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### **Gamification of planning education: communicating the difference planning makes**

This presentation outlines the development and impact of an online 'serious game' for planning education and community engagement. The gamification of planning education, and the resultant teaching and learning tool – Serious Urban Play - were the recipient of the Cutting-Edge Research and Teaching, and Overall Award winners at the Planning Institute of Australia (Queensland) Awards for Planning Excellence in November 2018. This paper explores the opportunities for this innovative game to reengage the community in our profession; and bring back trust and understanding of the difference planning makes.

Urban planning is a multi-faceted and collaborative discipline. Consequently, the articulation of the roles and complexities of spatial planning to the community and prospective students can be challenging. This education and engagement tool has been developed to present a simple, yet not simplistic, representation of the application of the planning principles required to deliver sustainable urban and regional communities. The game provides opportunities for 'deeper understanding' around economic, environmental, social, and mobility parameters and interactions, which are central to the development of modern communities.

This presentation will outline the game's strengths which allow it to perform as a tool for community engagement. First, is its accessibility - it is an open source platform and runs simply from a URL within a Chrome or Safari browser window. Second, is that the development of the game has carefully considered use by non-planners. With its simple instruction, shared multiplayer interactions, and ability to provide real-time information and feedback on the game play, it supports use by people of all planning experience. Finally, the game can be used to represent a range of planning priorities or locations, allowing for context sensitive appreciation of the outcomes of urban planning.