

## Transcript of Interviewee #6 (17/03/25)

**Interviewer:** Hi, my name is Jodie, a master student at the University [of Sydney's] School of Architecture, Design and Planning. I am the responsible researcher for this study and will be conducting this interview. Thanks for agreeing to participate.

Please note you can withdraw from this interview at any time, even after it's finished. If you withdraw, your responses will be removed from the research study, um, for this interview, I'm gonna be asking me some questions about what you think of the boundaries of Western Sydney when drawn on a map, and what makes it different from the rest of Sydney. There are no wrong or right answers and before I ask you these questions, I will now hand you this Map 1.

This map is for you to look at and think about the key question - where is Western Sydney? You can draw lines, arrows, images, write comments or mark anything on Map 1 to show where you think Western Sydney starts and ends. You can draw on Map 1 at any time before the end of the interview. I'll let you know when we're reaching the end. You can also make as many changes to this map at any point in time as you like. I'm gonna start asking you the interview questions now.

In whatever way you like, tell me a little bit about yourself and where in Sydney you live.

**Interviewee:** I'm 60, I have a wife and two children, and we live on the Northern Beaches. I've lived in Sydney for eleven years, originally from New Zealand and I travel a reasonably amount, particularly in recent years, around Sydney or Greater Sydney, um cycling socially, I work in the CBD.

**Interviewer:** What are the first four words that come to your mind when you read or hear Western Sydney?

**Interviewee:** Hmm. That's it's large. Like it's kind of everything west of the key city. Um I think about immigrant population groups, I assume that there is less wealth than in the eastern suburbs um, and I think it's more diverse.

**Interviewer:** What are your perceptions or associations of Western Sydney today? Particularly if you are not originally from metro Sydney.

**Interviewee:** My perceptions of Western Sydney?

**Interviewer:** Yup. Perceptions or associations.

**Interviewee:** I think I um you, associate, um Western Sydney with um, with the risk of repeating myself, um Middle Eastern population mostly, with tradies, people who are, working hard as opposed to white collar jobs in the east.

I have social associations in Western Sydney, um and I guess, um, I don't know if it's the right answer, but I quite like it. I like it it's more down to earth. So I would say that I would see people have been more down to earth.

**Interviewer:** In what way?

**Interviewee:** Less pretentious this access to wealth and perhaps money is the less important thing. In my travels, I see families, a much more close-knit community and families, when I ride through the parks and so that I don't really see so much in um the Northern Beaches where I live.

**Interviewer:** How has your view of Western Sydney changed over time?

**Interviewee:** Um, I think the more time I've spent in Western Sydney, the more I've liked but um I would consider living in Western Sydney, perhaps apart from the temperatures. But I like the - I think the original assumptions that I had before I'd either been there -

**Interviewer:** And what were they?

**Interviewee:** Um that's it's rough, that it's more dangerous. Don't go out at night if you're if a white person in a European car, you know, it's that you may not be welcome. Um that is possible yeah, dare I say, a more crime ridden, more dangerous place. Uh particularly based on what other people say as well. Does that answer that question?

**Interviewer:** Hmm, last of the middle questions, which is, what do you think makes Western Sydney a distinct part of Sydney?

**Interviewee:** Um. I think it's hugely, well, it's hugely diverse so it's hard to sort of say what's just an individual distinctive sort of cultural thing because you've got a lot of people from, you know, the Asian subcontinent, Asia, the Middle East, which is quite diverse as well. But I would say it's uh um grassroots, more of a grassroots community, but surely has to be diverse.

Um but for me, it's geographic, geographical. I think you kind of stops at the base of the Blue Mountains and probably starts um once you go past Parramatta, um but I would say Liverpool, Bankstown, those sorts of areas -

**Interviewer:** And geographically do you mean distance from where or natural environment?

**Interviewee:** I think like a lot of people that I know from the eastern side, is that most of us would say the centre of Sydney is the Sydney CBD, not the geographic center, like Parramatta. So basically once you go west past um you know, Newtown, what's the suburb west of Newtown? So once you go past the Inner West, you kind of, it's kind of Western Sydney. Um, it's only recently that I went through Mount Druitt or through Fairfield because there just places that you hear about but you don't actually go to.

**Interviewer:** What did you think of these places?

**Interviewee:** Um, they reminded me a little bit of New Zealand, which is perhaps a slightly less wealthy economy. Um, I saw quite a mix. I saw, I saw, normal people quite frankly. I mean, the reputation is a lot worse than what I've actually seen for myself.

**Interviewer:** Before I start with the mapping questions, were there any other comments that you would like to make?

**Interviewee:** Um, no.

**Interviewer:** So, now we have Map 1 in front of you, how would you show where Western Sydney starts and ends today on this map? Please talk me through your process.

**Interviewee:** I'm probably going to make exclude some areas, so I don't think, you know, the sort of eastern suburbs are um, they're not Western Sydney, so I'm going to exclude some areas first.

I don't think the northern area is a part of Western Sydney, so I don't think –

**Interviewer:** What is the northern area?

**Interviewee:** So I'm looking at the map and I'm gonna say north of Quakers Hill, if I drew a line east-west from Quakers Hill, I would say north of there, I would struggle to call that Western Sydney. I would consider Penrith to be part of Western Sydney but once you go to Winmalee, is it? -

**Interviewer:** Oh, feel free to draw.

**Interviewee:** Box Hill etcetera. You know, it's um, to me, that's northwest.

**Interviewer:** Distinctly different?

**Interviewee:** I think it's different. And I think in my mind it's a different cultural and socioeconomic area.

**Interviewer:** What are the differences between Western Sydney and North-Western Sydney?

**Interviewee:** I perceive Northwestern Sydney to be more wealthy. I mean you've got poor associate economic areas like Richmond and Windsor, but you also got a lot of lifestyle blocks, there's it's a bit more wealth. I don't think Blue Mountains is part of Western Sydney.

Um and if I drew a line across the bottom I would probably be drawing a line yeah, I'd include Campbelltown, but once I go south of that I would say I don't see that as part of Western Sydney, because otherwise you're kind of saying everything is Western Sydney, except for the eastern suburbs and Northern Beaches.

**Interviewer:** And on the eastern frontier, almost eastern part of Western Sydney here, where is it?

**Interviewee:** To me, Bankstown is Western Sydney. I'm looking on the map. I kind of wonder, Auburn to me is Western Sydney but Epping is not even though it's on a northwest line um because I perceive it, I guess, I've always perceive them differently, and perhaps it's only when I look on the map though I see that they're actually on a north-south line. Sutherland doesn't strike me as Western Sydney in Sydney. To me that's like southern Sydney, South Sydney. So it's kind of a, this sort of the central –

**Interviewer:** Please draw this

**Interviewee:** I can draw this? All right.

**Interviewer:** And feel free to add any comments or markers. And is there any particular logic to your circle that you've drawn here? Like, are you using any particular indicators or –

**Interviewee:** Yup, I've included Bankstown, Revesby, Auburn, so they're in. Epping's out, Campsie I don't know. Sutherland I think is out so I probably should go around Sutherland. Um Campbelltown to me is in, but I've been there once, driven through it. Camden, yes. but when I've travelled and cycled down through Camden through Picton and Tahmoor, um to me, they're not from what I could see that I don't associate them with Western City to me, Western Sydney is more dense, urban area, not lifestyle, um small farms type stuff.

And I just think that if you include everything is Western Sydney, then you've, just, you may as well just call it Sydney.

**Interviewer:** I see that you've included some urban areas and then you've got some semi-urban areas, uh, like Mulgoa, Wallachia and Cobbity.

**Interviewee:** Yeah, I don't know them. I would probably, I would probably draw a line, I'm just changing line, just to probably exclude if they are more rural, probably want to exclude those, but I know that like the M7, I don't know the A9, so much. But to me once you kind of go out that way, bit less so, but perhaps not as important as the North-South separation for me because I expect that they will get more and more developed.

**Interviewer:** What dimensions have you kind of taking to account when you draw draw this like oddly shaped polygon?

**Interviewee:** It's more of a square. Um, what do you mean? Um. I mean, I guess I'm underpinning all of that to me is is that sort of social economic and cultural perspective. Perhaps rather, you know, but I think geography as well, because I think when you make an area too big, it becomes meaningless.

**Interviewer:** Ok. Before I ask you to look at that two, were there any other comments or inputs or markers that you would like to add?

**Interviewee:** I think as someone from outside of Western Sydney, um I think it's hard to know all of these areas. Um so it's very easy to assume a lot about these things. And I've been a little bit of time going through some of these spaces, but um on the push bike so you could see more than you see on a freeway.

**Interviewer:** Would you consider this whole square circle thing in Western Sydney? Are there different types of Western Sydney or there is one?

**Interviewee:** Well, I think Western Sydney is very diverse. I mean, Auburn is probably not like, um Blacktown or Penrith, um and even in those areas you see quite big. um, mixes of people. So you've got a geographic um definition but you've also got a really diverse um cultural area as well and without knowing, I suspect these diversity and um wealth as well from one area to another.

**Interviewer:** You can now look at Map 2, just underneath Map 1. This map is the exact same as Map 1, but it's a satellite view showing, obviously the geographic bits of the land, but also patterns of the urban settlement. After seeing Map 2, does this affect anything about how you have shown Western Sydney in Map 1?

**Interviewee:** What's there?

**Interviewer:** That is indeed, the new Western Sydney airport.

**Interviewee:** Can I draw on it?

**Interviewee:** Yes. I got a little bit one.

**Interviewer:** What is this that you're drawing?

**Interviewee:** I'm just redrawing what I think without referring to that, so much. I can see some of some of the urban areas there. Yeah, I'm still gonna come there um what's wrong? Um, that's right, I've got to re-mark it. But I'll probably come across here. May include Camden, looks a bit more built up than I imagined. So basically, built up areas

**Interviewer:** Ok

**Interviewee:** But perhaps -

**Interviewer:** Not including the new airport?

**Interviewee:** Oh yeah, including the new airport and around Penrith again. Because I consider Penrith to be quintessential Western Sydney. I don't think it's that different. Um perhaps excluding some of the um more farmland or lifestyle block type areas the less populated areas, because, I, you know, I don't know what you'd call them, what you call

that Blue Mountains almost. They're probably more associated with the Blue Mountains than they are with what I imagine Western Sydney to be.

**Interviewer:** Did you have any other inputs or I reached the end of this interview? On either of your maps?

**Interviewee:** Um the people that I associate with on the Northern Beaches and and work, I think the further east you are, the further you, the more they we tend to generalise what Western Sydney is and who lives in Western Sydney. I think it's more nuanced than that.

**Interviewer:** This is the end of an interview. Thanks for participating and your inputs. You can contact me at any time if you had any questions or concerns about the study or your interview response, my contact details are in the participant information statement that I gave you before this interview. Thank you for your time.

**Interviewee:** Thank you.