

## **Pat Troy: Still Serving the Australian City**

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2019 will be the first State of Australian Cities Conference without Emeritus Professor Patrick Troy AO. Pat is best known for his passionate advocacy for better Australian cities with a critical focus on environmental sustainability and improved urban planning for housing, infrastructure, transport, energy and water consumption. He is less known for his work linking climate change responses with urban research, policy and action. Quite simply he ran out of time. A key thesis outlined by Troy was the need for a critical re-framing of what constitutes 'the good life'. This involves: 1) looking backwards to understand how urban growth and development in Australian cities has brought with it largely unrecognised costs; 2) looking at the present to see how collective action is finding ways to work to navigate and mitigate the effects of Anthropocentric climate change; and 3) looking to a future where the nature and magnitude of climate change as a justice agenda is clearly reflected in the processes and practices of public policy and planning. This lecture draws critical attention to the key tenets of Troy's work and scholarship through which he offered a constant social justice vigil over Australian cities during a neoliberalized era of growth-led change; and outlines how his prolific canon of work on Australian cities has enduring, contemporary relevance and traction for urban research today. For Troy the answers to our urban challenges will not be found in physical or technological determinism, but must be understood in concert with the changing political, economic and social forces which shape Australian cities, and the distribution of resources within them.