“The most significant response to anxiety about population and density is to emphasise the importance of design” Prof. Peter Newman, AO, Environmental Scientist

Many large-scale subdivisions are being planned to cater for the next 20-30 years of Victoria’s population growth. More flexible, adaptable subdivision models are needed in growth areas that enable denser and more diverse housing options, have a more meaningful engagement with place, have greater Traditional Owner engagement, and provide greater areas for biodiversity and land regeneration. Design thinking solutions are needed.

Addressing deep concerns about climate change and the damaging environmental impact of Melbourne’s rapid urban expansion, this studio will be an investigation into alternative subdivision and housing approaches, using a real-life greenfield site, “Redstone Hill” located in the Sunbury growth corridor.

This studio takes the approach that greenfield growth areas are sites of opportunity for new and alternative forms of suburban development – with the potential to play a critical role in the future shape of our cities. Students will be encouraged to challenge traditional settlement patterns and investigate new forms of sustainable and regenerative suburban development. Design opportunities will be investigated through exploratory, speculative design provocations.

This is a live practice project and design competition. Students will have the opportunity to undertake on-site research and fieldwork and interact with key stakeholders, including gaining a deeper understanding of First Nation perspectives.