

THE UNEQUAL IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

How the digital currency and innovation is impacting on the competitiveness of cities and towns

The growing IT revolution is also 'centralising'. Software developers, communication experts (5G), medicine & health, fintech, biotech, nanotech and health research is all located in big cities. There is growth in agriculture, tourism, defence and mining, space technology in regional areas but the job multipliers compound in the major cities. Defence (Adelaide, Newcastle, Brisbane, Townsville, Darwin), mining (Perth – Rio's control centre at Perth Airport), agriculture/clean energy (jobless improvements in productivity), Australian Space Agency (Canberra) and tourism (Airbnb, Hotels Combined, Qantas, Virgin Australia) are all located in cities. The job deepening and value chains are becoming more complex and require more specialisation, hence the trend to employment bigger in cities.

The future of cities rest with automated vehicles, drones, vertical take-off and landing craft and truck platooning. This will reinvent commuting, freight and logistics and last mile delivery – a brave new world.

Come on the journey with Brian Haratsis to unpack employment growth, diffusion of technology, innovation clusters, precincts and districts, online retailing, housing, and emerging business models to argue that smaller towns and cities have a future but require new strategies to be successful.