

Dominic Behrens

Curriculum Vitae

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I'm an experienced economist and public policy professional with deep expertise and passion for housing, land-use, transport and urban economics. I combine cutting-edge quantitative analysis and modelling with strong communication skills and policy insight. I'm media-trained, comfortable speaking to large groups and passionate about conveying the lessons of urban economics to a non-technical audience. In my spare time, I run Sydney YIMBY, a grassroots advocacy organisation I founded to fight the housing crisis by legalising homes where people most want to live.

Education

2018-2021 **Bachelor of Economics (Honours Class 1 in Econometrics)**, *University of New South Wales*, Sydney, Australia

Thesis: "Disengagement or Disillusionment? High Speed Internet and Political Participation"

Experience

2025-Present **Senior Economist**, *The Centre for International Economics*, Sydney, Australia

- Built leading development feasibility modelling capability using novel data and machine learning techniques, applied to projects for clients including NSW Treasury, Queensland Productivity Commission, Infrastructure Victoria, NSW Cabinet Office and NSW Department of Planning.
- Developed a range of innovative datasets and tools, including retrieval augmented generation (RAG) techniques with local- and cloud-based AI models to extract data from inconsistently-formatted text at scale and extraction of useful variables for hedonic property pricing models parameters from text data using embedding models.
- Drove team adoption of AI and agentic workflows, including developing agentic processes for paper review and automating substantial parts of the proposal process.

2026 **Associate, Housing and Economic Security**, *Grattan Institute*, Sydney, Australia

- Co-authored report *Wasted Space: Axe Car-Parking Rules to Ease the Housing Crisis*.
- Developed novel machine-learning approach to produce Australian-first evidence on the supply and utilisation of on-street parking in Australia's capital cities from aerial imagery.
- Extensive media to support the report's release, including live radio and newspaper interviews.

2022-2025 **Senior Analyst, Transport and Urban Economics**, *Deloitte Access Economics*, Sydney, Australia

2019-2020 **Intern**, *BIS Oxford Economics (now Oxford Economics Australia)*, Sydney, Australia

Skills

Economics	Trusted advisor to government and private sector clients on housing, land-use, transport and urban economics. Thorough understanding of the economic literature on housing and land-use issues, as well as a detailed knowledge of NSW and other Australian land-use planning systems.
Quantitative Analysis	Machine learning and econometrics with a focus on GIS and spatial analysis. Experienced in CGE, gravity and economic contribution modelling, cost-benefit analysis, transport assessment and data visualisation.
Communication	Engaging public speaker, skilled at communicating complex economic concepts to non-technical audiences. Technical and non-technical writing and data visualisation. Submission and advocacy writing.
Software	Advanced R, Stata, Git, EViews, Advanced Excel (including VBA), LaTeX. Agentic coding and AI workflows. Passionate about leveraging the latest tools and building a culture of learning and development.
Project Management	Experience leading small teams to deliver projects on time and budget. Comfortable training and working with junior staff and ensuring efficient communication between analysts, managers and senior leadership.

Publications and Media

- 2026 **Wasted Space: Axe Car-Parking Rules to Ease the Housing Crisis**, Grattan Institute (Read here.)
- 2026 **Against 'Affordable' Housing**, Inflection Points (Read here.)
- 2026 **Inflection Points Podcast** (Listen here.)
- 2026 **What Local Land Use Reform Does, and Doesn't, Do**, Working Paper (forthcoming, with Matthew Maltman and Theo Gibbons)
- 2025 **I'm not a NIMBY, but: politicians want it both ways on housing**, Financial Review (Read here.)
- 2024 **Hey, architects: hands off my dog-box apartment**, Guardian Australia. (Read here.)
- 2024 **Building new homes is proven to lower rents- but not for the reasons you might think**, Guardian Australia. (Read here.)

Volunteering and Community Service

- 2023-Present **Co-Founder and Secretary, Sydney YIMBY**
 - Co-founded housing advocacy organisation Sydney YIMBY. Defined organisation strategy and lead policy analysis, member engagement and submissions activities, growing organisation to almost 500 paying members and prominent participant in Sydney's housing and development debate.
- 2026-Present **Referee, New Zealand Economic Papers**
- 2025-Present **Lead Organiser, Sydney Urban Economics Reading Group**
 - Started a monthly urban economics reading group, to further understanding and help a network of urban economics professionals in Sydney.

Referees

- Brendan Coates Assistant Secretary, Housing Group, Australian Treasury. brendan.coates@treasury.gov.au +61 412 798 229
- Peter Tulip Chief Economist, Centre for Independent Studies. ptulip@cis.org.au +61 479 059 849