



# Welcoming Cities

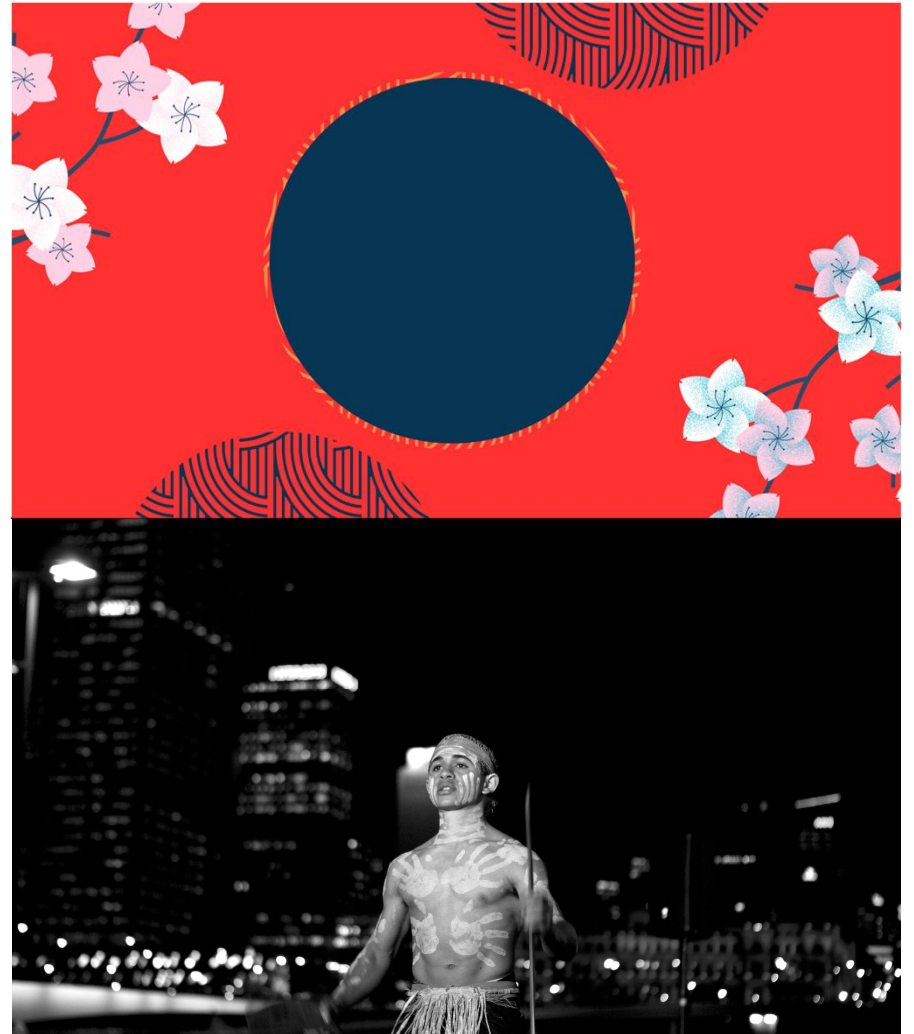
**Türkan Aksoy**

NSW Coordinator Welcoming Cities

2025 International Forum on Acceptance of  
Foreign Nationals and Their Integration into Japan  
13 February 2025

こんにちは  
**Kon'nichiwa**

**RESPECT**



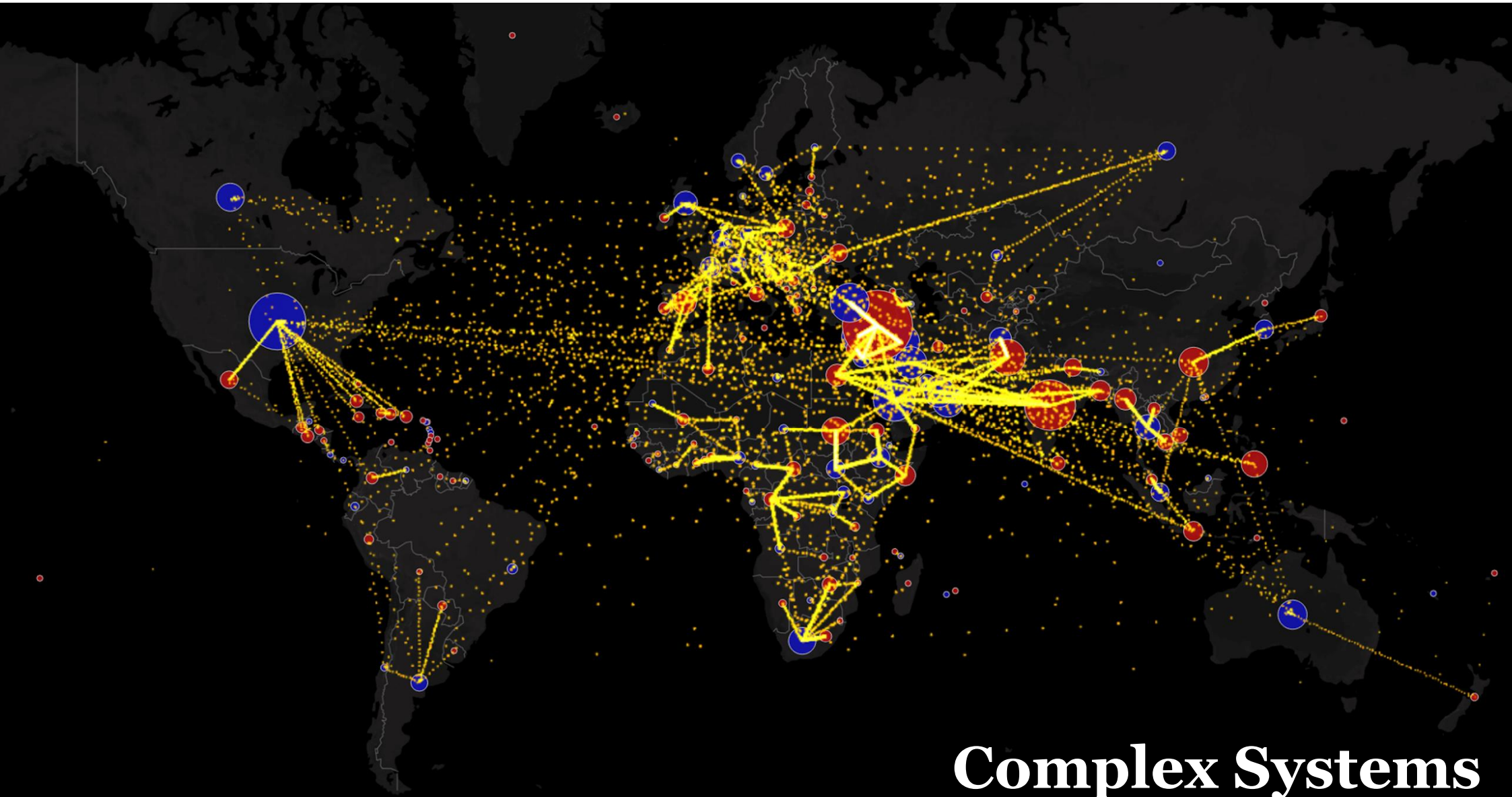
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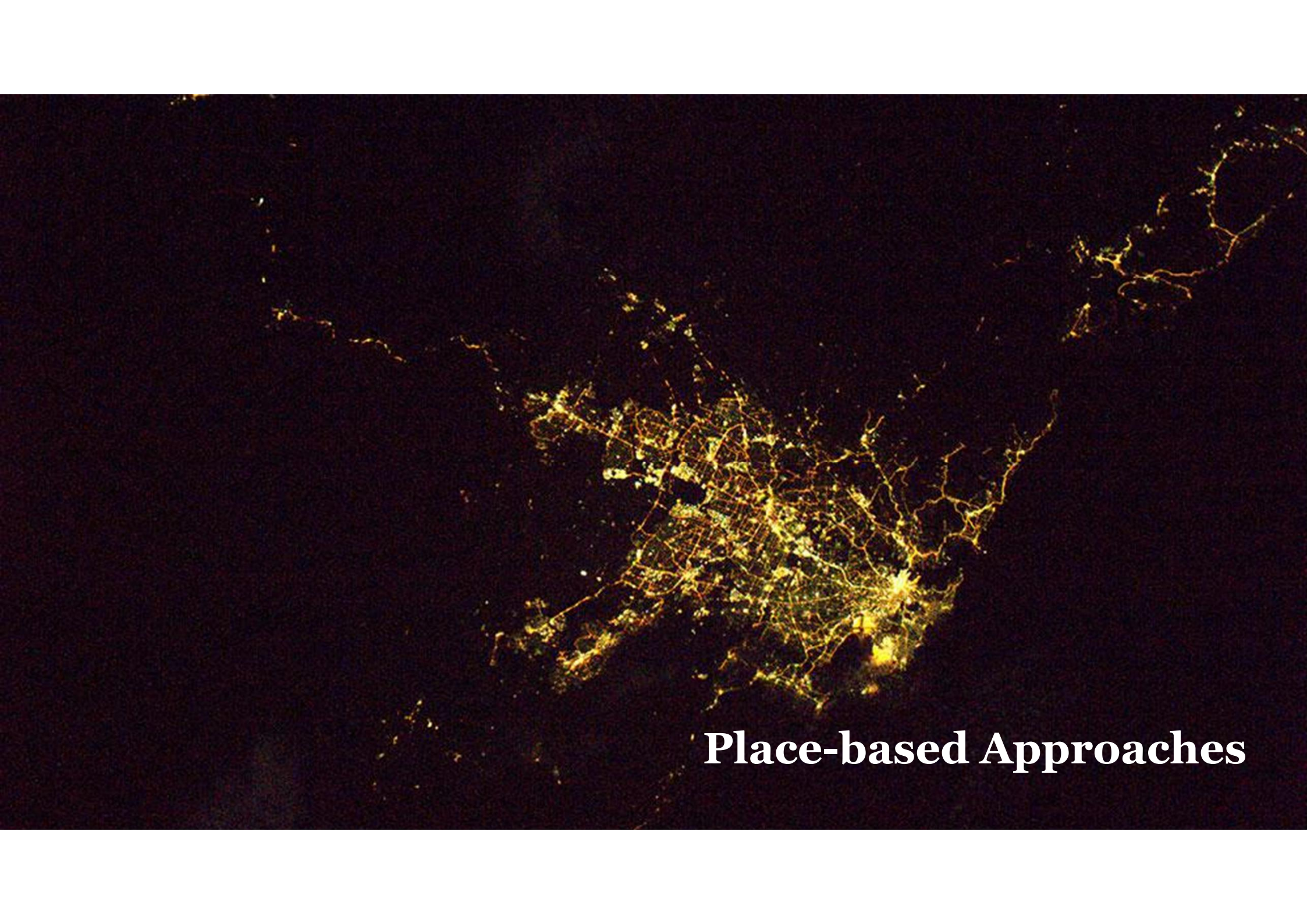
Diversity  
is our reality.





**Complex Systems**





**Place-based Approaches**



# Benefits of Migration

**Over the next 35 years migration will...**

- drive economic, skills and sustainable population growth
- contribute 1.6 trillion dollars to Australia's GDP
- add to cultural vibrancy/ diversity
- revitalise local businesses and services
- attract increased funding and investment

## THE 7 BUILDING BLOCKS OF SETTLEMENT SUCCESS



1. INITIATING A  
SETTLEMENT STRATEGY



2. ORGANISING AND CONSULTING  
LOCAL COMMUNITY



3. WELCOMING AND HOSTING  
NEW MIGRANTS



4. SECURING EMPLOYMENT  
FOR NEW MIGRANTS



5. SECURING HOUSING  
FOR NEW MIGRANTS



6. FOSTERING COMMUNITY  
COHESION



7. CONSIDERING CULTURE,  
CUSTOMS AND ENVIRONMENT

# Metropolitan / Regional Migration



## Our Challenge and Opportunity

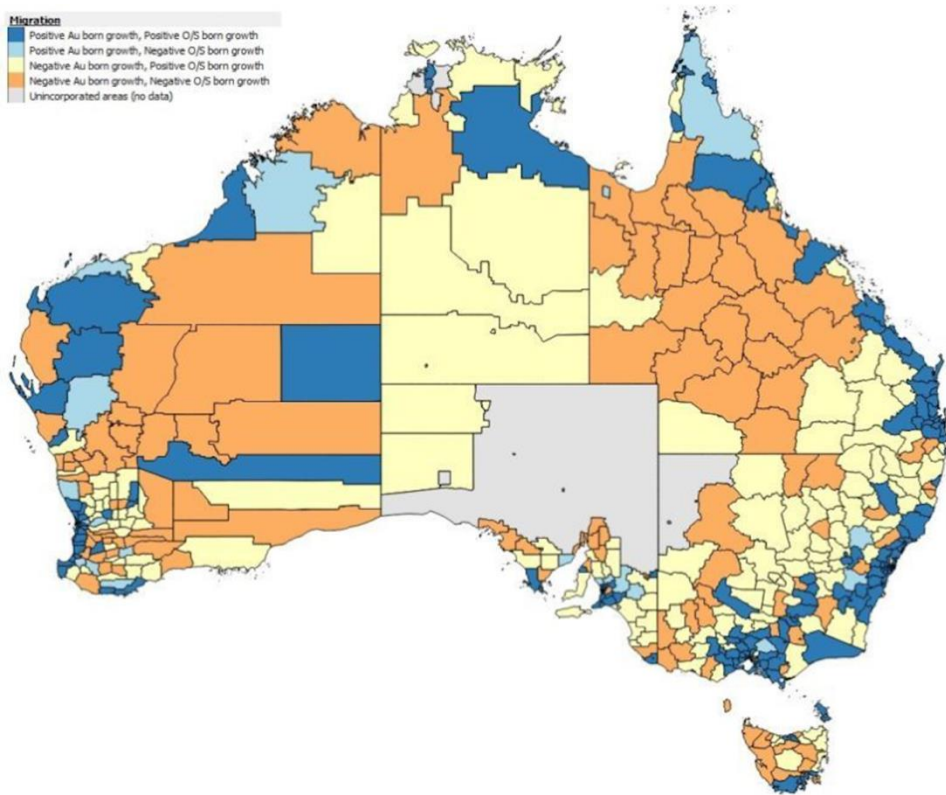
Australia is a nation of contrasting narratives. Our population and economic distribution is polarised, with communities experiencing either:

**Current challenges within our cities and regional areas include:**

Rapid growth and trying to advance social cohesion and economic participation; or,

Stagnation and decline and the challenge of attracting and retaining newcomers.

The continued success of multicultural cities will depend on our ability to embrace diversity, foster social cohesion and build economic success in the face of complex population challenges.





**“Local Governments acts as a neutral and trusted broker between employers, developers, community organisations, education providers, employment service providers and local residents.”**

For the purpose of:

- Increasing the wellbeing, social inclusion & economic participation of local people
- Increasing engagement with local employers & developers
- Enhancing the overall economic prosperity of the local community

**Facilitator + Broker**

Welcoming Cities is a national network of cities, shires, towns and municipalities who are committed to an Australia where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.

Welcoming Cities is a Founding Partner of [Welcoming International](#) – a growing network of more than 250+ Local Governments across the world.

Welcoming America/ Welcoming Australia/ NZ Immigration/ Germany/ Canada/ France/ Mexico

Each of these Welcoming initiatives has their own origin story.

Welcoming Australia started back in 2010 now over 14 years [10 Years of Welcoming – Welcoming Australia](#)



# Local Government In Australia

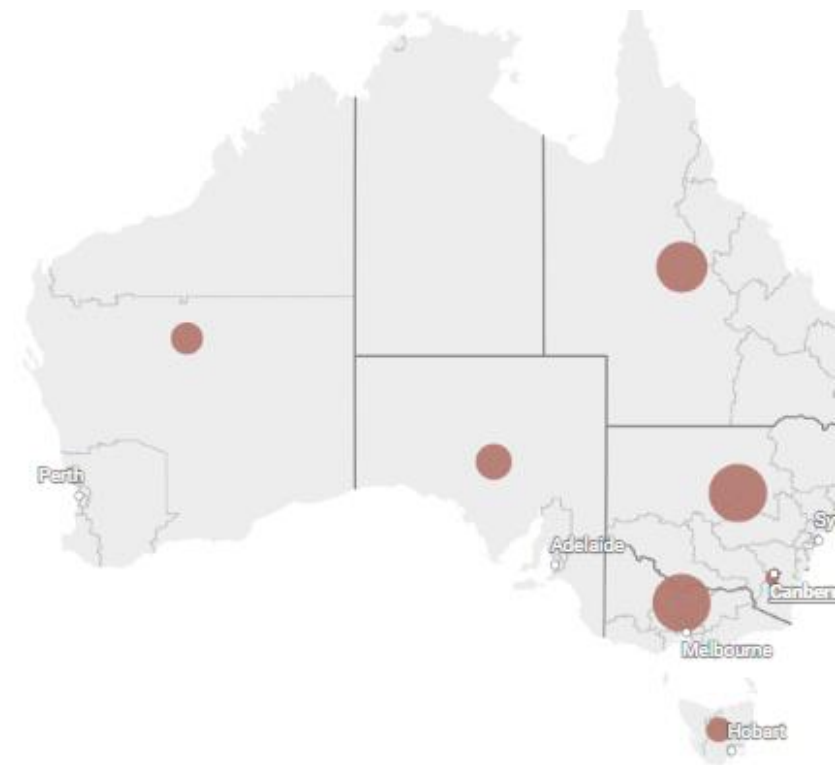
There are 537 councils in total across Australia as shown in this [map](#). Of these, around 55% are regional, rural, or remote councils. Each of these local governments differ in size and population

[Facts and figures: Australia – LGiU](#)

## What are the responsibilities of Australian local government?

It varies between the states and territories, but councils in Australia generally have a statutory mandate for providing the following:

- local infrastructure
- water and sewerage services
- community services such as childcare
- health services such as food inspection, immunisation services etc
- care and recreation facilities for the elderly
- cultural and educational establishments
- commercial establishments including parking, cemeteries etc.







## Who We Are

A global network of cities, shires, towns, and municipalities recognised for being welcoming and inclusive.

**Welcoming Cities is a rapidly growing network of capital and urban cities, regional centres, and rural shires.**

Welcoming Cities currently has 94 members, representative of 53% of the Australian population.

## Some of our most active member cities

### Accredited Councils - Excelling



### Accredited Councils - Advanced



ACT  
Government



### Accredited Councils - Established



The Road Out of  
MURRAY  
BRIDGE



# What do we do

**Supporting local governments to advance communities where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life.**

Welcoming Cities is part of a growing network of more than 135 municipalities around the world. The network is built around:



## **Knowledge Sharing**

Supporting local governments to access evidence-based research, resources, policies and case studies.



## **Partnership Development**

Facilitating & resourcing multi-sector partnerships to maximise learning, reach and impact.



## **Celebrating Success**

Recognising local governments that demonstrate leading practice and innovation in welcoming efforts.



## **Standard + Accreditation**

Setting the National Standard for cultural diversity and inclusion policy and practice in local government.





# COMMUNITY

## Objectives

- Receiving communities are welcoming and actively engage with migrant and refugee communities.
- Local governments have comprehensive plans and active messaging for cultural diversity and inclusion in policy, multi sector engagement, activities and economic development approaches.
- Local governments and community stakeholders have networks and resources that facilitate effective planning for welcoming and inclusion.
- Local governments are committed to facilitating a whole-of-community approach to building social and cultural inclusion, economic engagement and civic participation





# The **Welcoming Cities Standard**

The Welcoming Cities Standard is a living document that guides our work and remains relevant in changing times

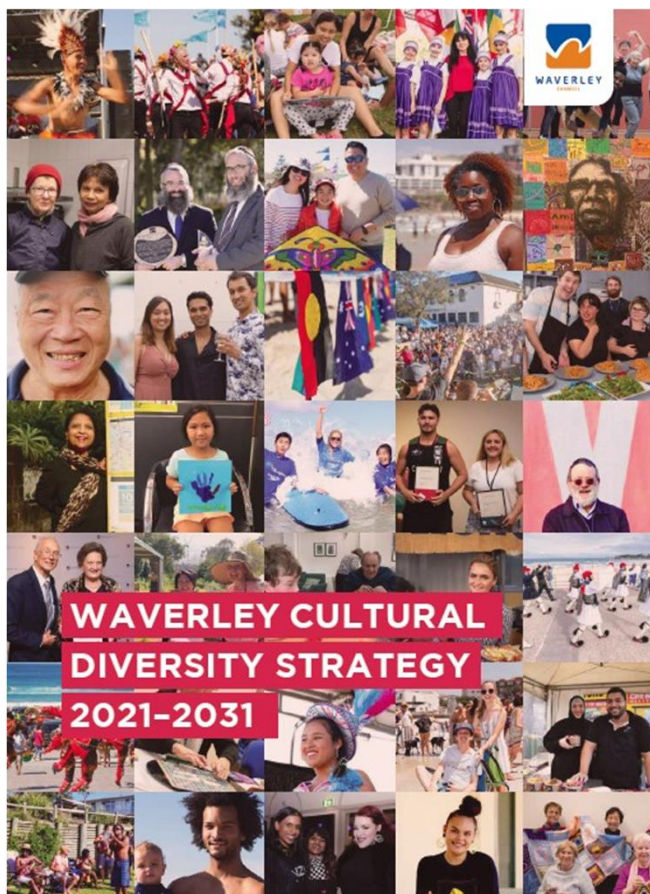
## Categories

1. Leadership
2. Social & Cultural Inclusion
3. Economic Development
4. Civic Participation
5. Learning & Skills Development
6. Places & Spaces



## Planning, Benchmarking + Improvement

## How does Welcoming Cities support look like on the ground



**NSW GROW PILOT PROGRAM  
LAUNCHES IN LEETON**





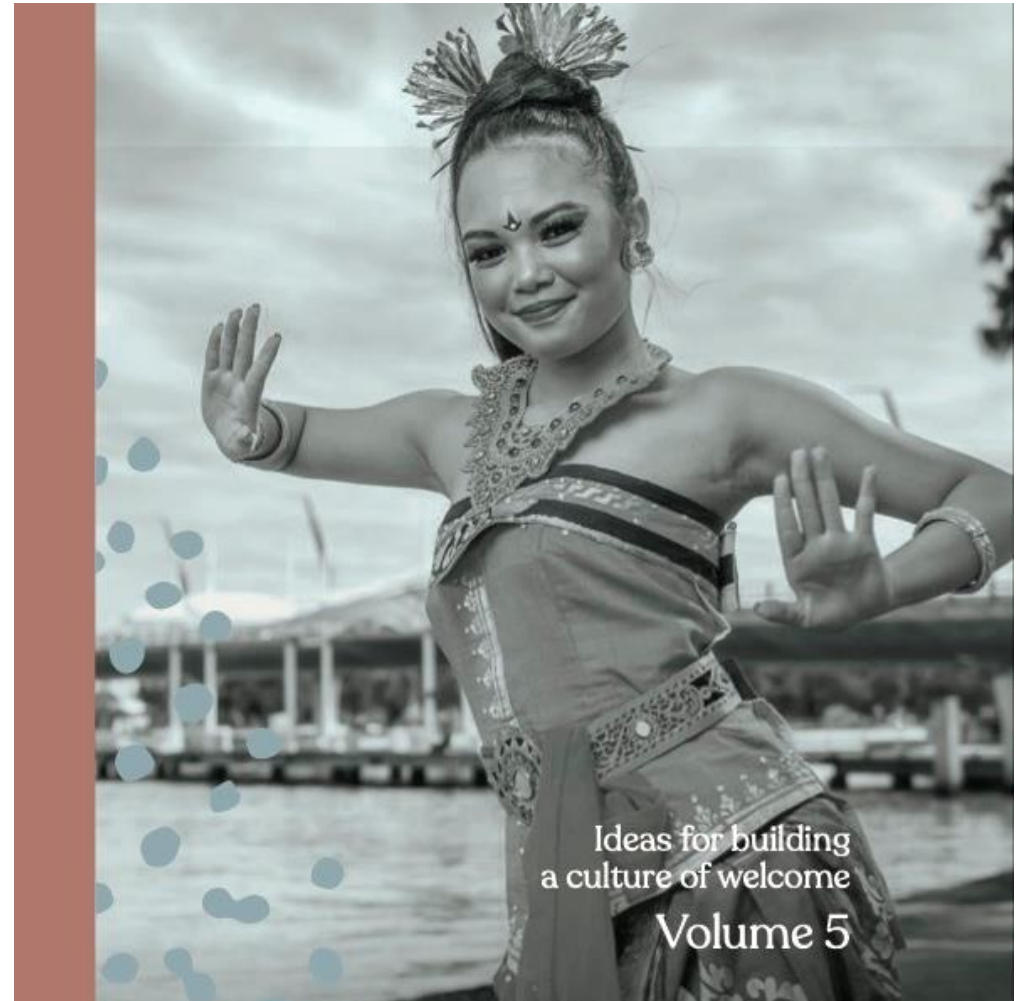
**2024 Welcoming Australia Symposium  
WA Watch Party**

Join these incredible speakers and more to explore the theme "What Brings Us Together?"

 Mundahard Bayles	 Ed Copel	 Orade Cynia Eke-Okoro	 Rosaria McCulloch	 Mark Vertica-Paulson	 Akol Mager
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9.00am - 5.00pm Thursday 2 May  
Billabong Room, 38 Ashbury Crescent, Mirrabooka WA 6061

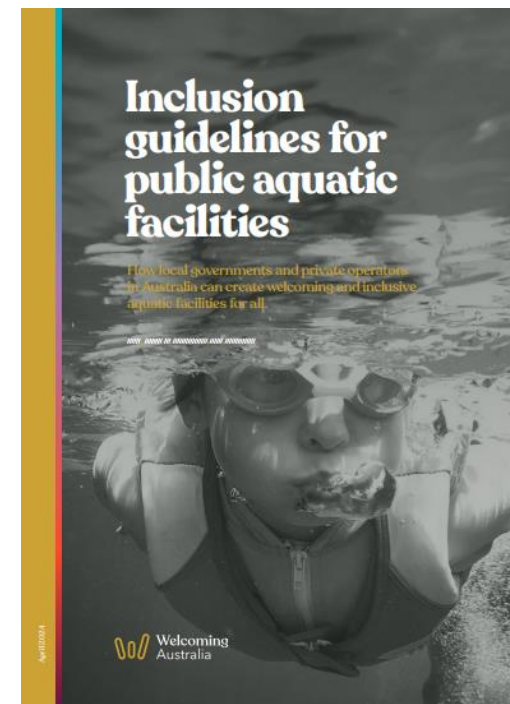


Welcoming Cities Engagement



## Welcoming Australia Initiatives





## We continue to Grow

- 94 Members in Australia
- 30+ Supporters
- 90+ Local Governments have expressed interest
- Welcoming America/ Welcoming Australia/ NZ Immigration/ Germany/ Canada/ France/ Mexico



Visit us Online  
[welcomingcities.org.au](https://welcomingcities.org.au)



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Türkan Aksoy  
[turkan@welcoming.org.au](mailto:turkan@welcoming.org.au)



ありがとう  
Arigatō

Thank you