



Gordon Stephenson and the Long-Term Planning of Canberra

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Canberra, Australia's national capital city, was transformed through the 1960s from a straggling city beautiful on garden city lines to a modern new city of international standing by the powerful National Capital Development Commission, established in 1957. Gordon Stephenson first visited the city in 1954, became a consultant to the NCDC in 1960, and was appointed to the National Capital Planning Committee in 1967. His activities ranged across all scales – residential communities, town centres, and the development of a long term metropolitan planning strategy. Stephenson appears to be an underrated figure in the urban metamorphosis of Canberra through the 1960s. Drawing on a mix of extant primary and secondary sources, this paper sketches the extent of Stephenson's role and influence in Canberra, concentrating on his input into a long term urban development strategy.

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