNAMUTS help assess and inform this process...

...which development scenario provides for greatest public transport accessibility potential?

The testing of these types of scenarios enables key Network City questions to be examined...

- Which Activity Centres and Corridors can best be intensified?
- Which Centres should perform a regional role and which a local role?
- Where should public transport investment (infrastructure, service improvement) go?

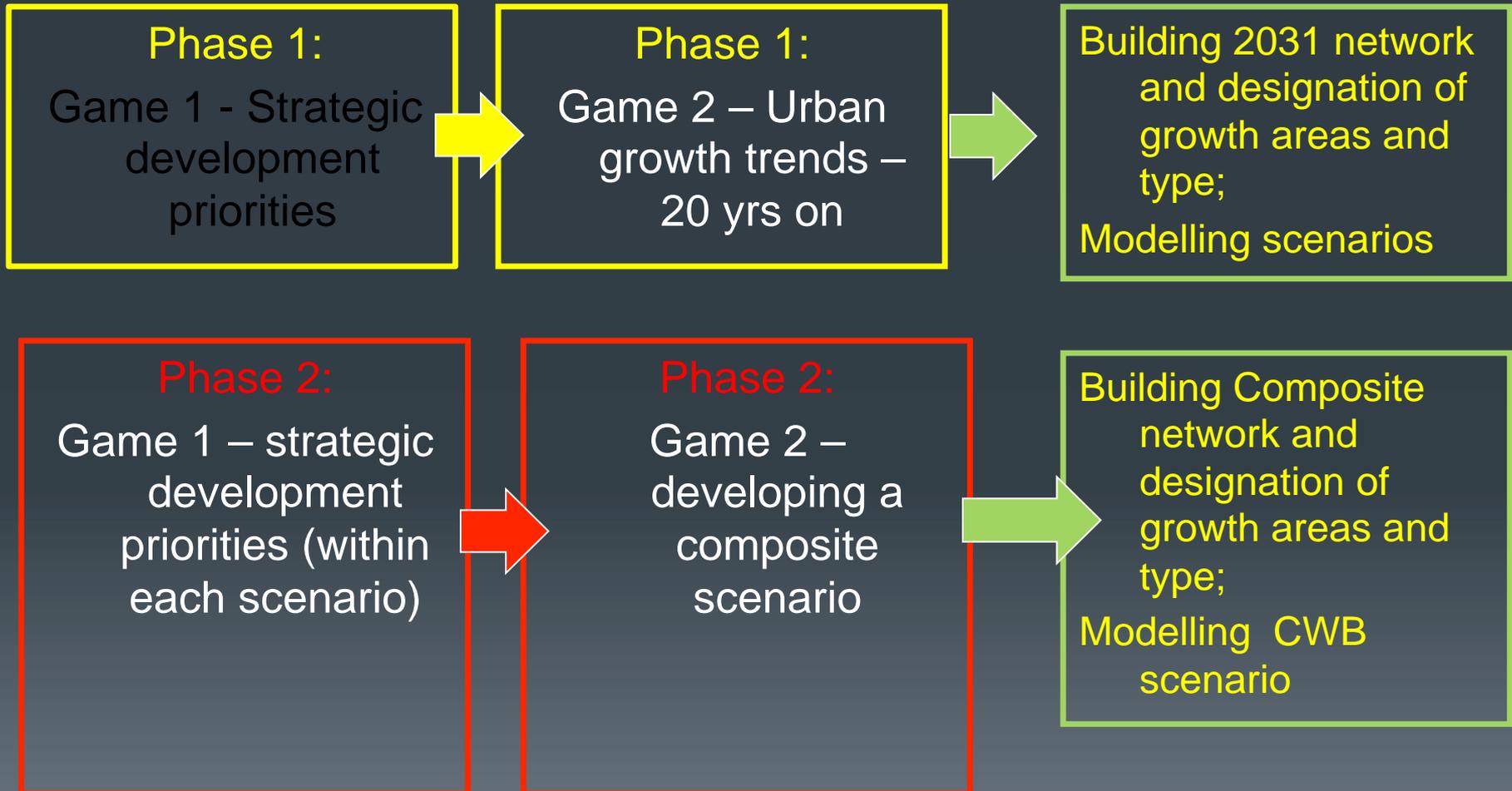
Answers to these questions will provide a robust basis for decisions about the future metropolitan structure.

# Scenario development...

32

Discursive process...

Model development...



# Game 1: STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Group discussions about one given strategic direction

Accept or modify public transport infrastructure and explain why:

- Locate Centres
- **Optimise the public transport network**
- Hierarchy of centres
  - Population / employment
  - Size - numbers or symbols - double and triple....

# scenarios for testing - 2006-2031

34

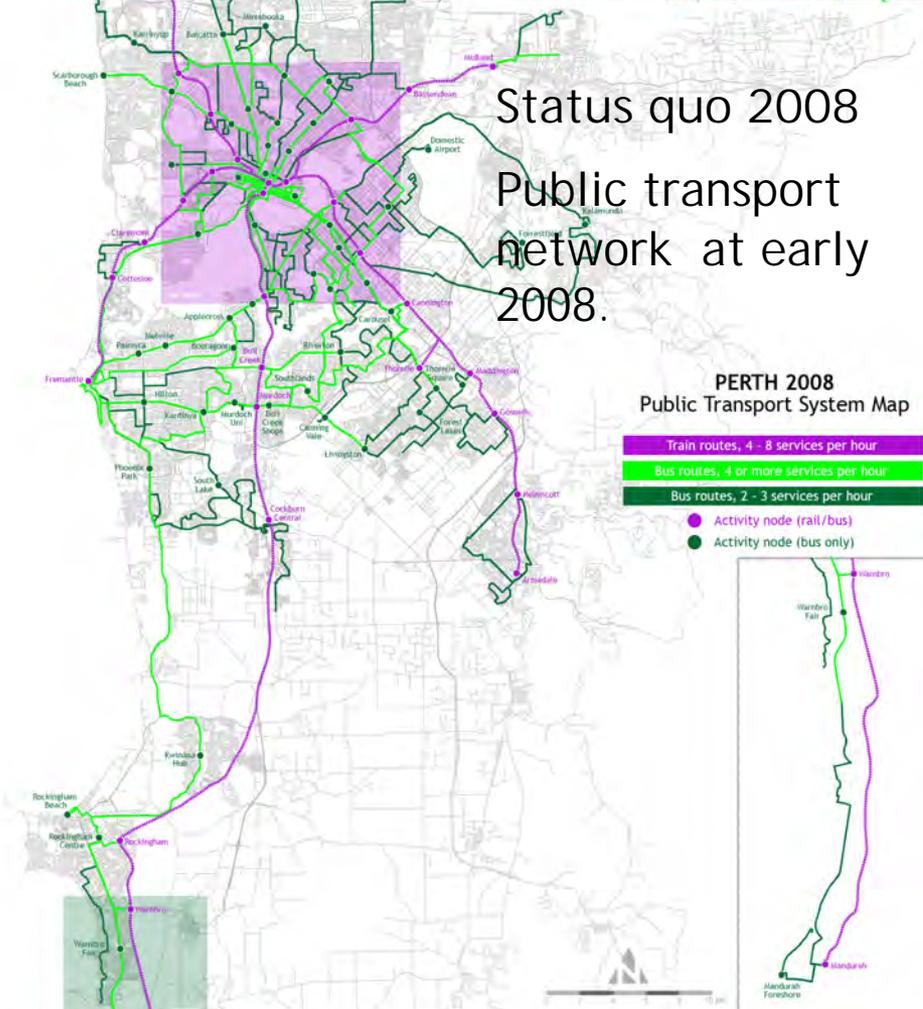
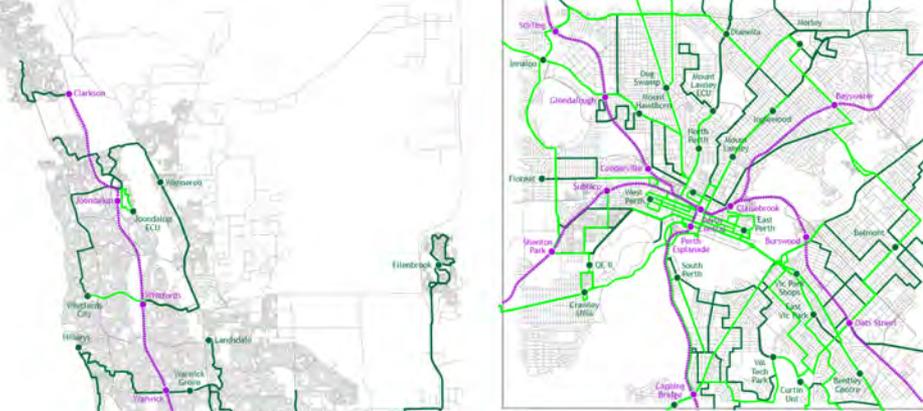
(locating 375,000 more houses)

**Status Quo:** Public transport network in early 2008.

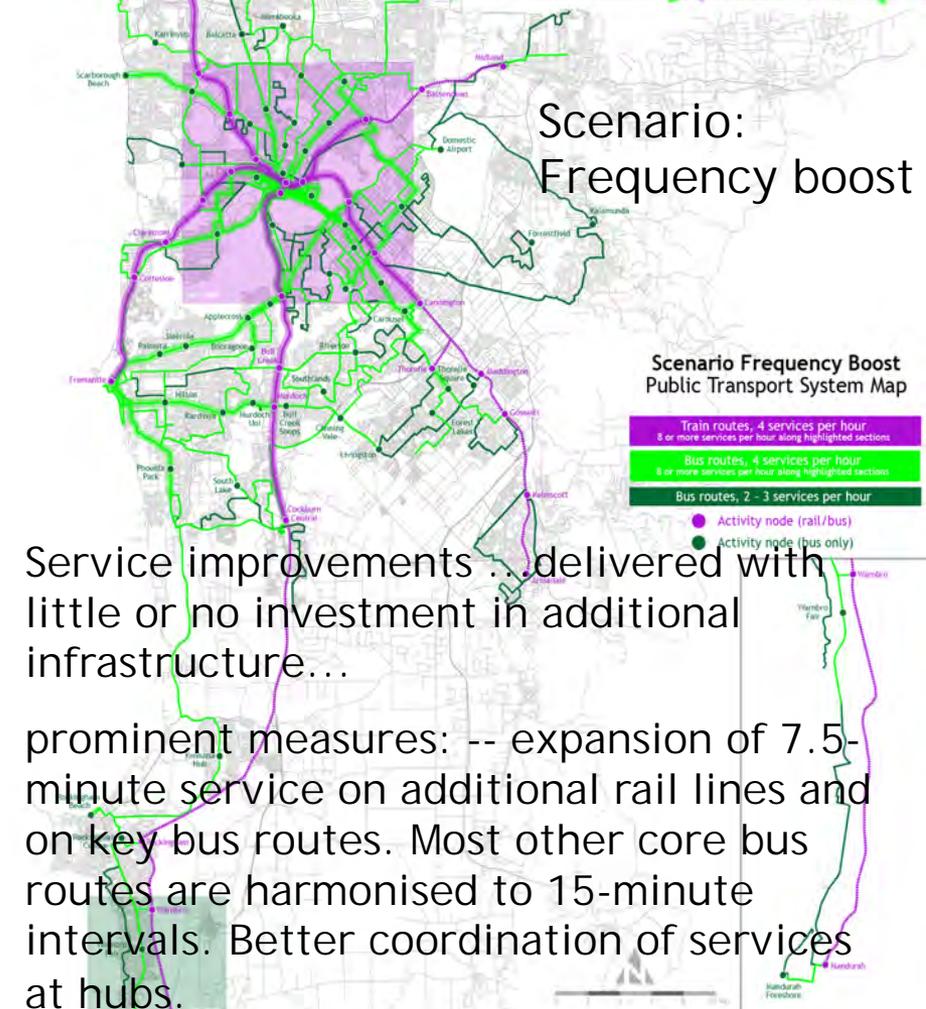
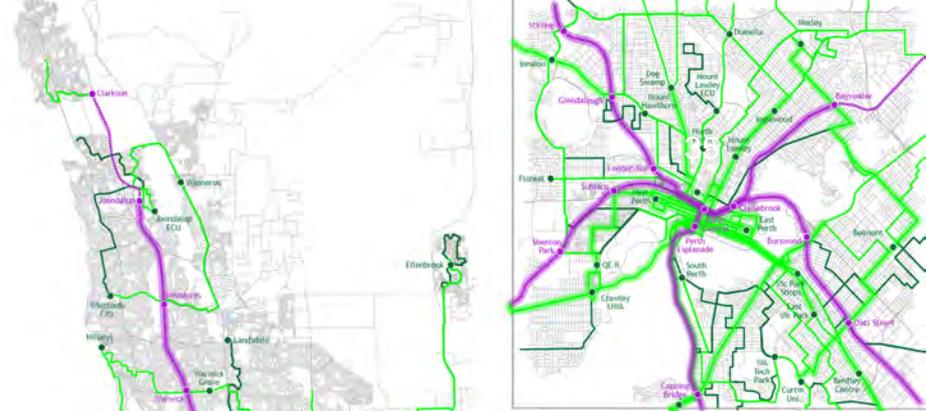
**Frequency Boost:** Public transport network after a comprehensive package of service improvements, achievable in the short term.

**Future land use-transport integration scenarios with a 2031 horizon:**

- Light Rail Corridors
- Middle Ring Centres
- Fringe Expansion



Status quo 2008  
Public transport  
network at early  
2008.

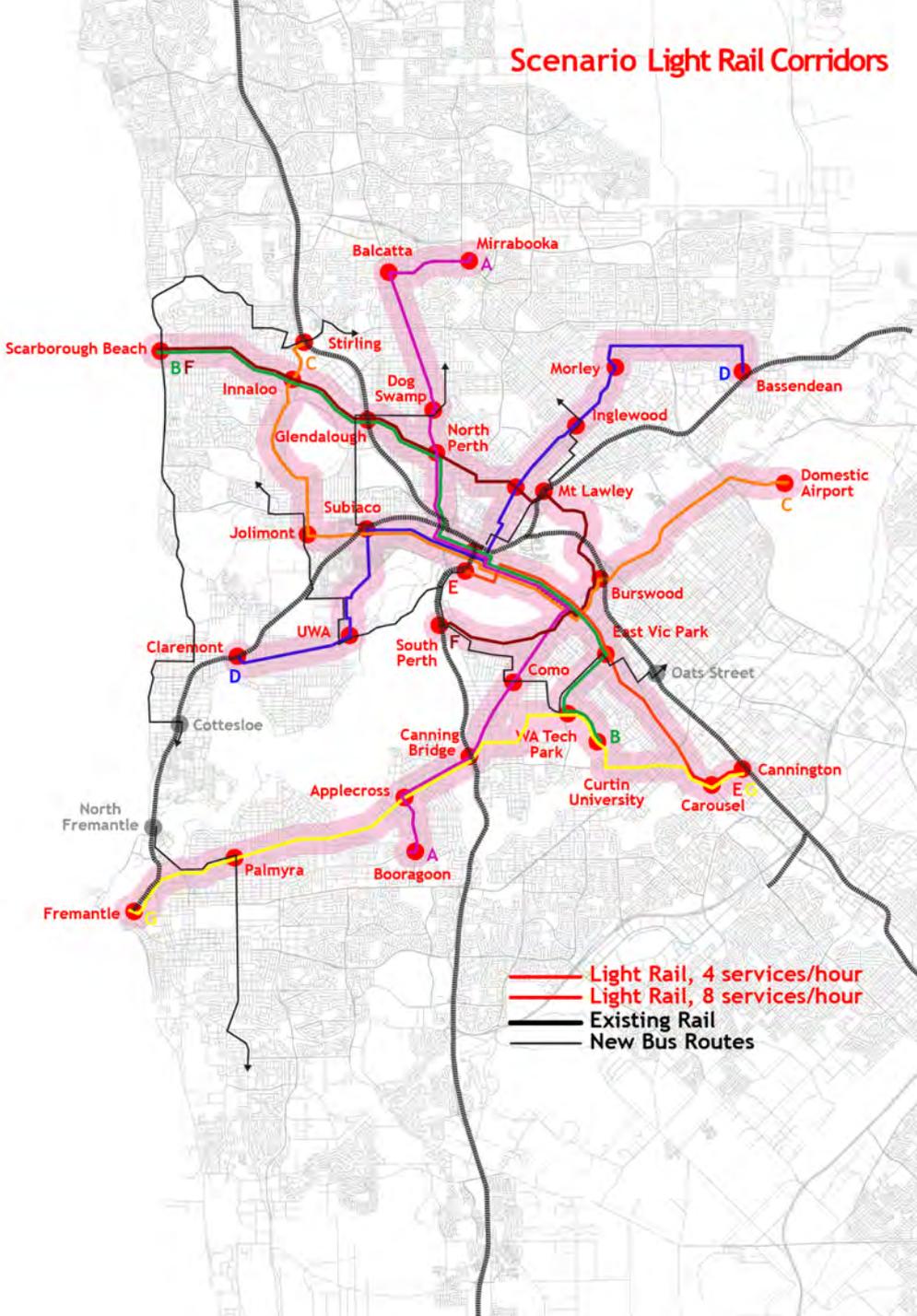


Scenario:  
Frequency boost

Service improvements ... delivered with  
little or no investment in additional  
infrastructure...

prominent measures: -- expansion of 7.5-  
minute service on additional rail lines and  
on key bus routes. Most other core bus  
routes are harmonised to 15-minute  
intervals. Better coordination of services  
at hubs.

## Scenario Light Rail Corridors



# scenario light rail corridors

36

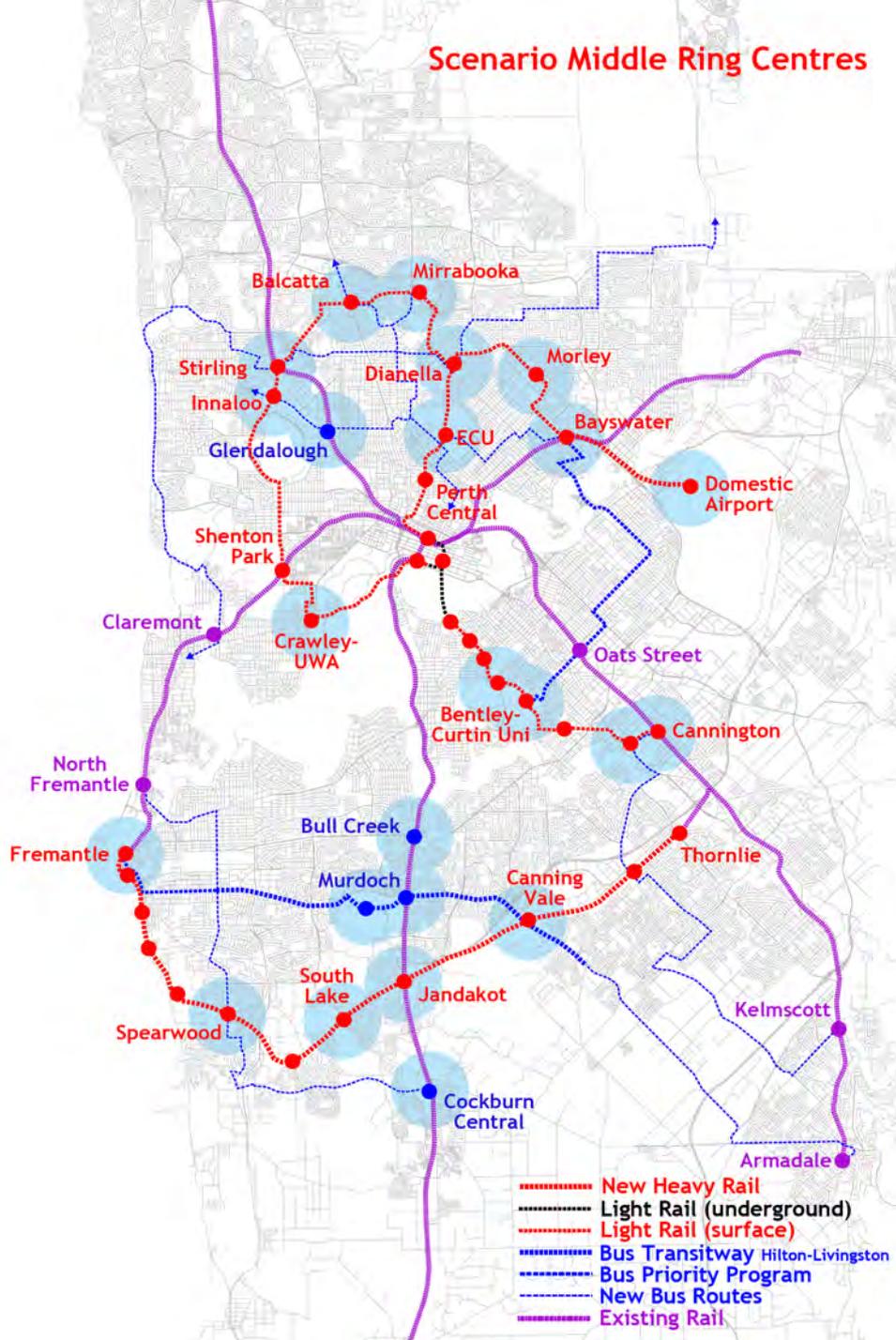
Assumes that all residential and employment growth until 2031 will occur around a gradually introduced network of surface light rail, roughly following the Network City activity corridors in the inner urban area.

Contains 120 km of double-track light rail with priority over road traffic, achieved where necessary through lane conversion and traffic calming.

Land uses in the 400-metre catchment of the light rail corridor will be rezoned to accommodate an average activity density of 104 persons and jobs per hectare in 2031 (208 in Perth's CBD) [say 40du/ha].

85% of urbanised area remains as it is...

# scenario middle ring centres



Assumes that all residential and employment growth until 2031 will occur in selected activity hubs forming a ring around Perth's middle suburbs.

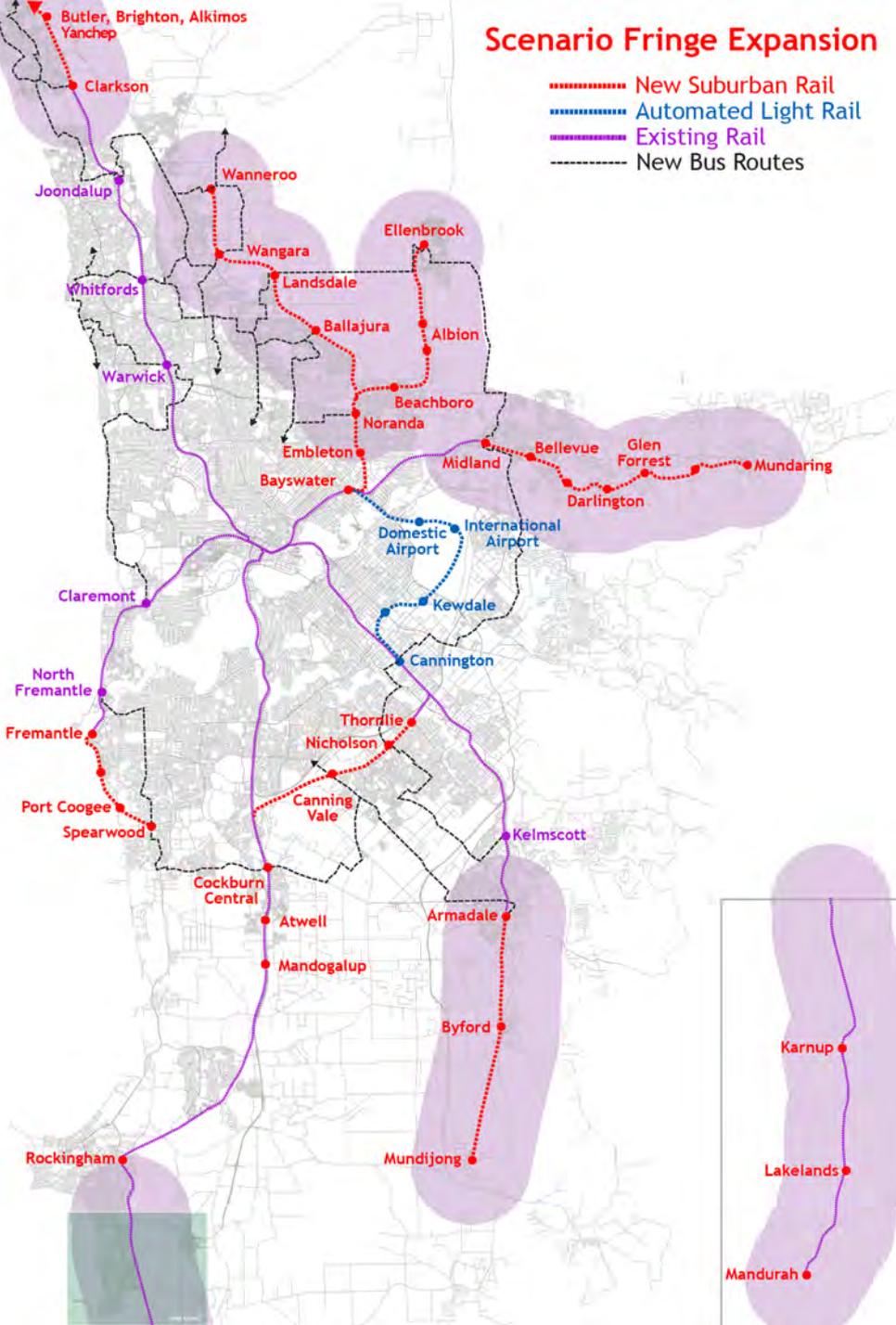
Contains 32 km of new double-track railway with 11 new stations (largely on or adjacent to existing tracks), 55 km of light rail (including a 4-km tunnel under the CBD and Swan River), and a 15-km bus transitway along South Street.

Land uses in the 800-metre catchments of the middle ring centres will be rezoned to accommodate an average activity density of 208 residents and jobs per hectare in 2031 (plus a minimum of 104 in central Perth and Fremantle) [say 80du/ha].

94% of urbanised area remains as it is...

## Scenario Fringe Expansion

- ..... New Suburban Rail
- ..... Automated Light Rail
- ..... Existing Rail
- New Bus Routes



# scenario fringe expansion

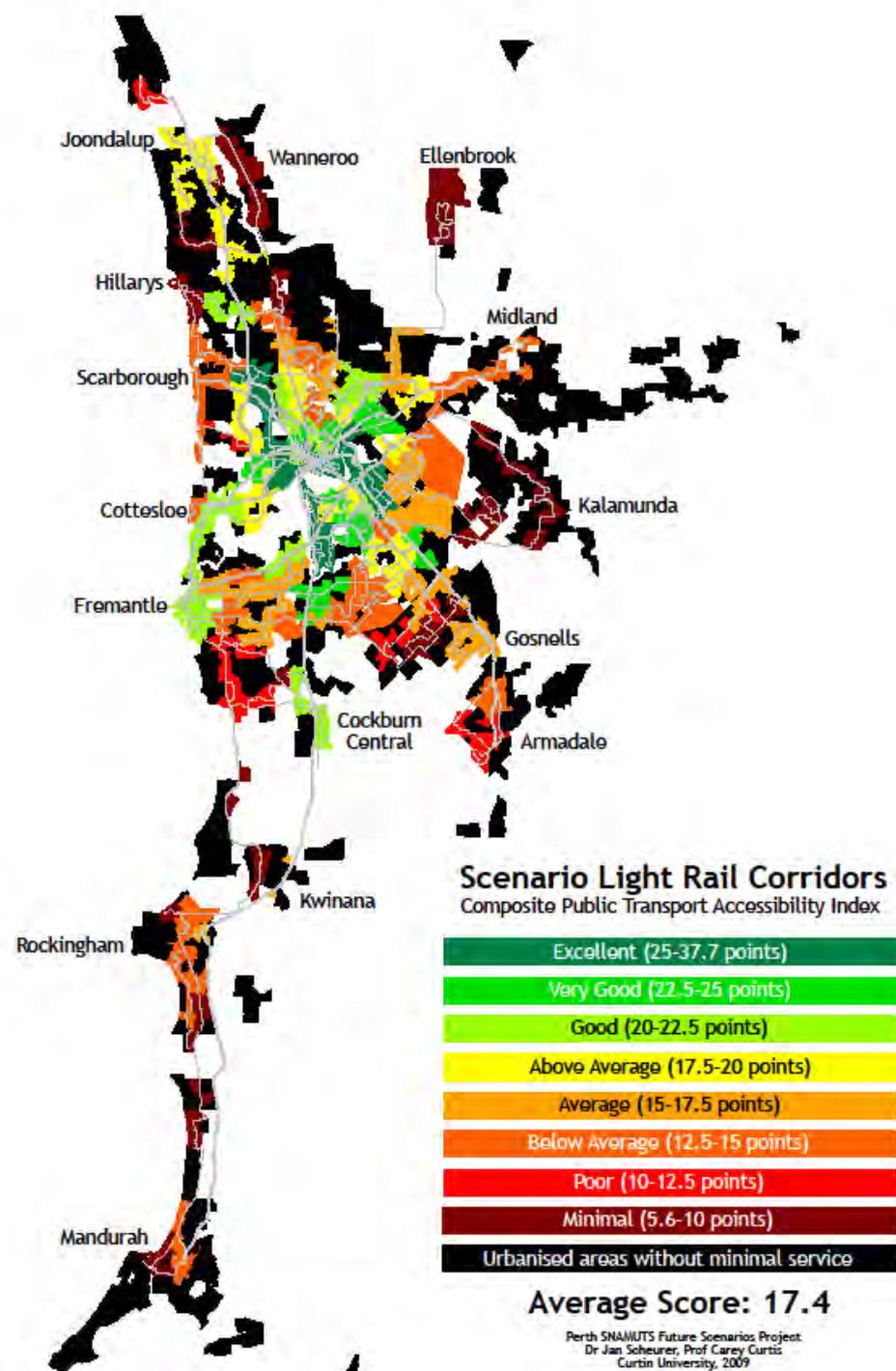
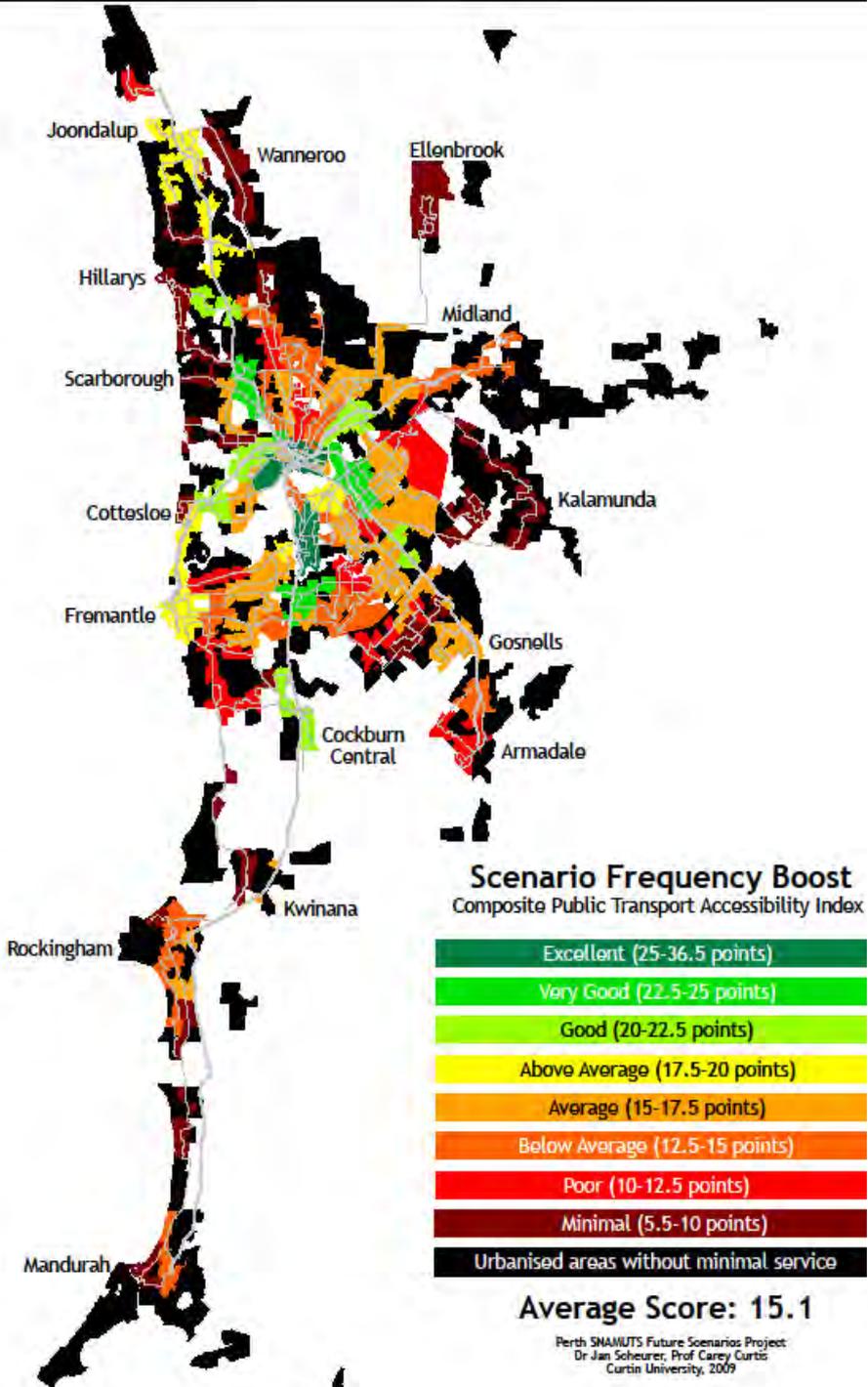
38

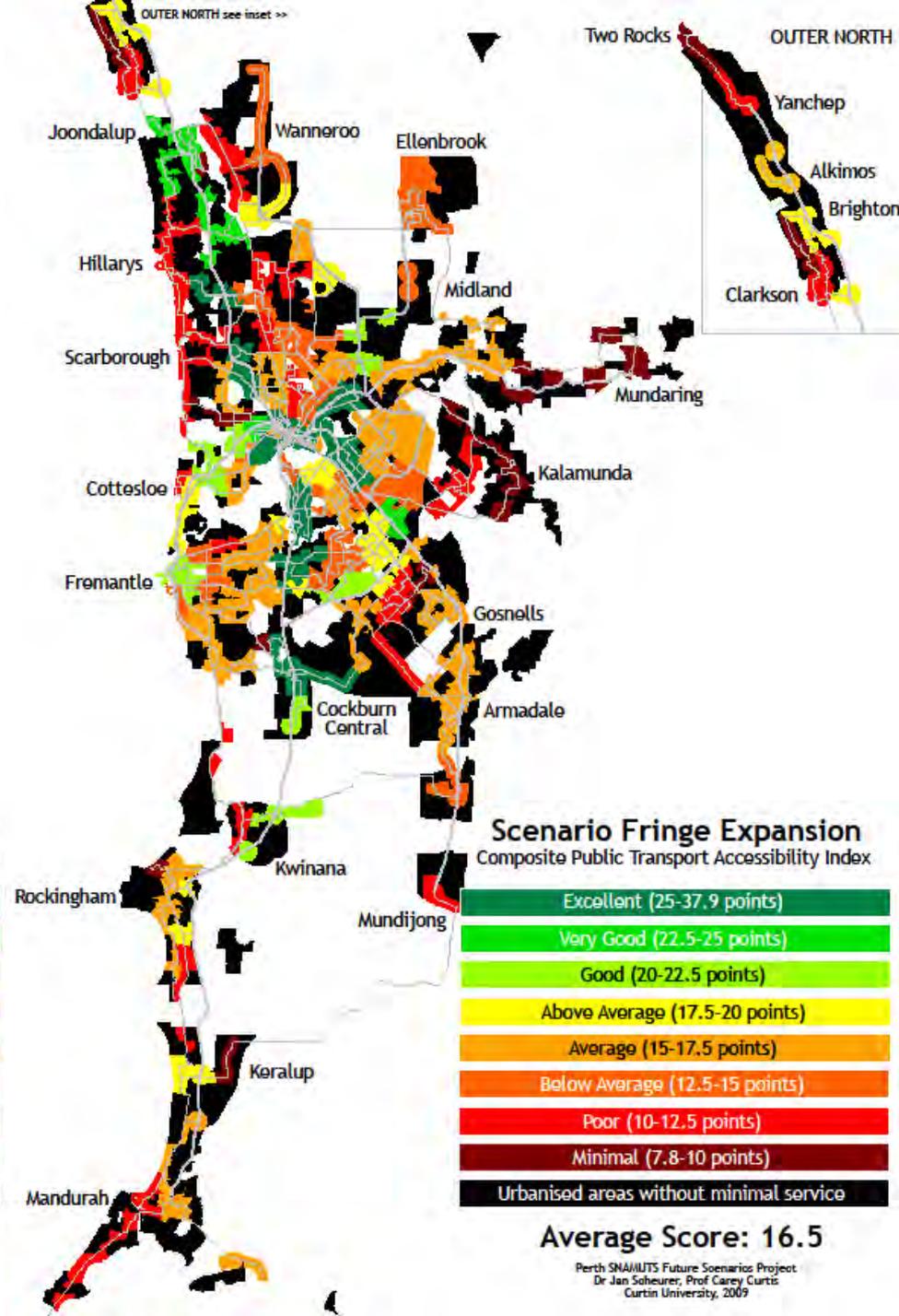
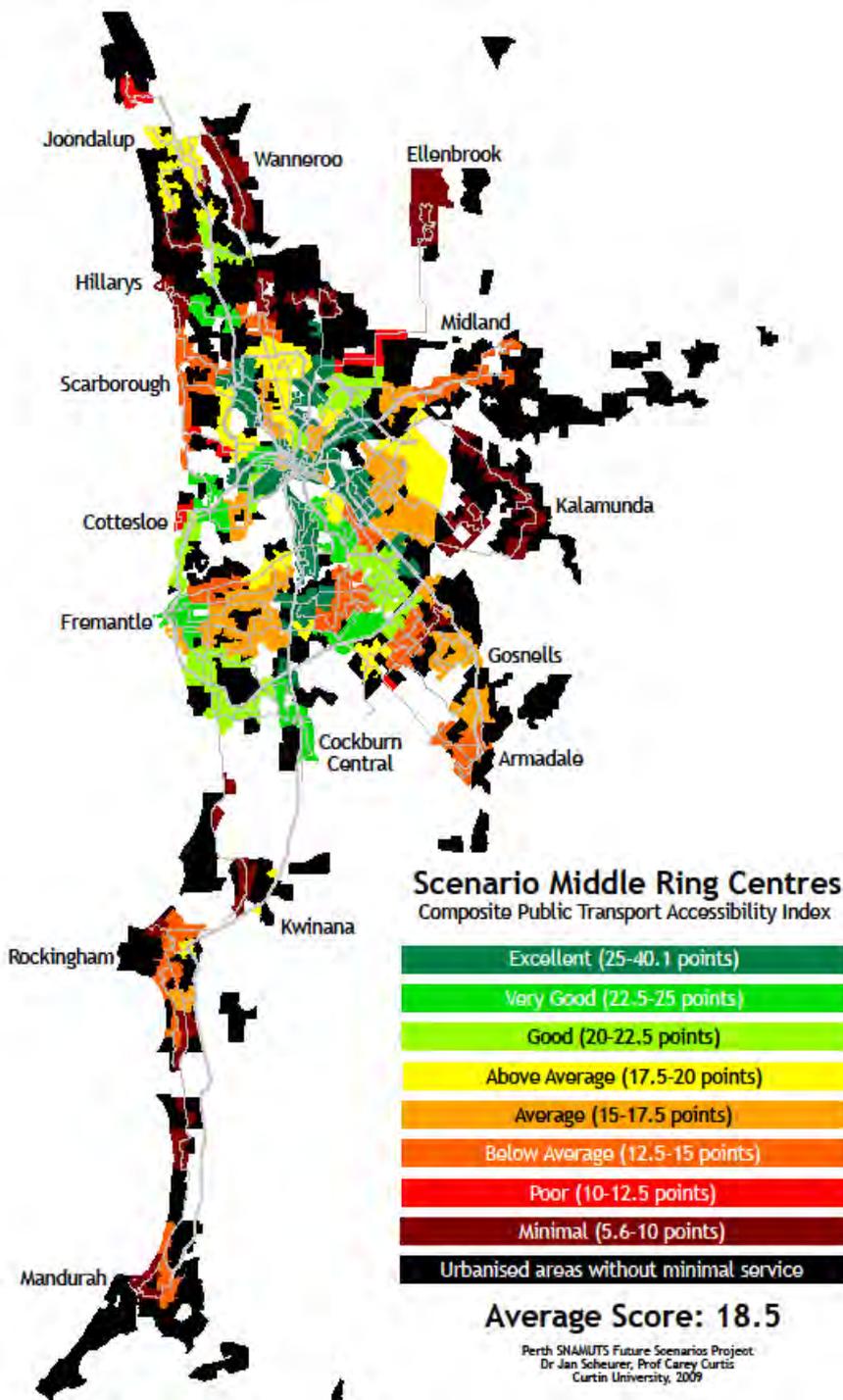
Assumes that all residential and employment growth until 2031 will occur on Greenfield sites at the fringe of the metropolitan area.

Contains 110 km of new electric railway with 32 new stations (some on or adjacent to existing or reactivated tracks) and a 20-km automated light rail route to link the airport and adjacent areas to the rail system. The bus network has been adapted to provide more frequent cross-suburban links in outer areas.

The 800-metre catchment areas of the new rail stations are designed to accommodate 10,000 residents+jobs (activity density of 50/hectare) [say 20 du/ha].

Outputs phase 1...

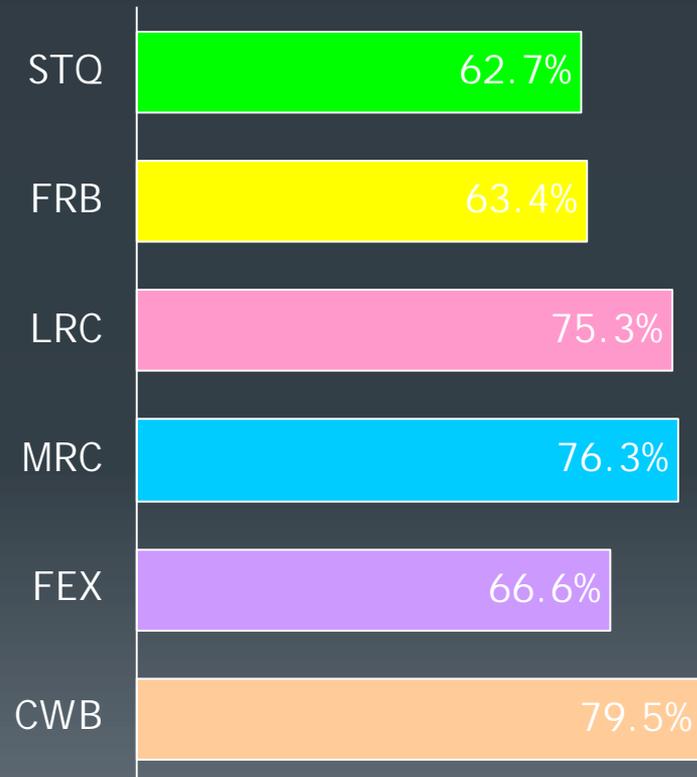
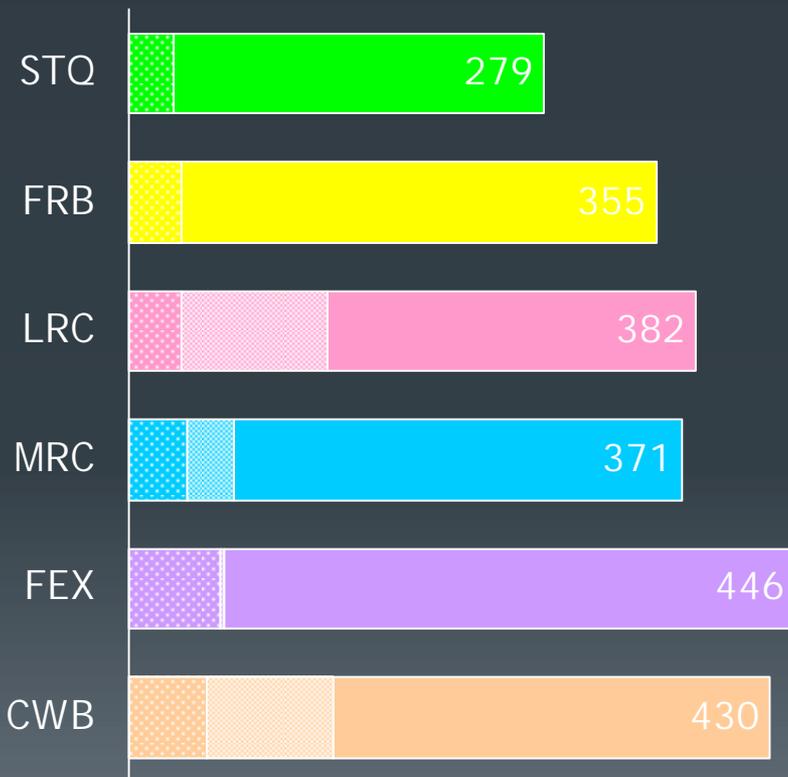




# summary of findings: network coverage

Service Intensity: Service hours per hour (weekday interpeak) on the minimum-standard network

Network Coverage: Percentage of residents and jobs in metropolitan area within walking distance of minimum-standard service



STQ = Status Quo  
MRC = Middle Ring Centres

FRB = Frequency Boost  
FEX = Fringe Expansion

LRC = Light Rail Corridors  
CWB = Composite Wishbone

# Phase 2 - Game 1

## STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES (you can't have it all!)

### Group discussions about one given scenario

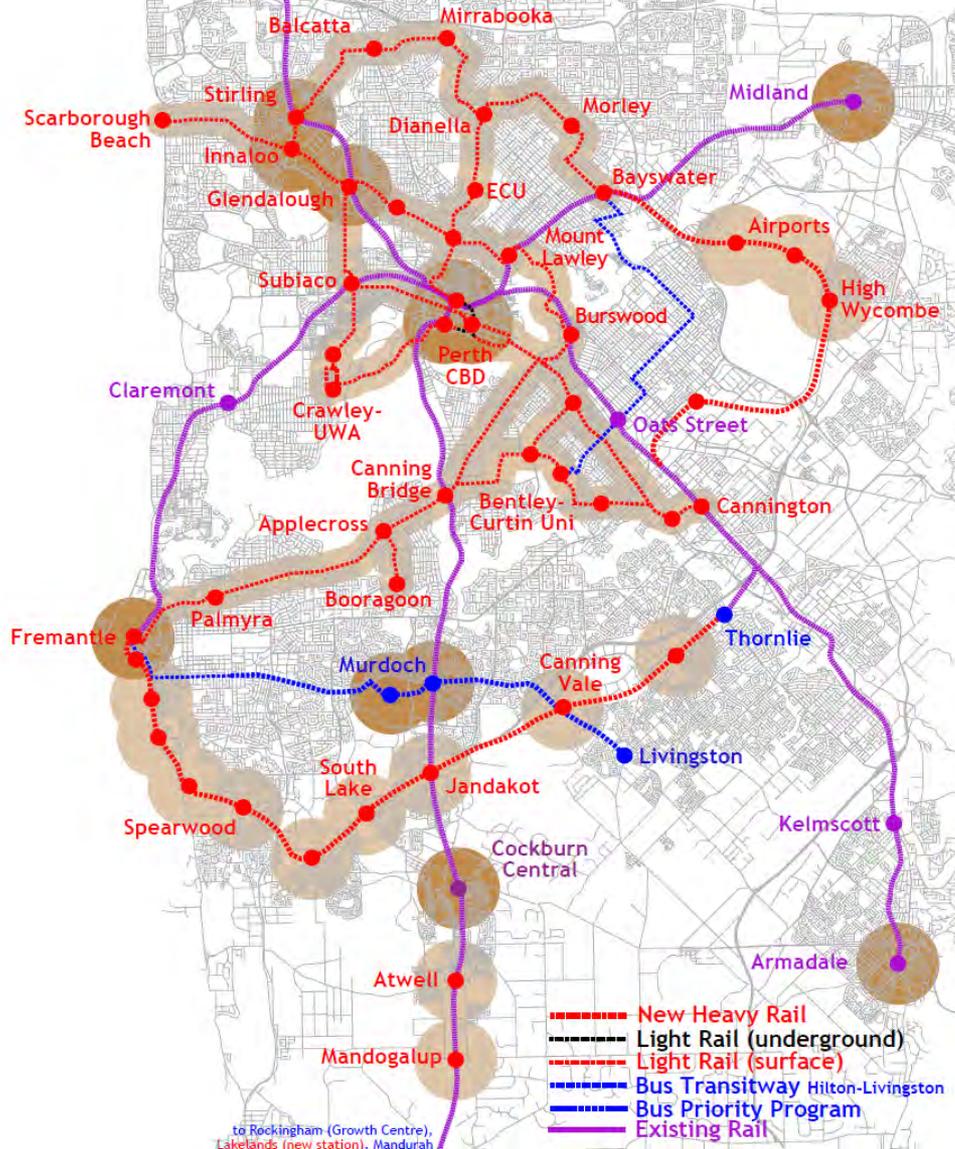
As a public transport users lobby group – which aspects of the network in your scenario should be given priority and why

## Phase 2 - Game 2

### Creating a meaningful composite scenario

- Re-group (drawing one from each scenario group)
- Each group develops a composite scenario:
  - land use strategy;
  - public transport network.

## Scenario Composite Wishbone



# scenario

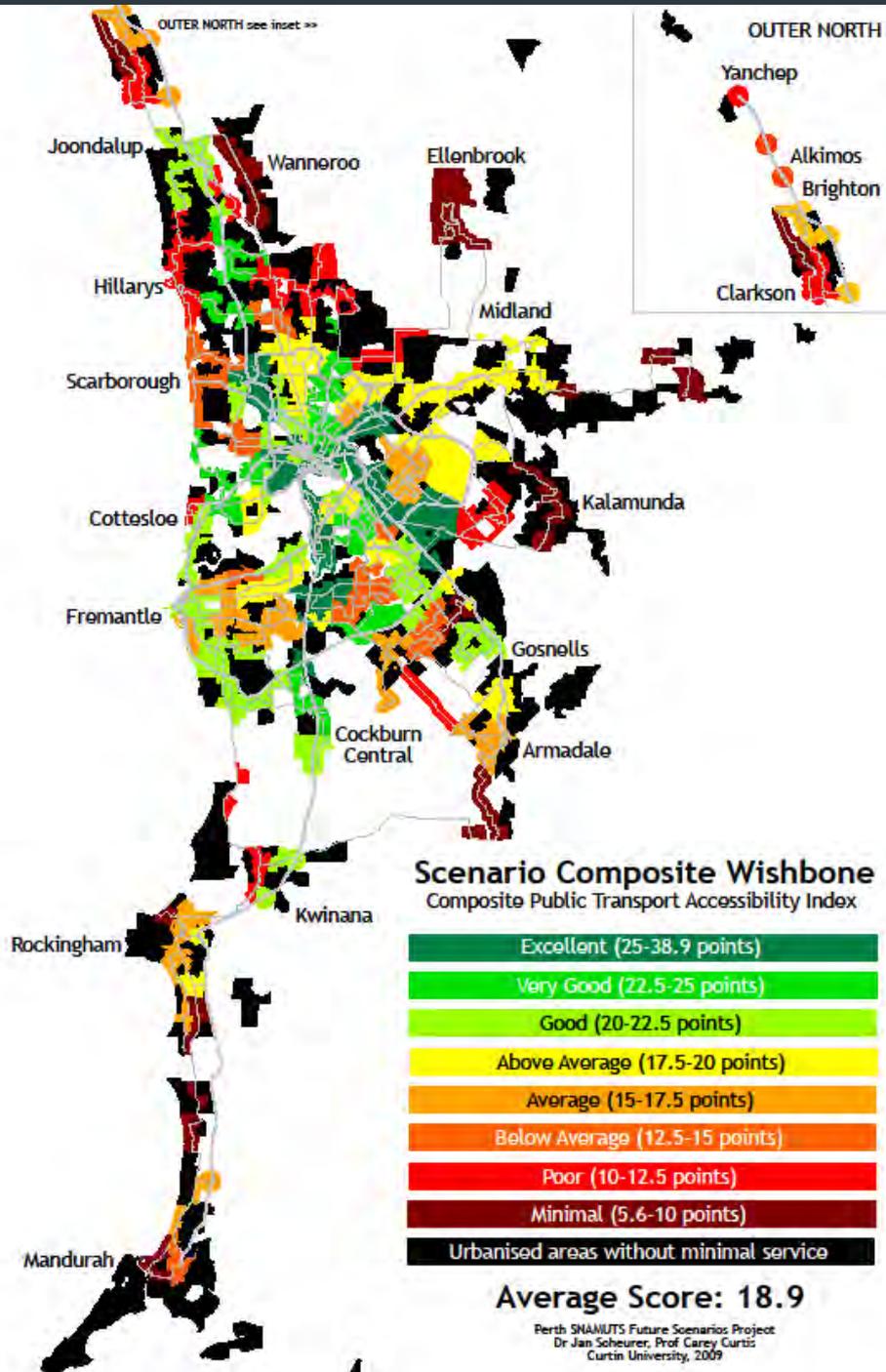
# composite wishbone

45

Incorporates the best-performing elements of the three previous scenarios while allowing for all three forms of urban growth to continue concurrently.

Contains heavy rail extensions between Clarkson and Yanchep (northern corridor) and along a southern orbital between Bayswater and Fremantle via the airport (approx. 60 km), and a 109-km mixed light rail network centred on a wishbone-shaped orbital between Fremantle and Scarborough, a north-eastern radial including a short CBD tunnel and several branch lines. Also includes a bus transitway along South Street (15 km) as well as several new orbital and diagonal bus routes to link the growth areas.

Urban consolidation and growth to occur in the 400/800-metre catchments of all new public transport facilities, at an average target density of 75 residents and jobs per hectare [say 30du/ha] (except in Perth's CBD and in the activity centres of Armadale, Fremantle, Joondalup, Midland, Murdoch, Rockingham and Stirling-Glendalough where the target density is 150 res + jobs per ha).



Using SNAMUTS to inform future public transport options

## Land use assumptions and service input per scenario (2009 = Status Quo, Scenario 2031)

	2009	2031
Service Intensity: Train	44	80 (+81%)
Service Intensity: Bus	587	915 (+56%)
Service Intensity: Ferry	1	3 (+118%)
<b>Service Intensity: Total</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>997 (+58%)</b>
Number of Nodes	46	49
Activities in metropolitan area	2,629,497	3,655,399
Activities in serviced area	2,528,198 (96%)	3,513,548 (96%)

## our evaluation of the network we focussed on the following objectives:

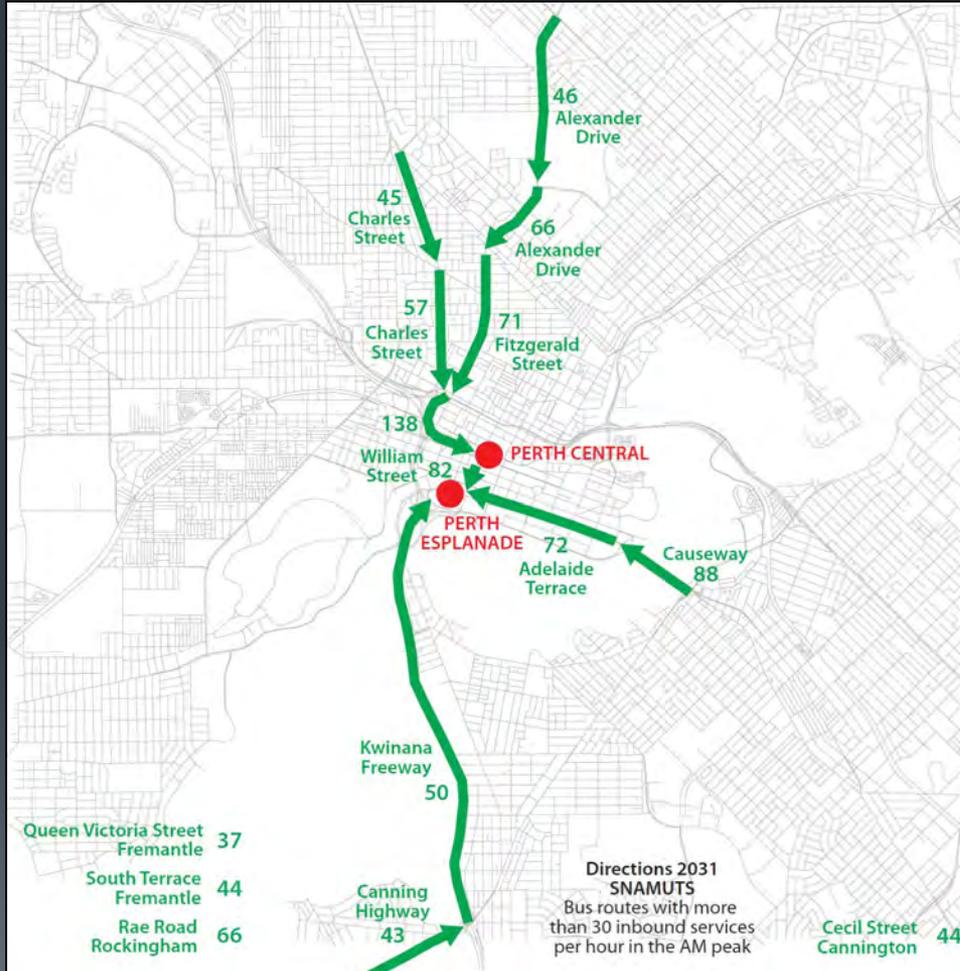
- The extent to which potential accessibility of quality public transport was expanded to a larger proportion of metropolitan residents;
- The extent to which accessibility was enhanced across fourteen key activity centres (defined by PTA);
- The public transport 'effort' (performance of different transport modes and across corridors).

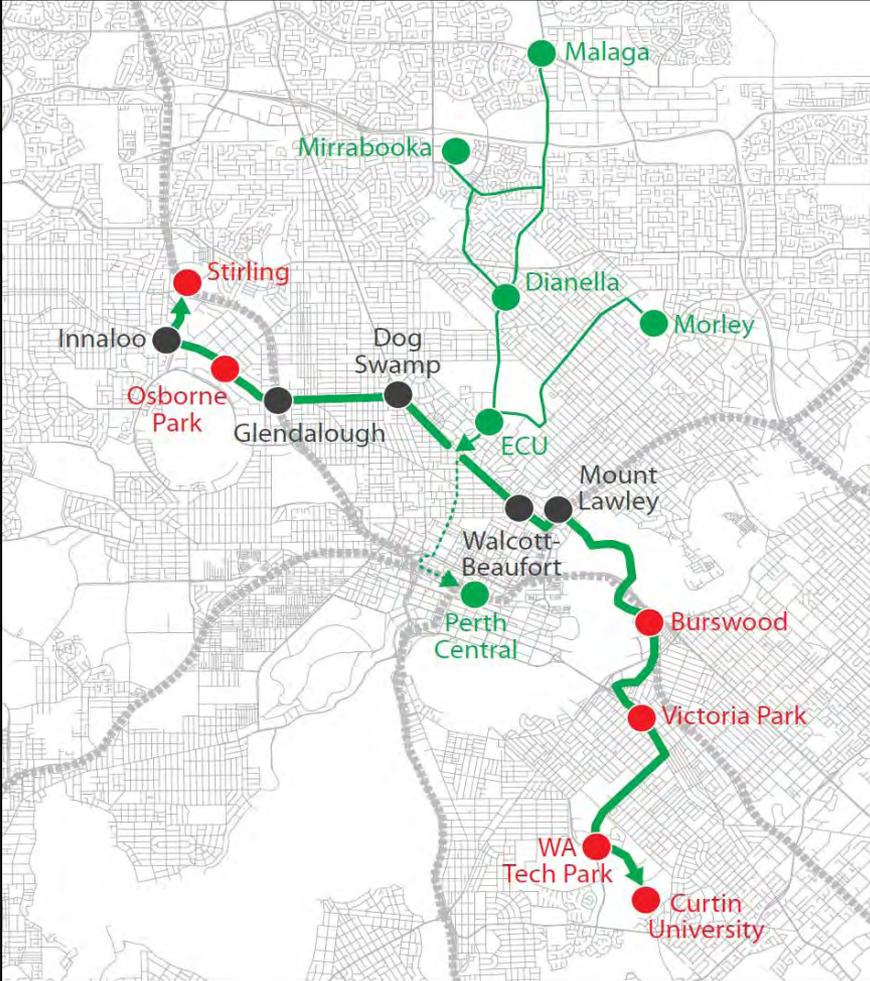
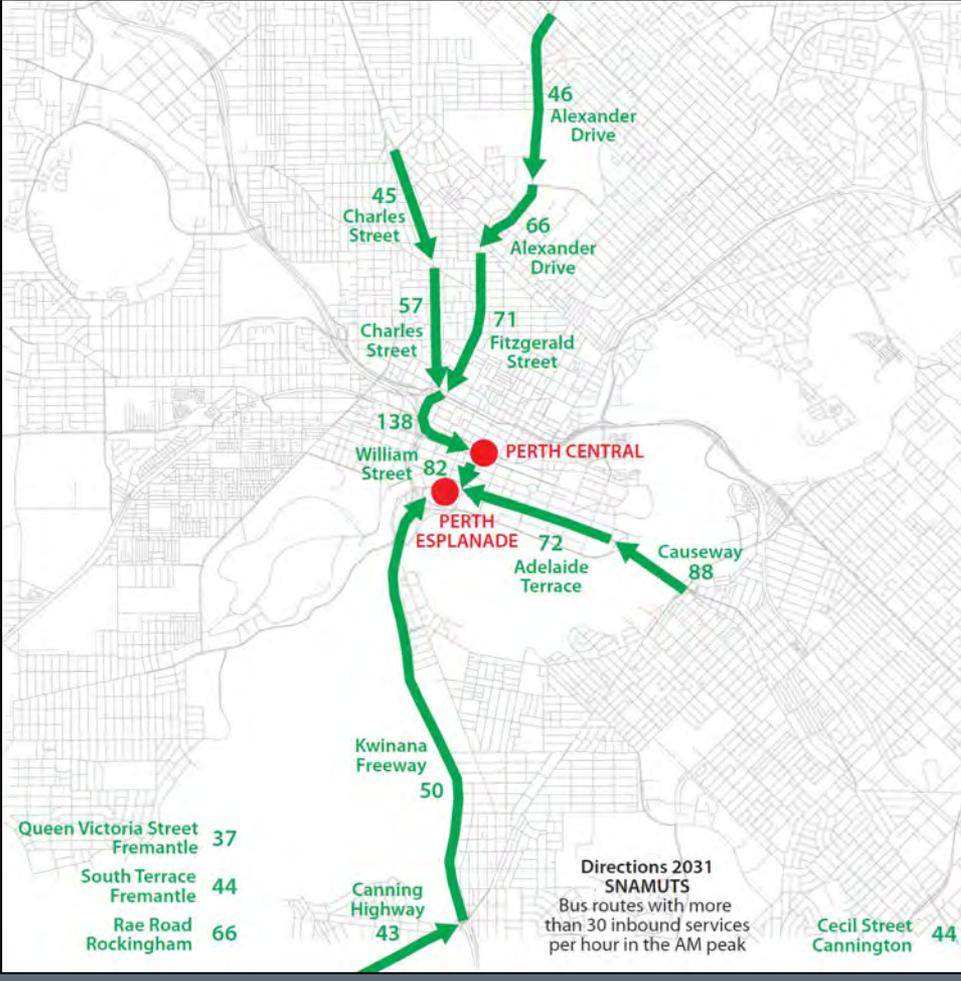
<b>Composite Accessibility Index for key centres</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2031</b>
AC1 (outer region)	12.5	15.4 (+2.9)
AC2 (middle region)	16.5	19.5 (+3.0)
AC3 (inner region – major employment centre)	16.3	20.5 (+4.2)
AC4 (inner region)	19.6	21.9 (+2.3)
AC5 (outer region)	20.0	24.0 (+4.0)
AC6 (outer region)	16.0	17.8 (+1.8)
AC7 (outer region)	17.0	19.0 (+2.0)
AC8 (middle region – large employment centre)	24.9	28.8 (+3.9)
AC9 (Airport)	7.3	19.9 (+12.6)
AC10 Perth Central	33.5	37.7 (+4.2)
AC11 (outer region)	16.2	18.6 (+2.4)
AC12 (middle region – major employment centre)	25.6	29.0 (+3.4)
AC13 (inner region – major employment centre)	17.1	22.4 (+5.3)
AC14 (outer region)	-	15.4
<b>Average Key Centres</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>22.1 (+3.4)</b>
<i>Standard Deviation Key Centres</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>6.1</i>
<b>Average Network</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>18.0 (+3.1)</b>
<i>Standard Deviation Network</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>6.5</i>

Higher figures indicate better accessibility, up to a theoretical maximum of 45

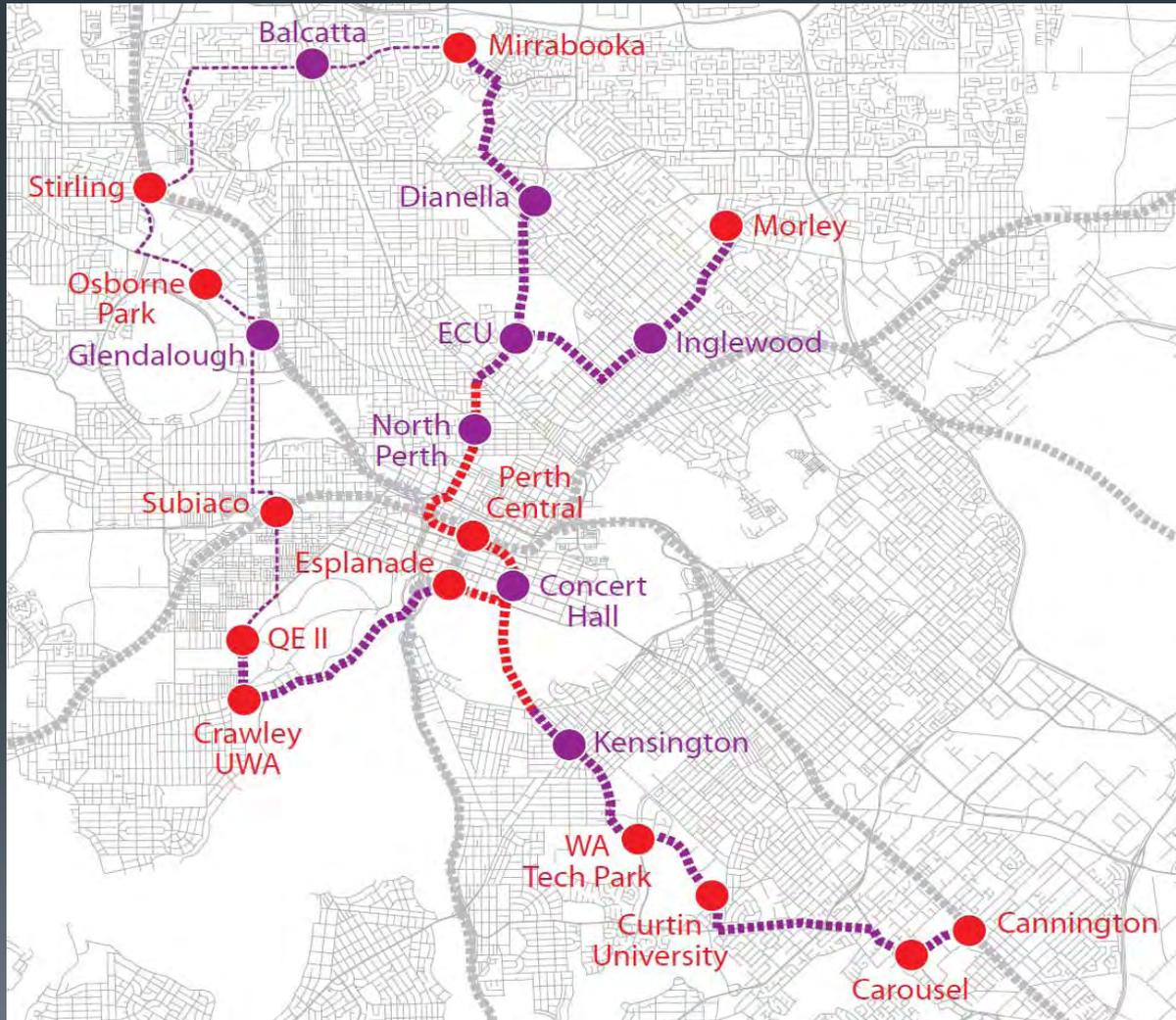
<b>Contour catchment change for key activity centres</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2031</b>
AC1 (outer region)	17.1%	26.6%
AC2 (middle region)	28.2%	31.9%
AC3 (inner region – major employment centre)	36.1%	<b>46.1%</b>
AC4 (inner region)	45.2%	45.9%
AC5 (outer region)	35.2%	49.4%
AC6 (outer region)	14.1%	15.9%
AC7 (outer region)	37.8%	40.1%
AC8 (middle region – large employment centre)	62.0%	<b>80.0%</b>
AC9 (Airport)	12.2%	56.8%
AC10 Perth Central	77.8%	<b>83.6%</b>
AC11 (outer region)	23.3%	26.4%
AC12 (middle region – major employment centre)	66.8%	72.9%
AC13 (inner region – major employment centre)	35.9%	<b>59.9%</b>
AC14 (outer region)	-	15.8%
<b>Average Key Centres</b>	<b>37.8%</b>	<b>46.5%</b>
<i>Standard Deviation Key Centres</i>	<i>20.5%</i>	<i>22.2%</i>
<b>Average Network</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>
<i>Standard Deviation Network</i>	<i>19.4%</i>	<i>21.7%</i>

# Issue 1: incremental change results in lost opportunity





# ...towards a solution – higher performing mode





# Setting a benchmark for public transport accessibility

# defining benchmarking (i)

“a standard or point of reference against which things may be compared” (Oxford Dictionary)

At this level of definition we might be asking simply - how do the public transport systems of European cities compare?

“a standard of excellence, achievement etc., against which similar things must be measured or judged” (Online Reference Dictionary)

This definition takes the idea a step further and adds the dimension of excellence or best practice, suggesting the need to establish a benchmark, or metric, for an excellent public transport system.

# defining benchmarking (ii)

What metric should we use?

A common measure is public transport patronage, reflecting concerns about investment (demand-side approach)

Another measure relates to the cost of construction and/or operation.

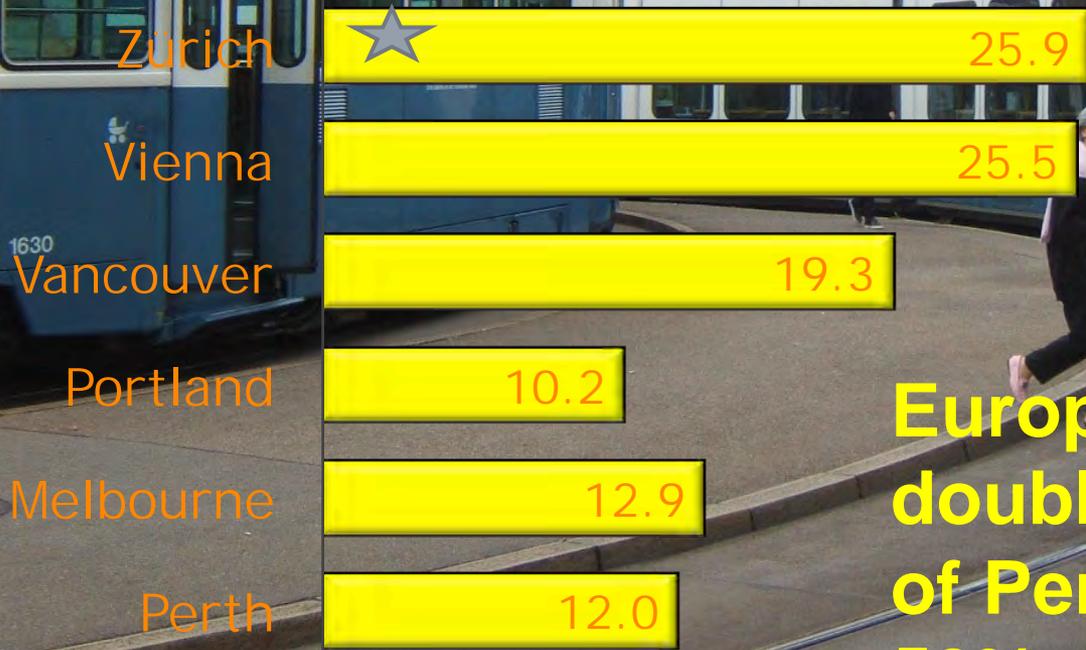
Neither metric corresponds to the salient questions: who (and how many people) get(s) access to public transport, and at what level of service?

## What level of public transport accessibility should Australian Cities aim for?

- What can we learn from European and North American cities:
  - Service input per person
  - Network coverage
  - Public transport trips per person per annum

# how much service input is required?

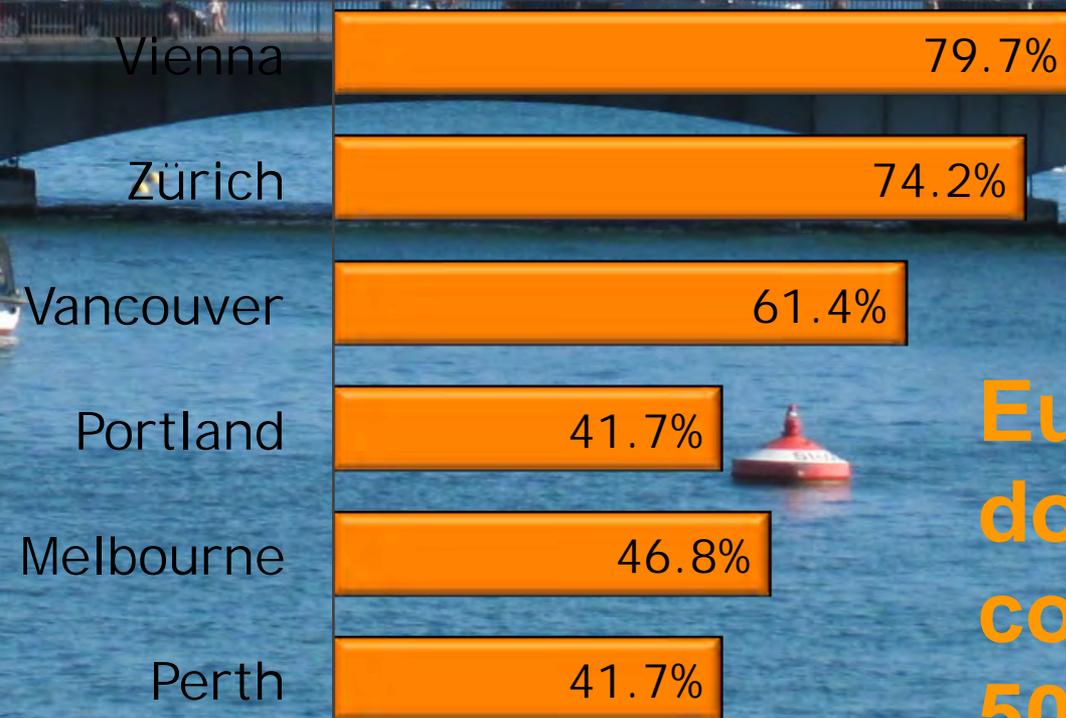
number of public transit vehicles/trains (per 100,000 pop) in simultaneous revenue service



European cities have double the service input of Perth – Vancouver 50% more

# network coverage: what percentage of metropolitan residents and jobs are within walking distance from public transit?

60



European cities have double the network coverage – Vancouver 50% more

# Public transport journeys per person per annum

61

Zurich (1.44M)

401

Vienna (2.48M)

394

Vancouver (2.31M)

154

Portland (1.64M)

56

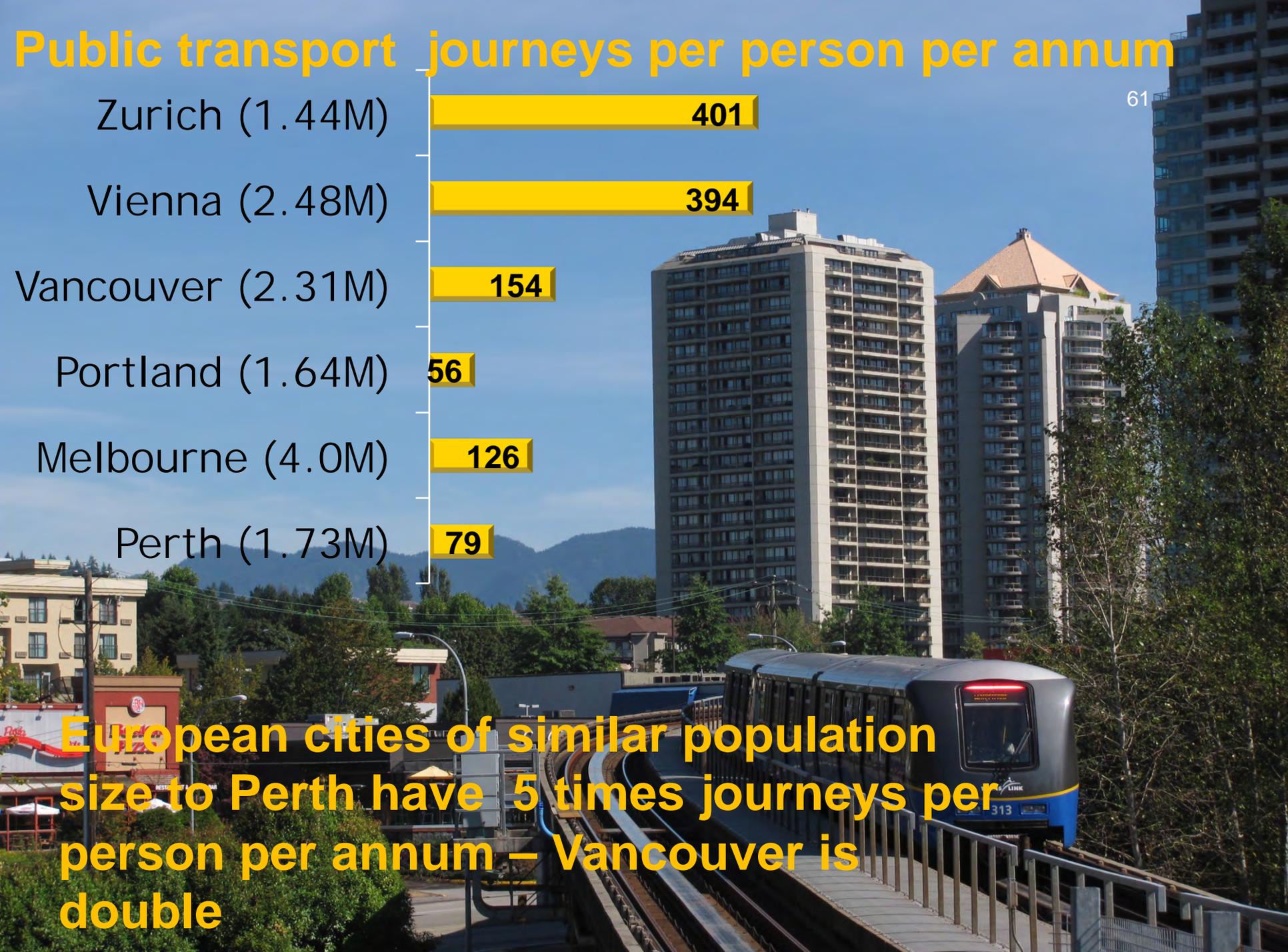
Melbourne (4.0M)

126

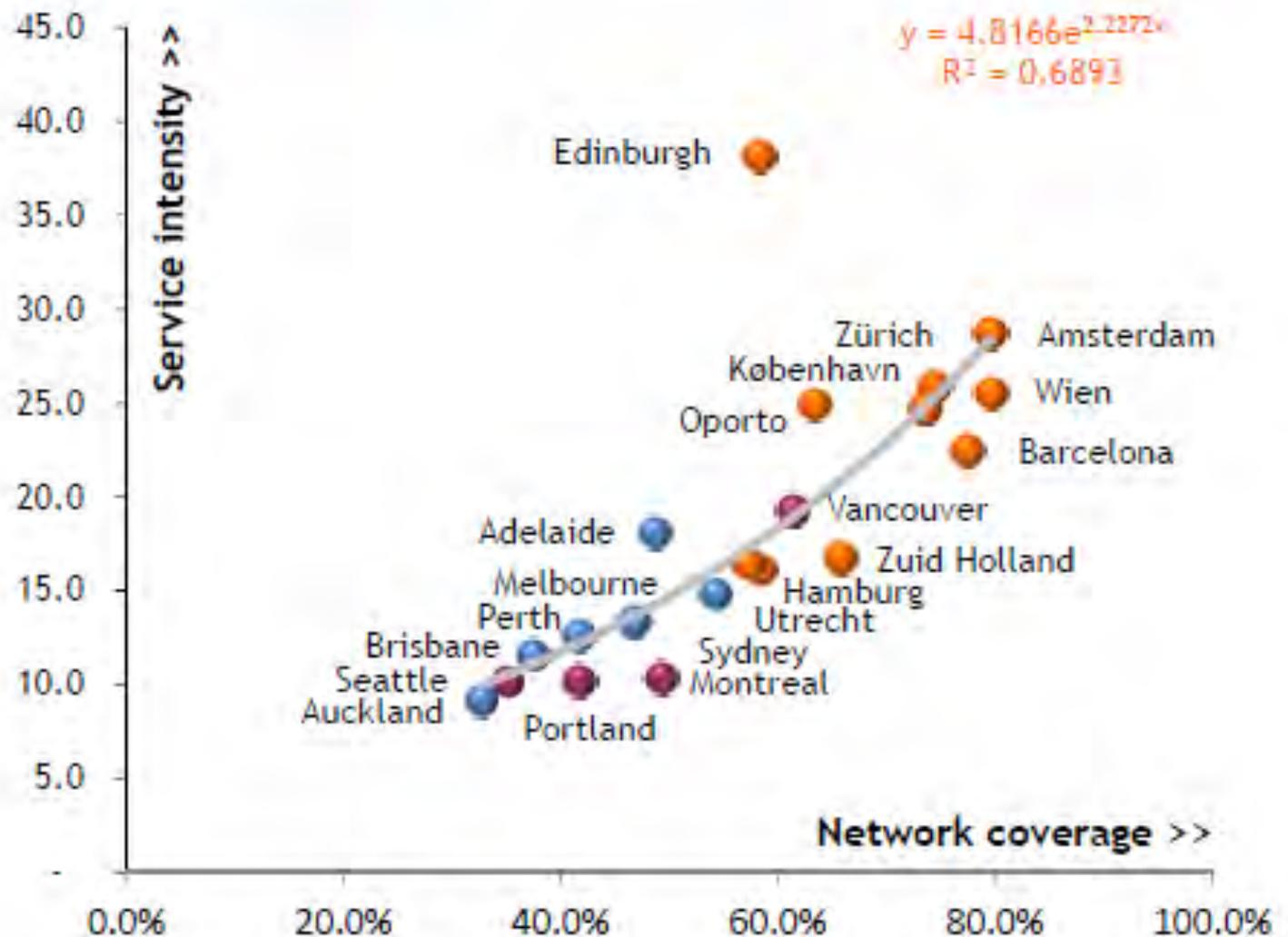
Perth (1.73M)

79

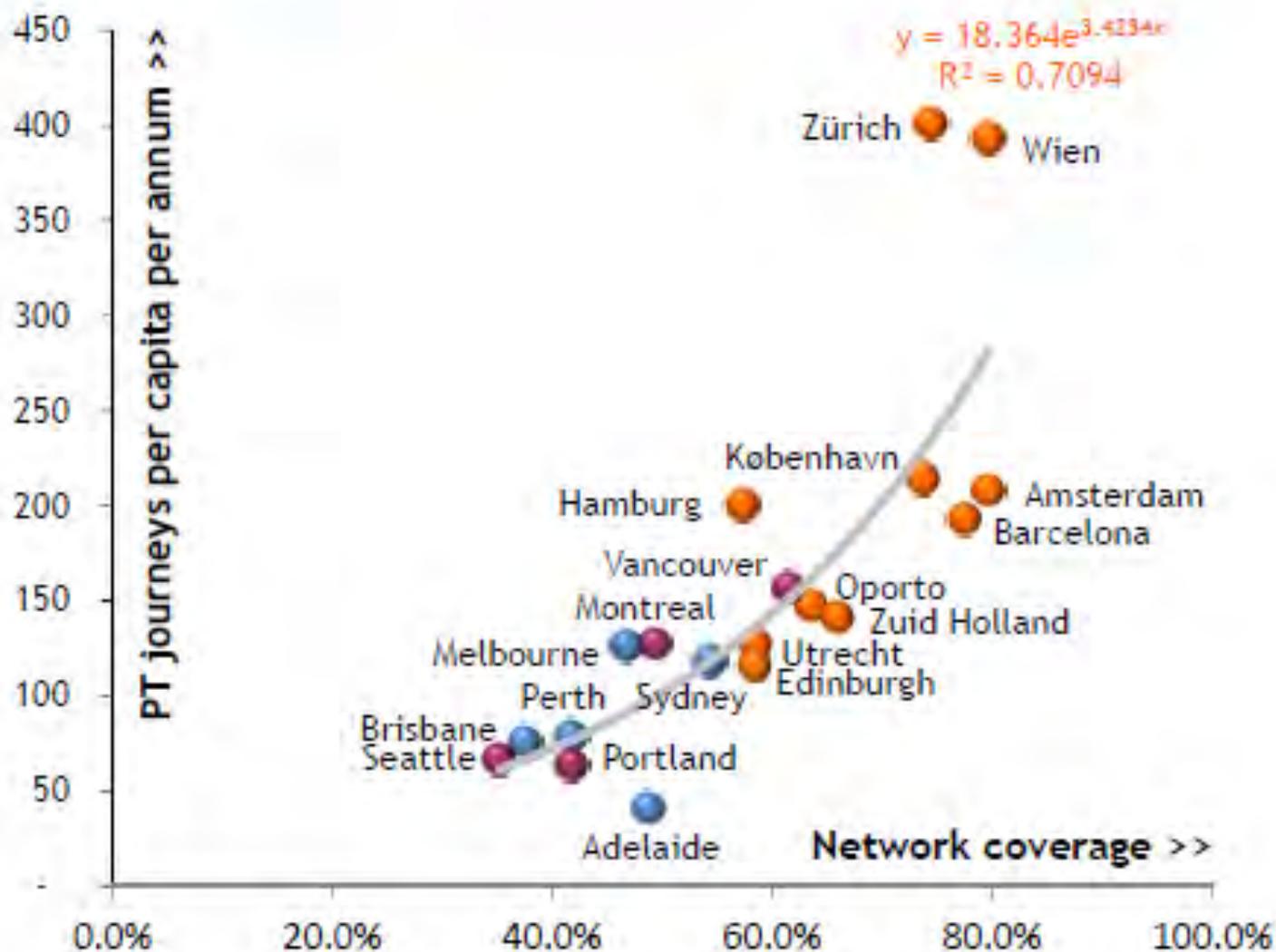
European cities of similar population size to Perth have 5 times journeys per person per annum – Vancouver is double



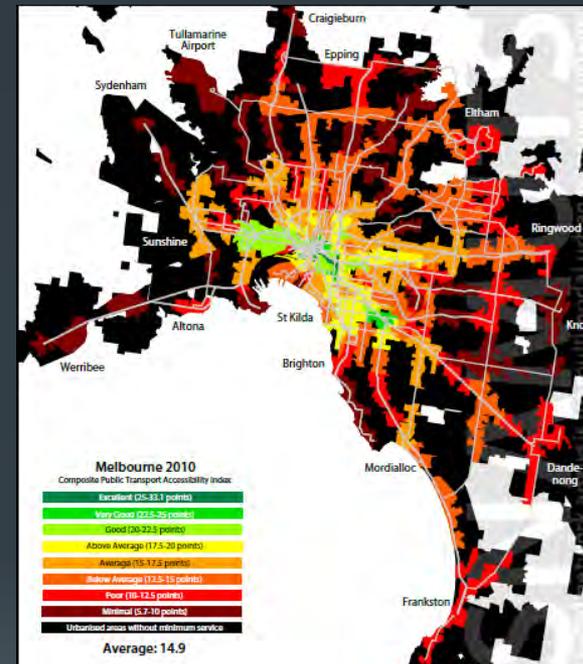
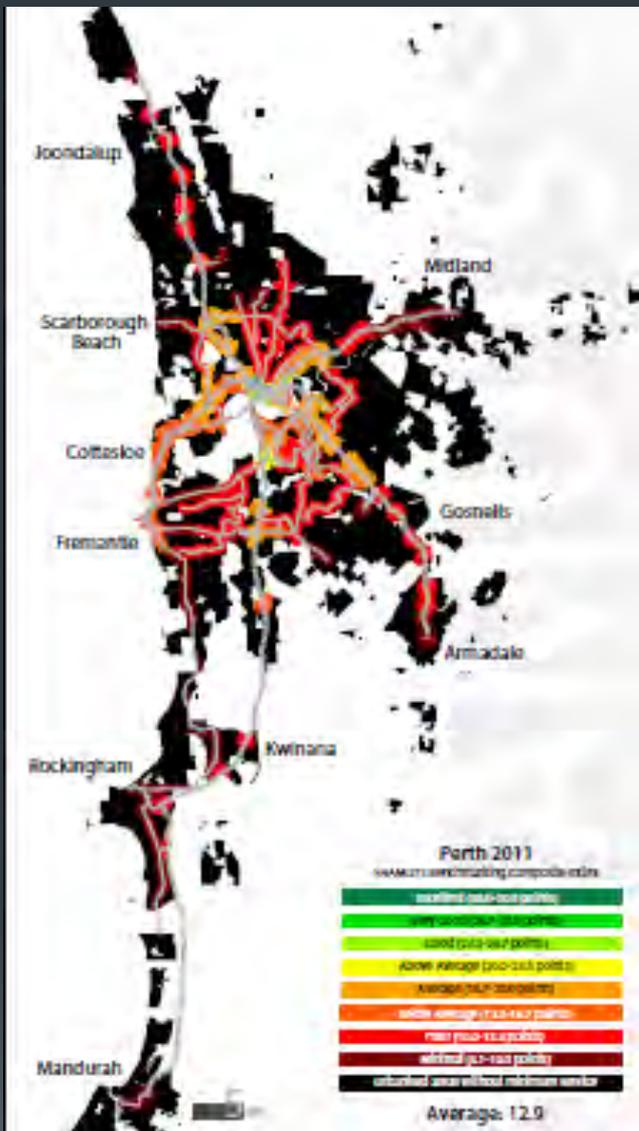
# network coverage and service intensity

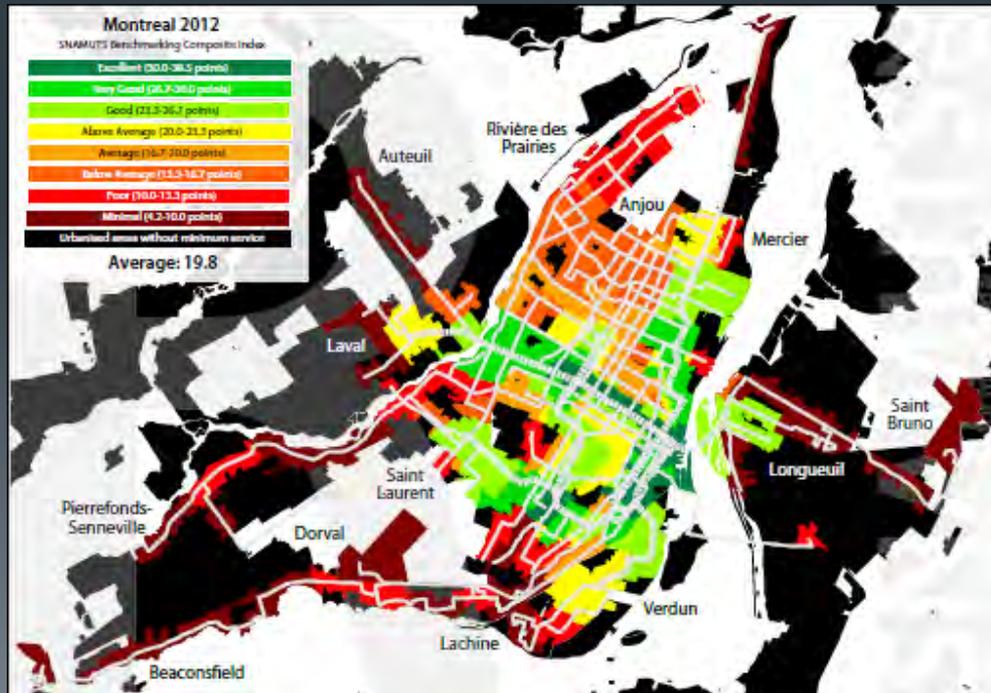
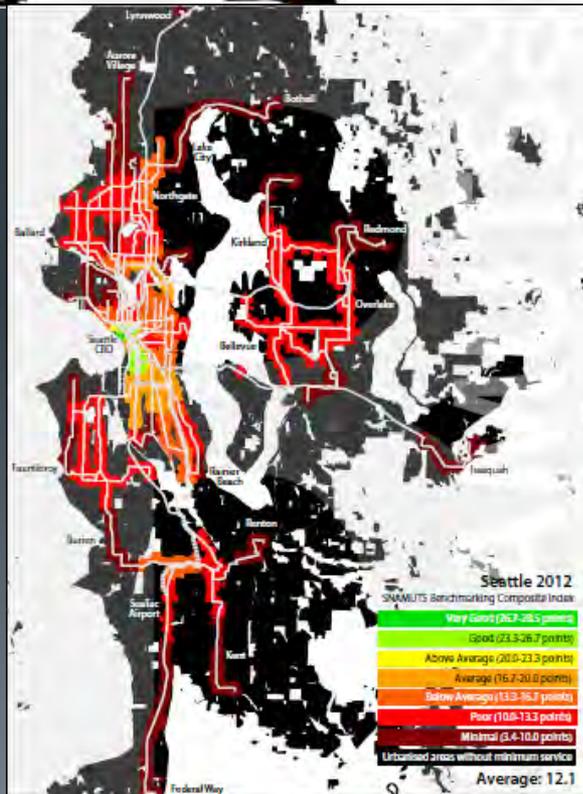
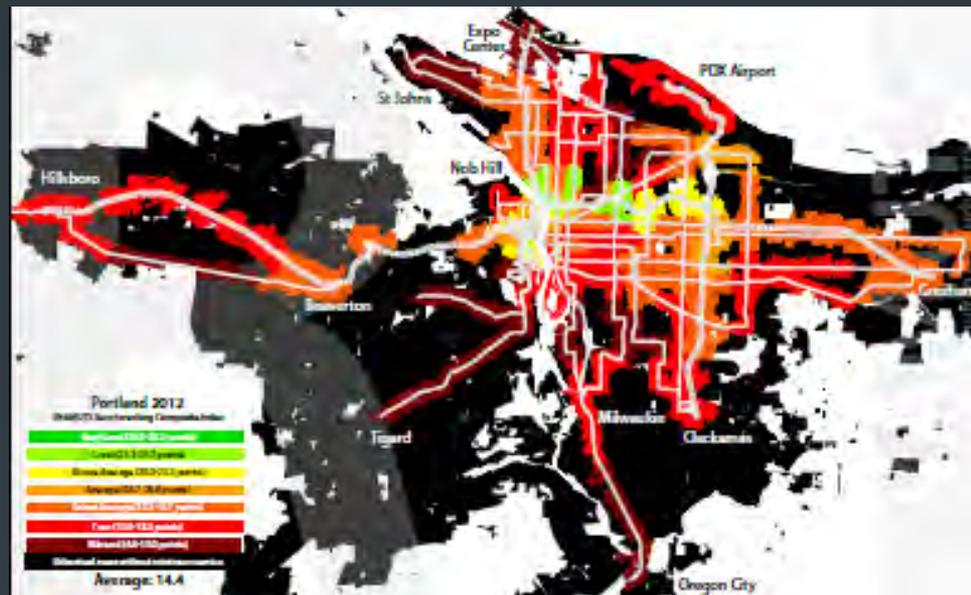
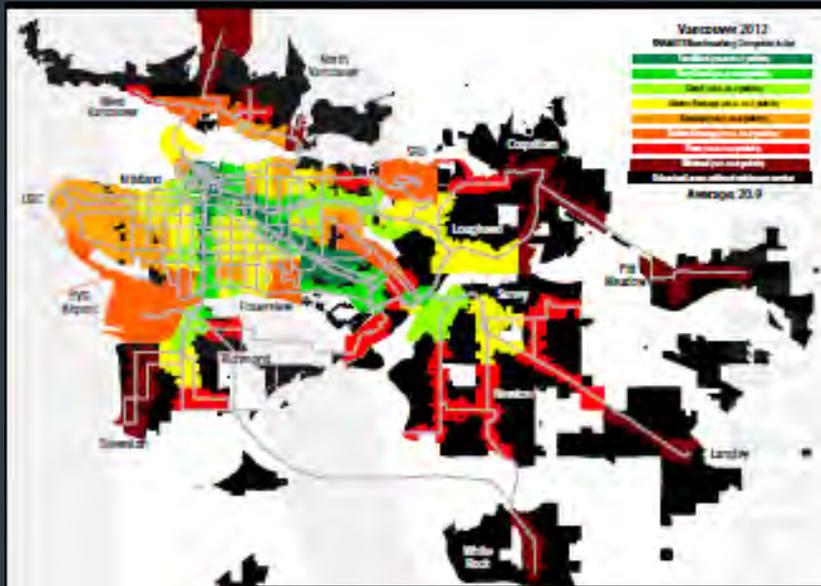


# network coverage and journeys ppa

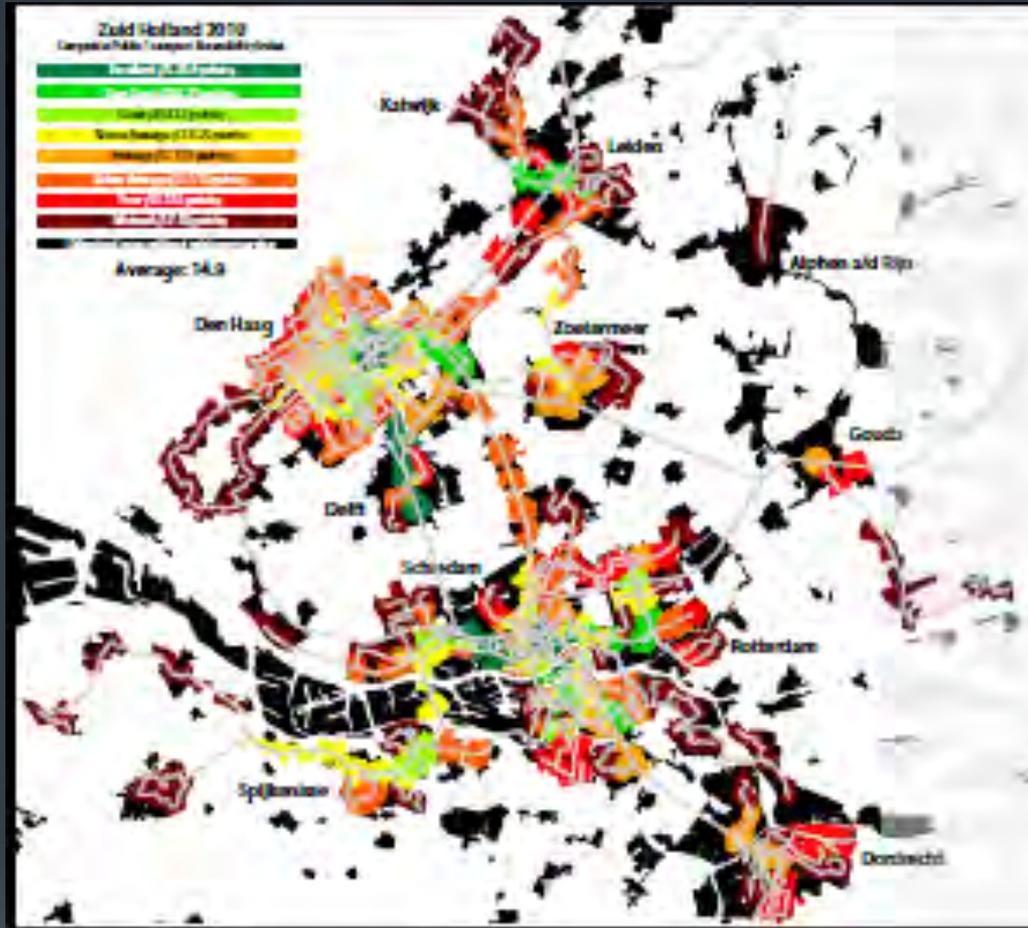


# Australian Cities: Composite Benchmark





North  
America



- *Curtis C (2011) Integrating Land Use with Public Transport: The Use of a Discursive Accessibility Tool to Inform Metropolitan Spatial Planning in Perth. Transport Reviews Vol 31 (2) pp. 179-197.*
- *Curtis C and Scheurer J (2010) Planning for Sustainable Accessibility: Developing tools to aid discussion and decision-making. Progress in Planning Vol 74 (2010), pp.53-106*
- *Curtis C (2008) Planning for Sustainable Accessibility: the implementation challenge. Transport Policy Vol 15 (2) pp. 104-112*

Carey Curtis

c.curtis@curtin.edu.au

[www.urbanet.curtin.edu.au](http://www.urbanet.curtin.edu.au)