

THE 'VISIONS' OF ALL SAINTS' COLLEGE STUDENTS FOR PERTH IN 2050

Ada (Yr 7)

In 2050, the integration of more trees, rooftop gardens, and eco-friendly suburbs will play a crucial role in addressing several pressing challenges:

Climate Change Mitigation: Green roofs and vertical gardens act as nature-based solutions to combat climate change. By covering rooftops with vegetation, we reduce carbon emissions and improve insulation, leading to lower energy consumption for heating and cooling¹. These green spaces absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, and help regulate temperatures in urban areas.

Biodiversity Preservation: Urban greening supports local ecosystems by providing habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife. Trees and green spaces create pockets of biodiversity, enhancing the overall health of our cities. By 2050, cities with abundant greenery can protect endangered species and promote ecological balance².

Heat Island Effect Reduction: As temperatures rise due to global warming, cities become heat islands. Rooftop gardens and tree-lined streets help cool urban environments by providing shade and releasing moisture through transpiration. This cooling effect improves residents' comfort and reduces the need for energy-intensive air conditioning¹.

Flood Management: Eco-friendly suburbs incorporate permeable surfaces and green infrastructure. Instead of concrete, sponge-like landscapes absorb rainwater, preventing floods and minimizing runoff. Implementing green roofs and rain gardens can transform our cities into resilient, water-absorbing ecosystems¹.

Community Well-Being: Access to green spaces positively impacts mental health and community cohesion. Rooftop gardens, public parks, and tree-lined streets offer places for relaxation, exercise, and social interaction. By prioritizing green design, we create healthier, happier neighborhoods³.

In summary, embracing trees, rooftop gardens, and eco-friendly practices in our cities by 2050 will lead to a more sustainable, resilient, and harmonious urban environment.

Jinning (Yr 10)

Hi, my name is Jinning and I will be 41 years old in 2050

I am proposing to give local governments more power to address crime and security, education, and infrastructure. I believe that this would allow local security in each suburb and improve the building of infrastructure that is relevant to the specific area.

Every school has unique needs, and under the current model, it is a 'one size fits all,' regardless of what the needs are. Western Australia is a big state and we know that the needs of schools in Esperance and Perth differ to the needs of schools in Kalgoorlie and Broome. The local government will be able to prioritise their school and help them based on the suburb's demographics, temperature, and area.

Moreover, by giving local governments more power, they have the power to control and manage the security demands of each suburb. Unfortunately, our small councils have been facing increasing crime rates. With a 14% increase in crime from 2022, petty crime is considered as time consuming, as the police force is under increasing pressure to deal with this problem. The state government is currently in charge of the police department, however it may be more suitable to give local governments more control over the police department, especially considering that they get the most reports on what happens in their area, meaning that they

have the most information on the crimes.

Lastly, local governments will gain the power to create infrastructure that best suits the voters' needs in the differing geographical and demographical areas. In small country towns, banks are being closed down so people have to travel 200km to get their money, which is a massive inconvenience. If local governments can build more banks, people won't have to travel large distances to get their money.

If we give local governments more power, they will have the ability to not only listen to their communities' needs but to actively make changes to keep their voters happy.

Thomas (Yr 12)

The other week, I had a realization while visiting my grandparents in the city. As we stepped into the lift, I noticed an eerie silence; no one exchanged a single word, even though they were all neighbours. It struck me how disconnected people can feel despite living so close to one another. This sense of isolation is something that could be significantly improved with some innovative thinking and community-focused initiatives.

By 2050, the liveability of Perth could be greatly enhanced if a governing body or a private corporation were to offer services to install rooftop gardens on apartment buildings. These gardens would encourage sustainable eating by allowing residents to grow their own food, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the environment. Additionally, rooftop gardens could serve as communal spaces where residents could interact, collaborate on gardening projects, and build a sense of community. This interconnectivity could extend beyond individual buildings, creating networks of green spaces across the city that promote environmental awareness and social cohesion. Through these efforts, we could transform Perth into a more sustainable, connected, and vibrant place to live, whilst also working towards the futuristic city landscapes we see in artworks, where walls of green plants are interwoven within the heart of a thriving city.

Vidarsha (Yr 10)

There is a disturbing polarisation of the density of plant life in urban areas around the city. Some suburbs are lush with greenery, while others are stark and barren - unrelenting seas of dull concrete and housing.

This contradictory characterisation of our city satisfies neither tourists nor residents. The solution is simple - grow more plants. In Singapore, numerous buildings incorporate green walls and vertical gardens. This equilibrium of bricks and botany provides an innovative grandeur - something we could easily apply within Perth. In addition, green spaces will positively transform the city, making it much more visually appealing, which would benefit our tourism industries.

If we take these steps, Perth will not only be more attractive, but it will also be more environmentally sustainable in a multitude of aspects:

- Plants absorb CO₂ and filter pollutants, improving the overall air quality.
- Increased urban vegetation creates new habitats for local wildlife.
- Green walls and roofs provide insulation, which reduces the need for additional air-conditioning and thereby reduces utility bills.
- Plants can grow in vertical and rooftop gardens; this encourages urban agriculture and promotes local food security.