

*The birthday journey of  
Alexander Duncan MacDonald (Sandy)  
July 7th—July 21st, 2025*



**Volume Two - Sydney**

# Thursday July 17th, 2025



**The kitchen area with Jean (and Regan's legs) at breakfast [17 July 2025]**

I slept well and arose at 7am. very affectionate, looking for Danielle was off to work, attention and cuddles (and with dropping off Rose and Jean at school on her way. Regan was in his “office” (spare bedroom) working away. no barking).

I sat in front of the TV trolling my way through the myriad of channels for two hours. Chose to rewatch “Venom”.

Regan's dog Kora is



Regan and I headed to the airport at noon. I was headed to Sydney with the flight scheduled to leave at 1:05pm but was delayed until 1:35 due to the catering company being a little late delivering flight

**Regan with Frodo. [17 July 2025]**





**The kitchen area with Regan and Jean at breakfast [17 July 2025]**





Boarding the plane from Brisbane to Sydney [17 July 2025]

food. Regan kept me company until I embarked.

On the take-off the visuals out of my window seat were good. I spotted many country houses but could not identify road access. Tried taking photos out of the window, without much success.

Landed at 3:15pm and met Logan after a long trek from the landing gate to the baggage pick-up. We caught a train from the Sydney airport to where Logan had parked his car and arrived at Yvette's home by 3:15pm.

The meal was beef pie with pastry topping. Then there was a short trip to the shops for some family snacks.

I have inherited Logan's room for my stay. His bed was a little bit short and had an overweight "blanket" on it (which I removed).

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
|  <b>australia</b> |                           |
| NAME:   | <b>MACDONALD / ALEXAN</b> |
| DEPART:   | <b>Brisbane</b>           |
| ARRIVE:   | <b>Sydney</b>             |
| <b>GATE: 39</b>   | <b>AT: 12:</b>            |
| BAGS:   | <b>8795753141</b>         |



**Flight**



# BOARDING PASS

Economy



DER

3:05

FLIGHT: VA 950

4:40

DATE: 17 Jul 25

35

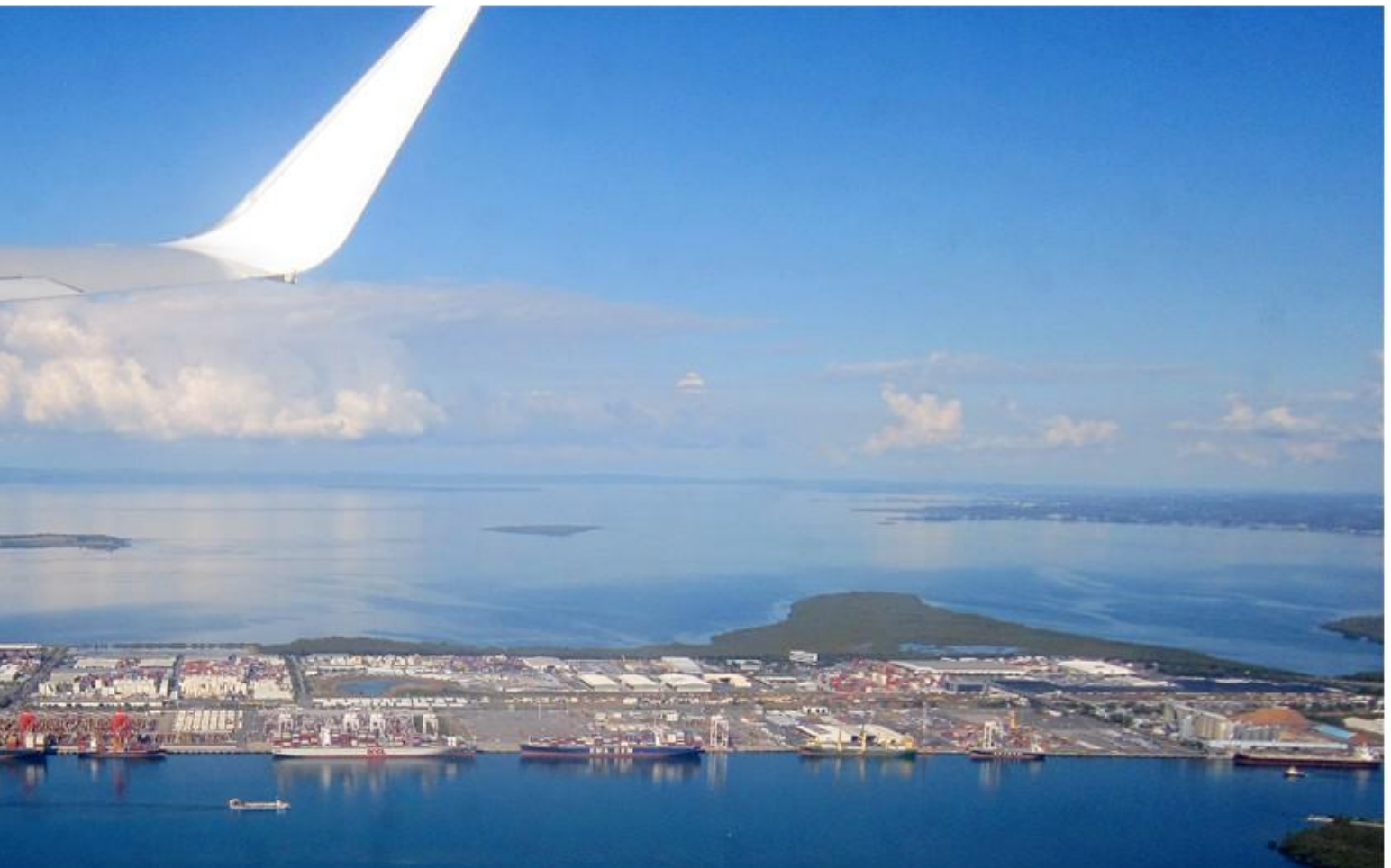
SEAT: 28F

ETKT

FARE: S

PNR: NTYAFZ

CARRIER: VIRGIN AUSTRALIA



nt VA 950 leaving Brisbane for Sydney.





**Flight view approaching Sydney [17 July 2025]**



**Flight view approaching Sydney [17 July 2025]**



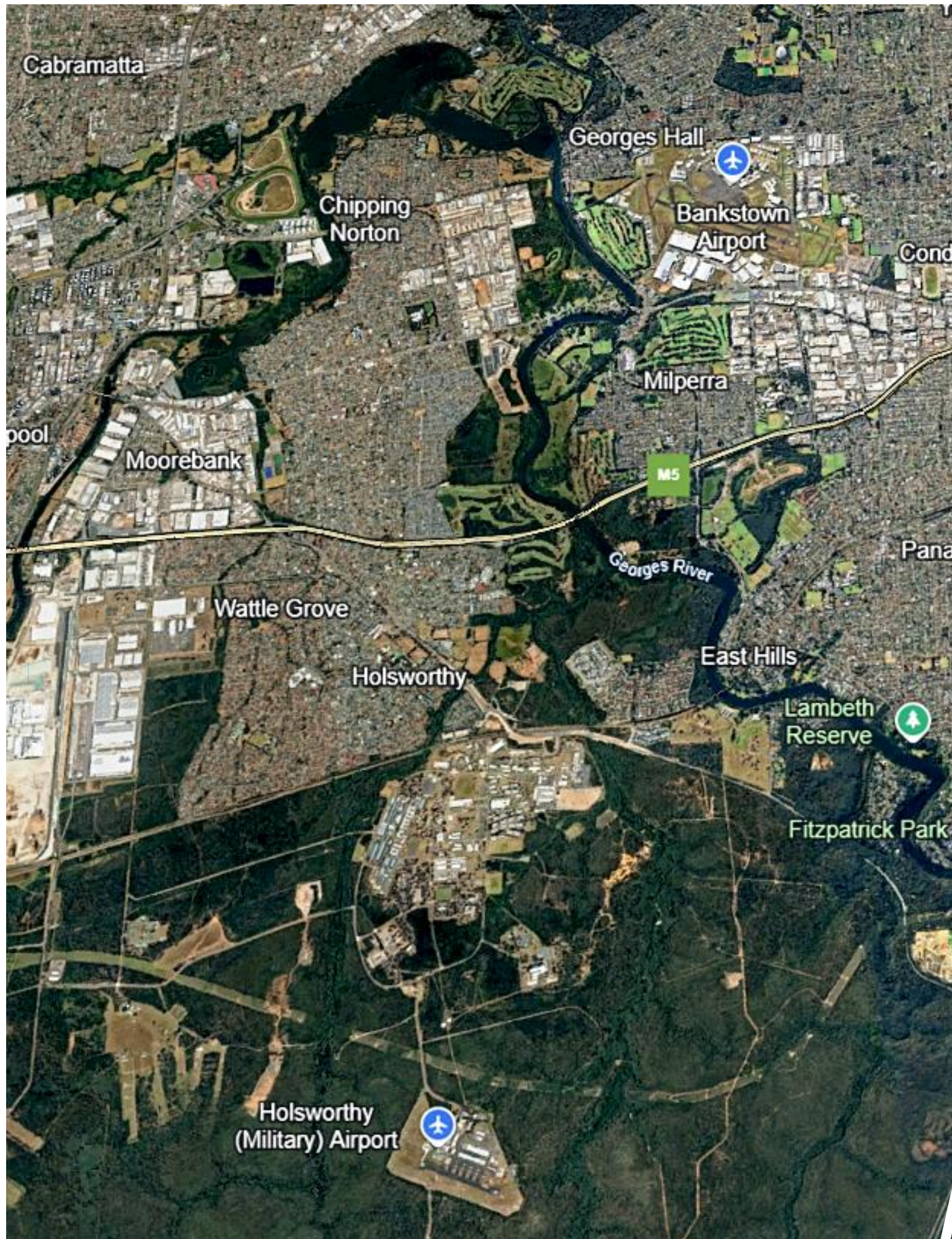


**Flight view approaching Sydney [17 July 2025]**



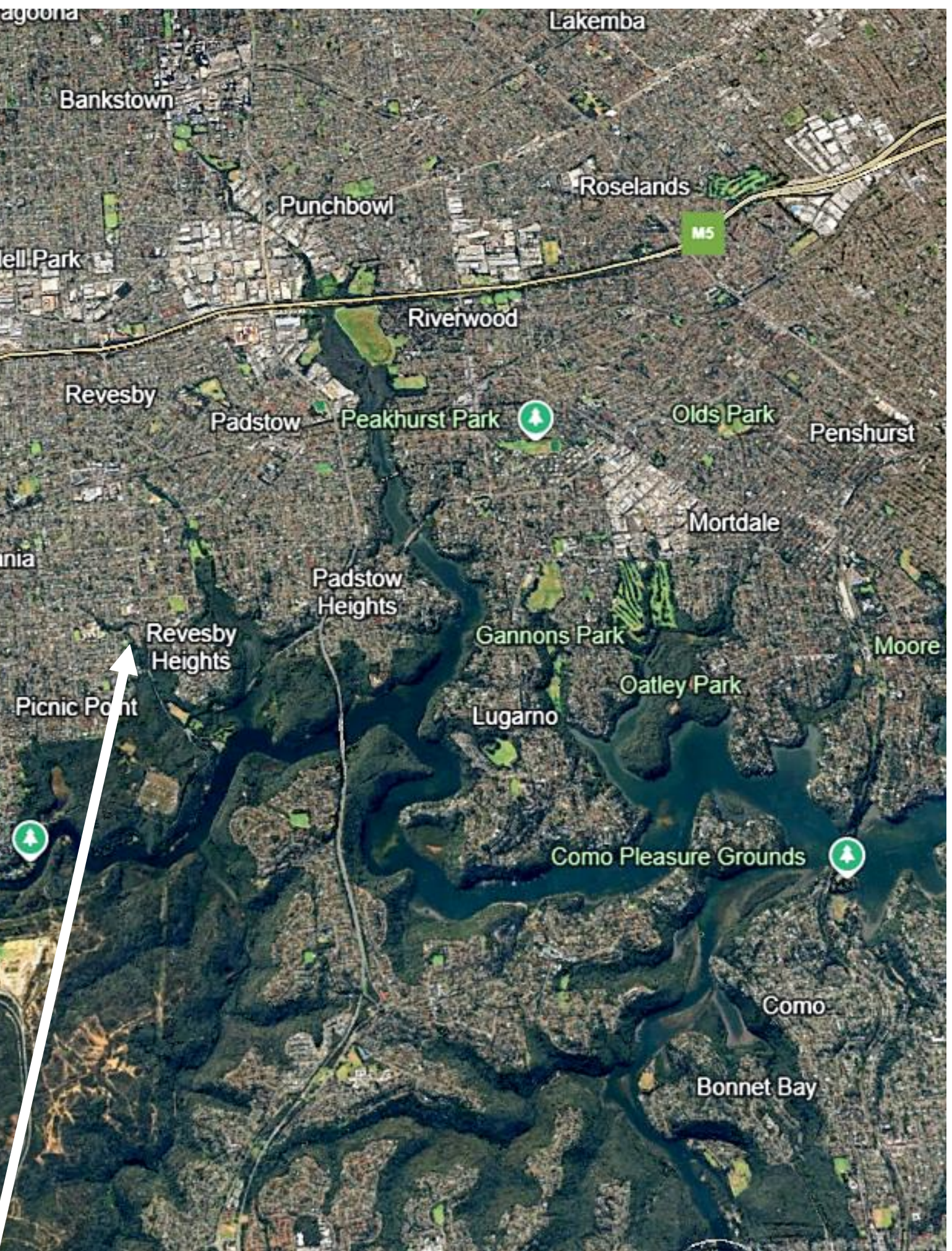
**Flight view approaching Sydney [17 July 2025]**





Yvette's home





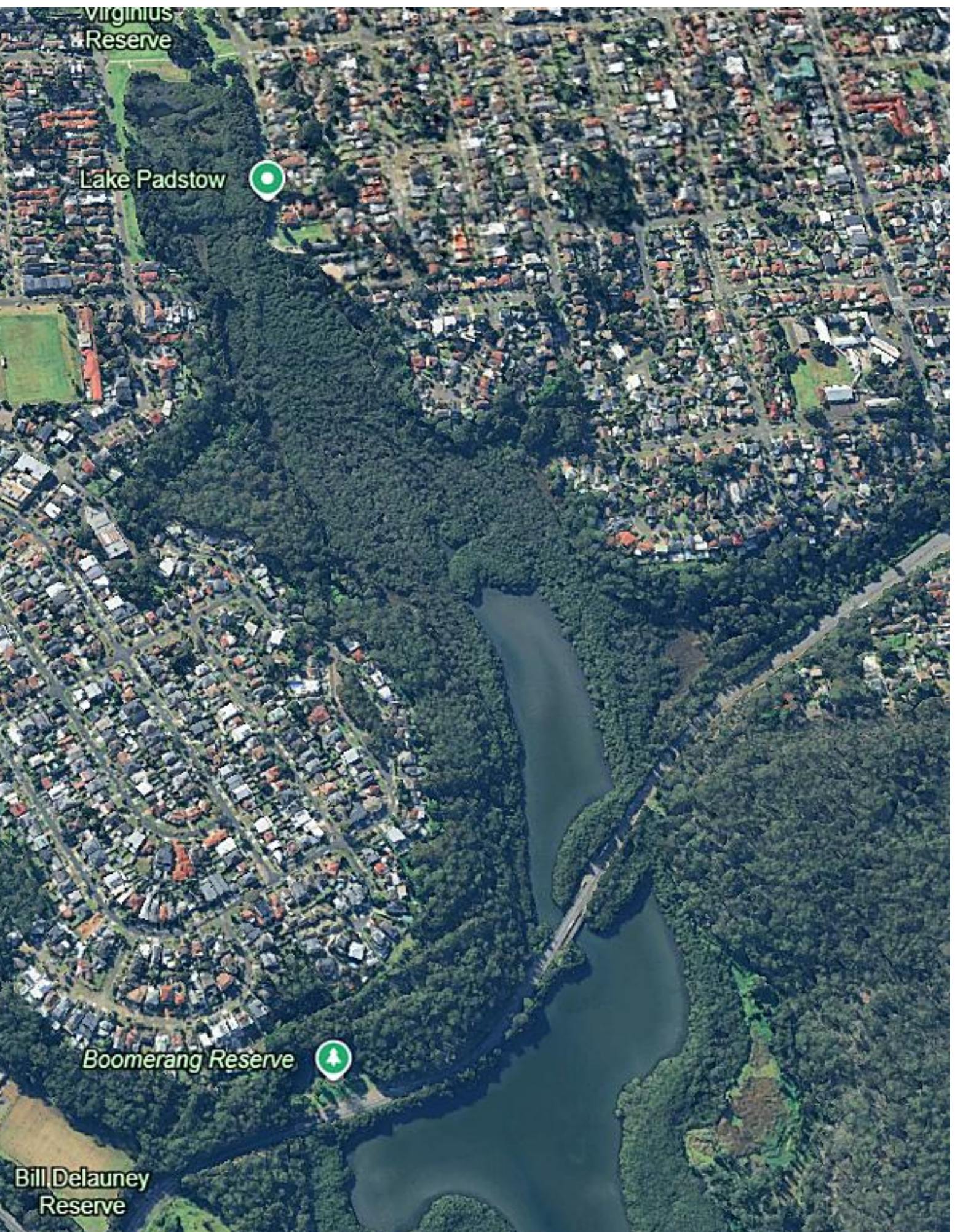
ne in Sydney





**Yvette's home at 14 Bardo Circle**





cuit, Reevesby Heights, Sydney



# Friday July 18th, 2025



**Catching the train into Sydney [18 July 2025]**

A quiet morning with no-one around. I did some Code Breaks puzzles and watch TV.

At mid-day all five of us (Gary, Yvette, Ryan, Logan and I) headed off by train for a luncheon - at the **Sydney Sky Tower!** Brilliant! All you can eat smorgasbord. I could go back to the food sources as often as I

wanted, while the service workers would clear your table of empty plates and “left-overs”.

I had one small main course and then followed it by three desert dishes. The Sky Tower provided me with a “Happy Birthday” desert dish as well.

The area of the tower where we sat for our meal(s) rotated





**Building construction in Sydney alongside the Sky Tower [18 July 2025]**

very slowly, and I took a number of photos of the city below without getting up from the table.

Gary dined on three huge plates of sea food, as did the boys. Yvette and I restricted our plates tally to a little less than that.

The travel to the Tower was a short distance to a parking building and then the majority of the journey was by train. Home by 4:15pm.

Just had a small snack for tea (potato chips)!

Ryan and Logan headed off to work and to see their mates while Yvette and I watch a Rugby League match on TV (Panthers v Rabbits)., while in the other sitting room Gary watch a cowboy movie.

Bed by 10:00pm.

**VIDEO**

**SKY TOWER TRIP (3m 50s)**





**The Sky Tower from road level [18 July 2025]**



**Sky Tower luncheon party of Gary, Ryan, Yv**



**Yvette lining up on the ground floor to get our tickets  
for the restaurant [18 July 2025]**





ette and Logan



Logan, Gary & Yvette digging in at the Sky Tower restaurant

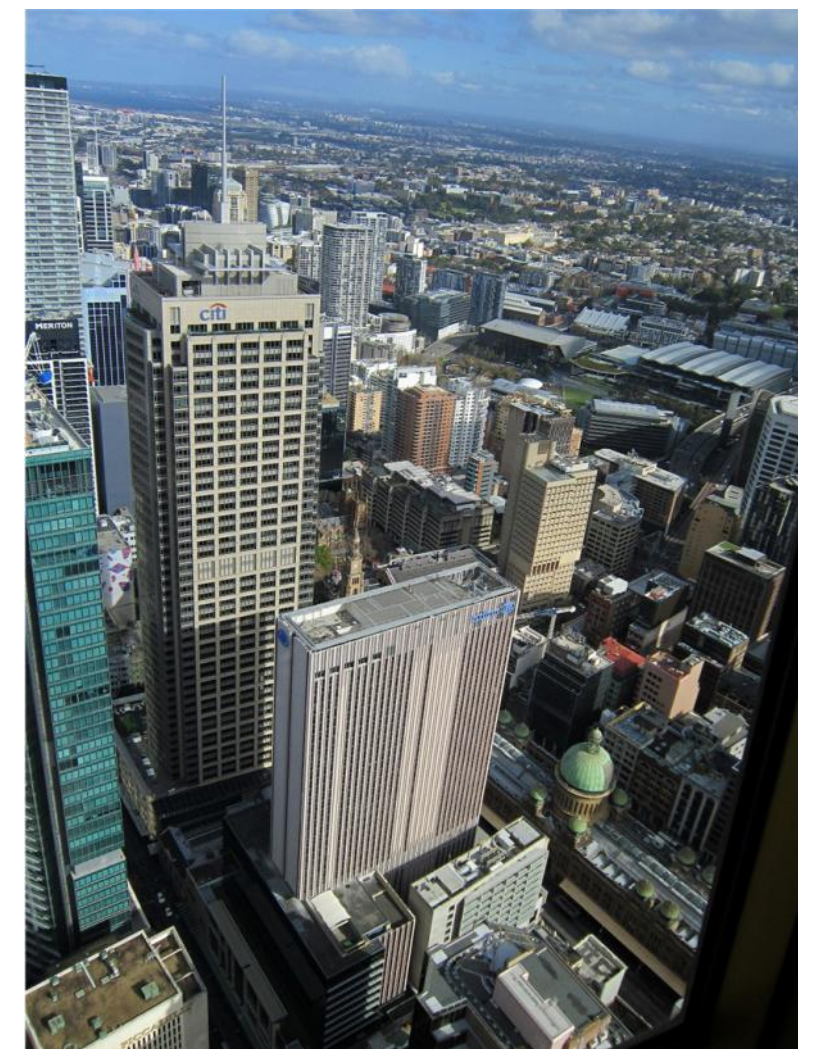


The rotating luncheon area with Ryan and Yvette standing far left  
[18 July 2025]

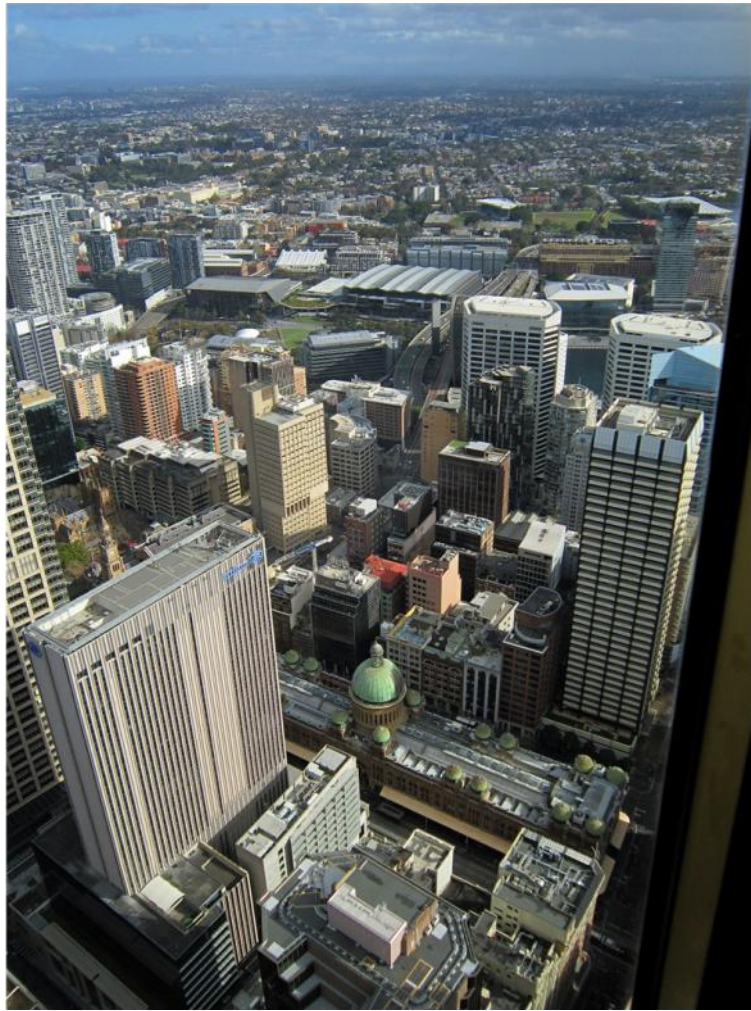




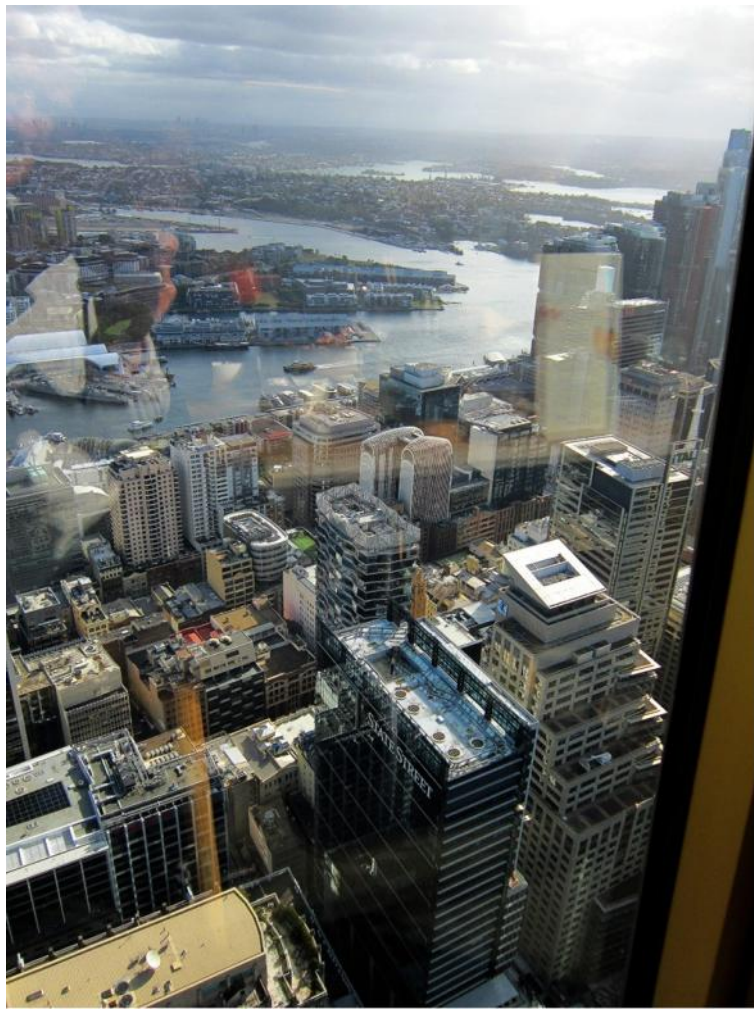




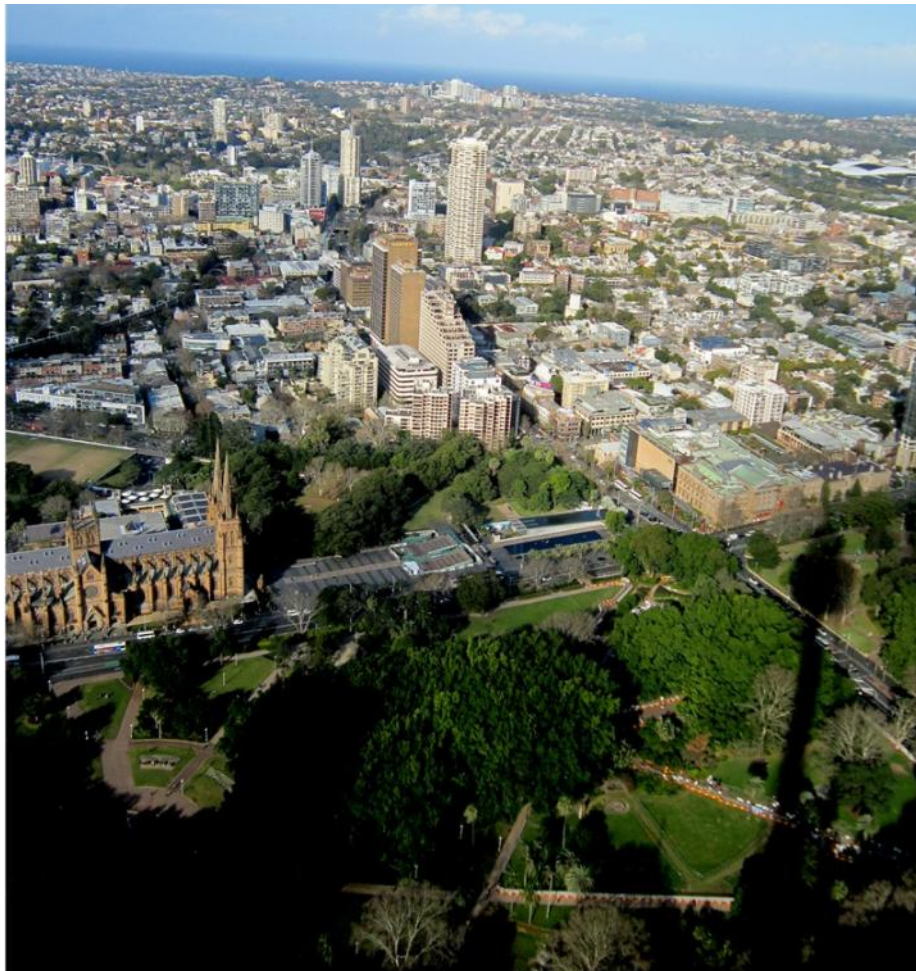
















**Birthday gift tray from the Sky Tower Restauranters.**





**Waiting for the homeward train [18 July 2025]**



**Seeing the train through the mesh**





**We had the whole carriage to ourselves on the way home from the Sydney Sky Tower meal. [18 July 2025]**



**on the overhead passenger access.**



# *Saturday July 19th, 2025*

I arose at 8:30am while the others were still slumbering.

I scrolled through the TV channels and ended up watching part of “The Dirty Dozen” along with some baseball and golf.

Went for a walk around part of the district and circled around to wander down the narrow strip between Yvette’s back fence and the cliff face.

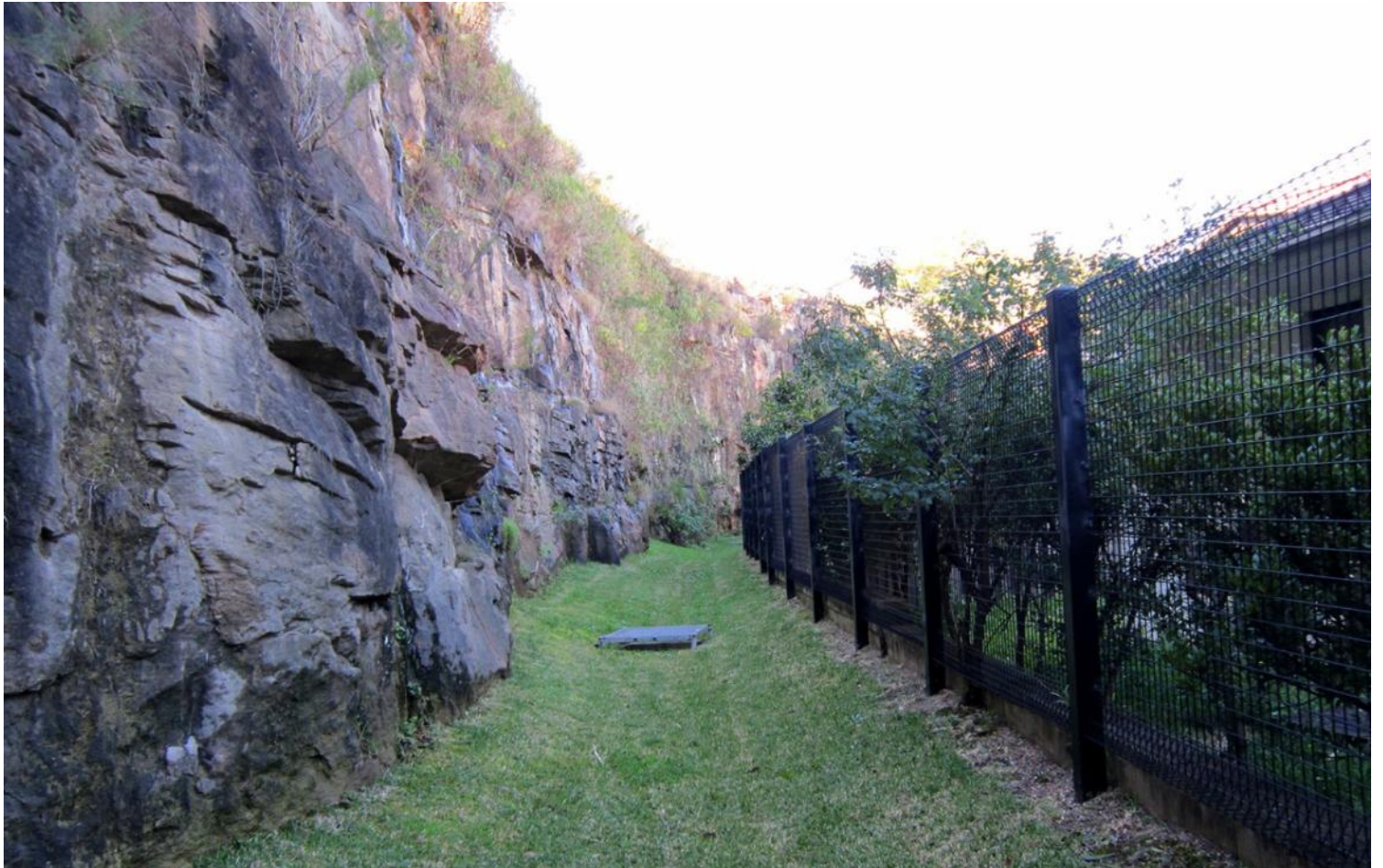


**Views around Yvette’s home [19 July 2025]**





**Behind Yvette's home [19 July 2025]**







**Behind Yvette's home [19 July 2025]**







**Across the stream from Yvette's home [19 July 2025]**





Got ready for Ryan and Logan to take me to Cronulla and the beach.

Upon arrival we roamed the beach-front to watch the crashing waves on the rocks and over the two beach pools.

Had wraps and an ice-cream for lunch before heading to Cattleduffer's Flat on the Georges River National Park,

where Ryan did a bit of cliff climbing!

Got home in time for Ryan to head off for work as a bar-tender at Acres in the Greenacre suburb.

Watched the All Blacks game and then the Australians v Lions games on TV.

Yvette was still up at 2:45am when I headed to the downstairs toilet!



**Arriving at Cronulla with the ocean in the distance [19 July 2025]**





**Cronulla [19 July 2025]**



**Cronulla beachfront [19 July 2025]**





**Cronulla beachfront pool [19 July 2025]**



**Cronulla beachfront [19 July 2025]**



**Café ice-cream sele**





**Another Cronulla beachfront pool [19 July 2025]**



**Ice cream shop [19 July 2025]**



**Ryan and Logan with their ice-creams [19 July 2025]**





**Logan purchasing lunch at a Cronulla cafe [19 July 2025]**







**The Georges River [19 July 2025]**



**Ryan and Logan at the Georges River [19 July 2025]**





**Sandy at the Georges River [19 July 2025]**



**Scenery alongside the Georges River [19 July]**





**Rock wall alongside the Georges River [19 July 2025]**



2025]







**Sandy and Logan alongside the Georges River [19 July 2025]**



**Ryan and Logan exiting the Georges River walk [19 July 2025]**





**Sandy and Ryan alongside the Georges River [19 July 2025]**

## **VIDEOS**

**CRONULLA BEACH (1m 26s)**

**RYAN ROCK-CLIMBING (3m 33s)**



# *Sunday July 20th, 2025*

This is my last full day in Australia. Today we are off to have a 1pm family luncheon at the Acres Café where Ryan works.

In the morning I scrolled through the myriad of television stations available to me until Logan got out of bed at 11:15am.

We drove to the Acres Café in the Greenacre suburb and had an

excellent meal. I had ordered a side dish of chicken that I thought would be more than enough for me.

It certainly was more than enough! There were 12 snack pieces and I could only manage five! Never mind having a main course! My left-overs went into the Bell fridge for later consumption.



**Acres Club Luncheon [20 July 2025]**





**Acres Club Luncheon [20 July 2025]**



**My "Snack" at Acres Club Luncheon [20 July 2025]**













**Yvette leaving Acres Club Luncheon [20 July 2025]**

Ryan headed out to pick up their dog Kora in the afternoon that had been “holidaying” with another family.

In the evening we watched the NZ Warriors Rugby League team playing the Newcastle Knights. The warriors (behind on the scoreboard) scored their winning try with no time left on the clock!



**Yvette relaxing with Frodo [20 July 2025]**





**Heading home after the Acres Club Luncheon [20 July 2025]**





# Monday July 21st, 2025

| AIR NEW ZEALAND  |          | A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER  |        |  |             |
|---|----------|---|--------|---|-------------|
| MACDONALD ALEXANDER -   |          | THE WORKS   |        | MACDONALD ALEXANDE  |             |
| FROM:   | SYDNEY   | FLIGHT:   | NZ 102 | FLIGHT:   | NZ 102      |
| TO:   | AUCKLAND |   |        | FROM:   | SYD TO: AKL |
| DATE:   | 21JUL    |   |        | DATE:   | 21JUL       |
| ESTIMATED BOARDING:   | 09:15 AM | GATE:   | 55     | ESTIMATED BOARDING:   | 09:15 AM    |
| COMMENTS:   |          | SEAT:   | 11F    | SEAT:   | 11F         |
| AIRPOINTS:  |          |   |        |   | 6103        |
| BAG TAG NO:   | NZ507989 |   |        |   |             |
| BAG TAG NO:   | AKL      |   |        |   |             |
| PASSPORT NO:  |          | ETKT  | 096    |   |             |

Up at 6:15am ready to leave for the airport and at 6:55am Yvette drove me to the train station for both of us to catch the ride to the Sydney International Airport.

The ride was a fairly long one (as expected).

When we arrived Yvette assisted me in where to go and what to do. I got through the customs OK, waved Yvette goodbye and headed off to Gate 55 to wait for boarding.

The flight was scheduled for 9:15am but was delayed until 10:35am due to catering supplies arriving late.

Gate 55 was the departure location and, as I waited, I saw the NZ Warriors Rugby League

team boarding ahead of me!

I had my third window seat in a row! No doubt engineered by my Australian hosts.

The flight arrived at the Auckland Airport at 3:45pm.

Jacinda met me at the airport as Mum's car had a flat battery. So Mum had to drive up from Ngaruawahia to the Prattley home in my Mazda Demio, where Jacinda continued the journey to the airport in her car.

We were hosted to a scrumptious dinner at Jacinda's and then headed home to arrive back by 8:00pm.

Baggage, bath and bed ensued to end my wonderful family-oriented birthday.



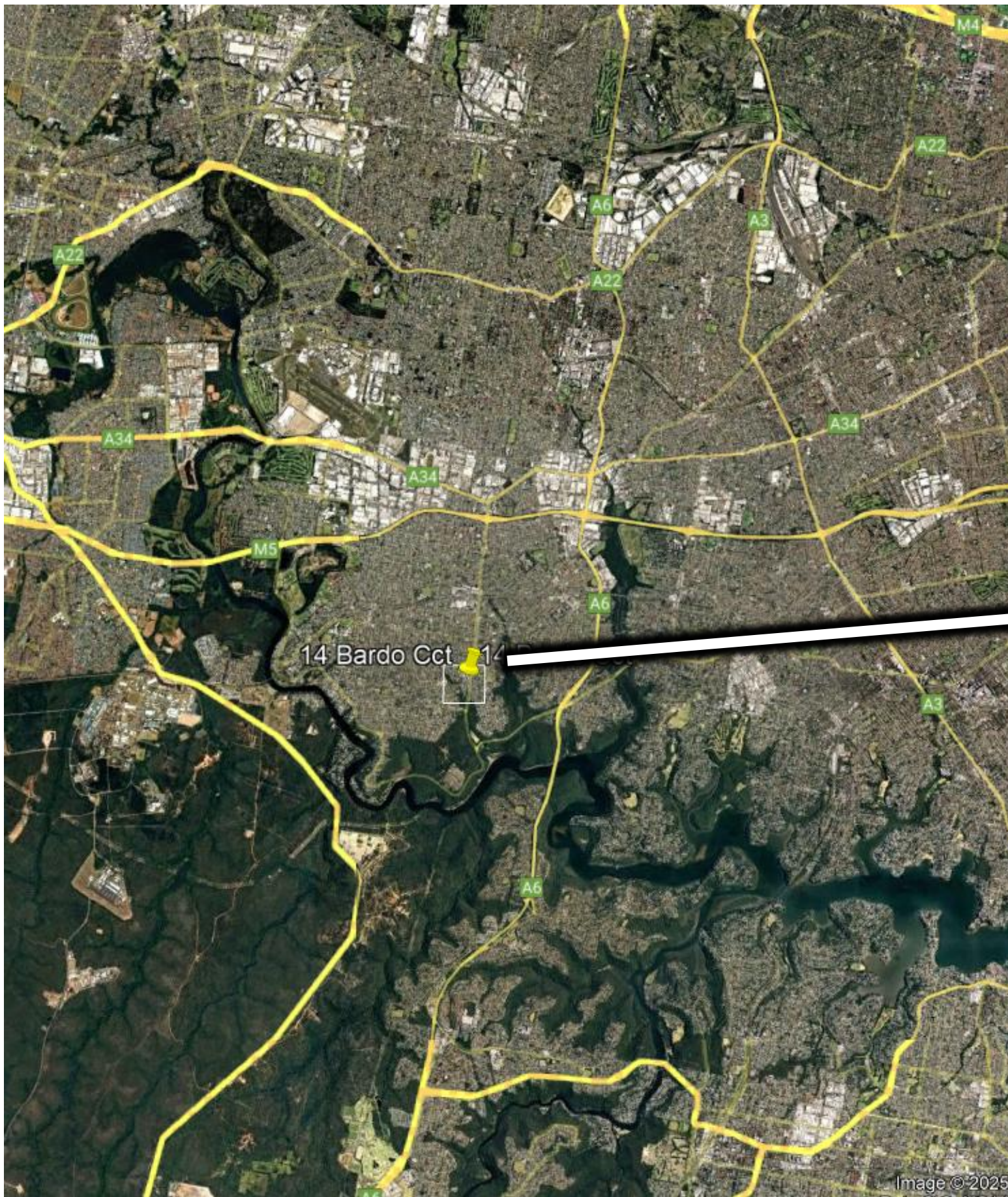


**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**



**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**





**Yvette's to Sydney In**  
**(We took**





International Airport.

(the train)





**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**



**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**



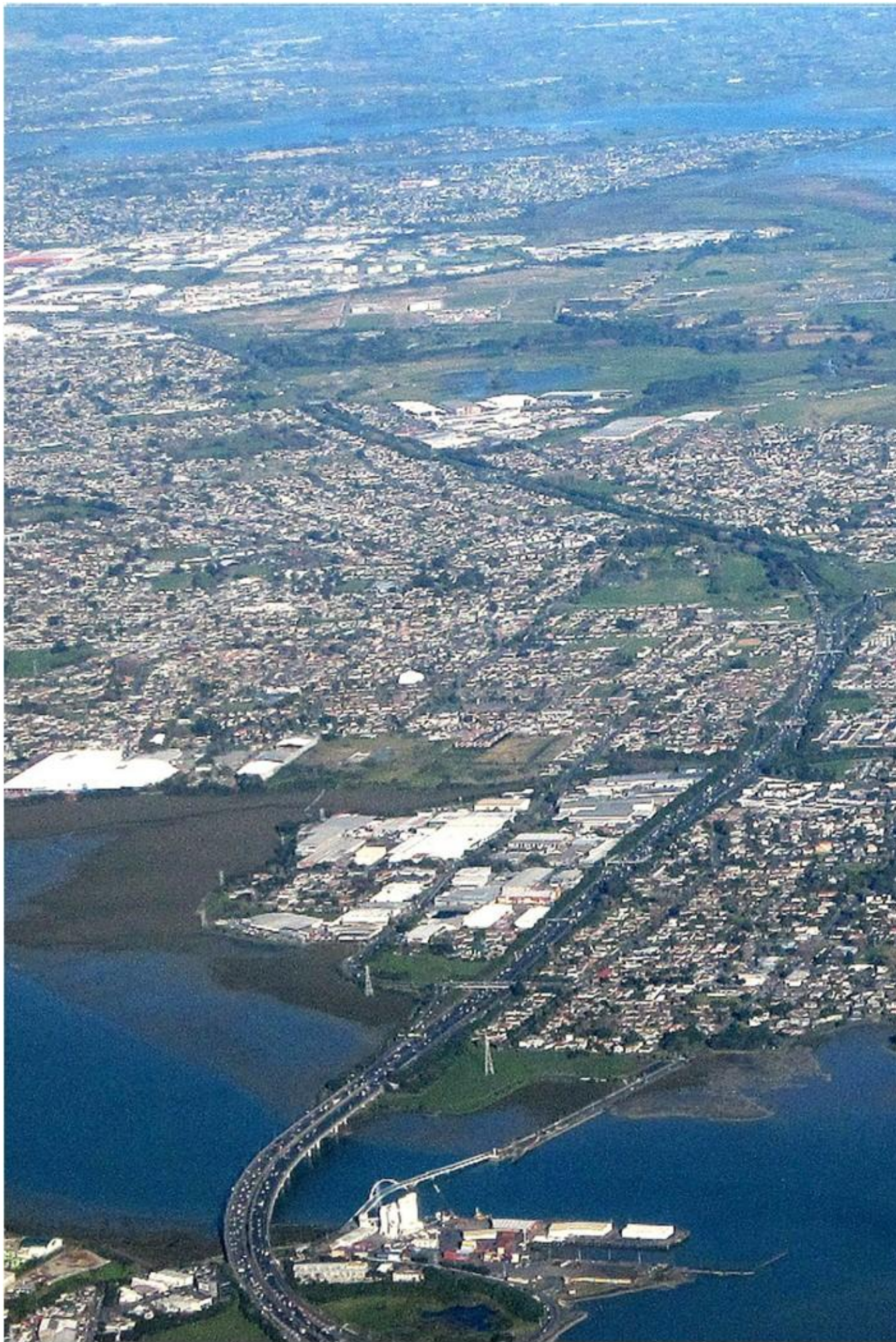


**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**



**Approaching Auckland Airport [21 July 2025]**





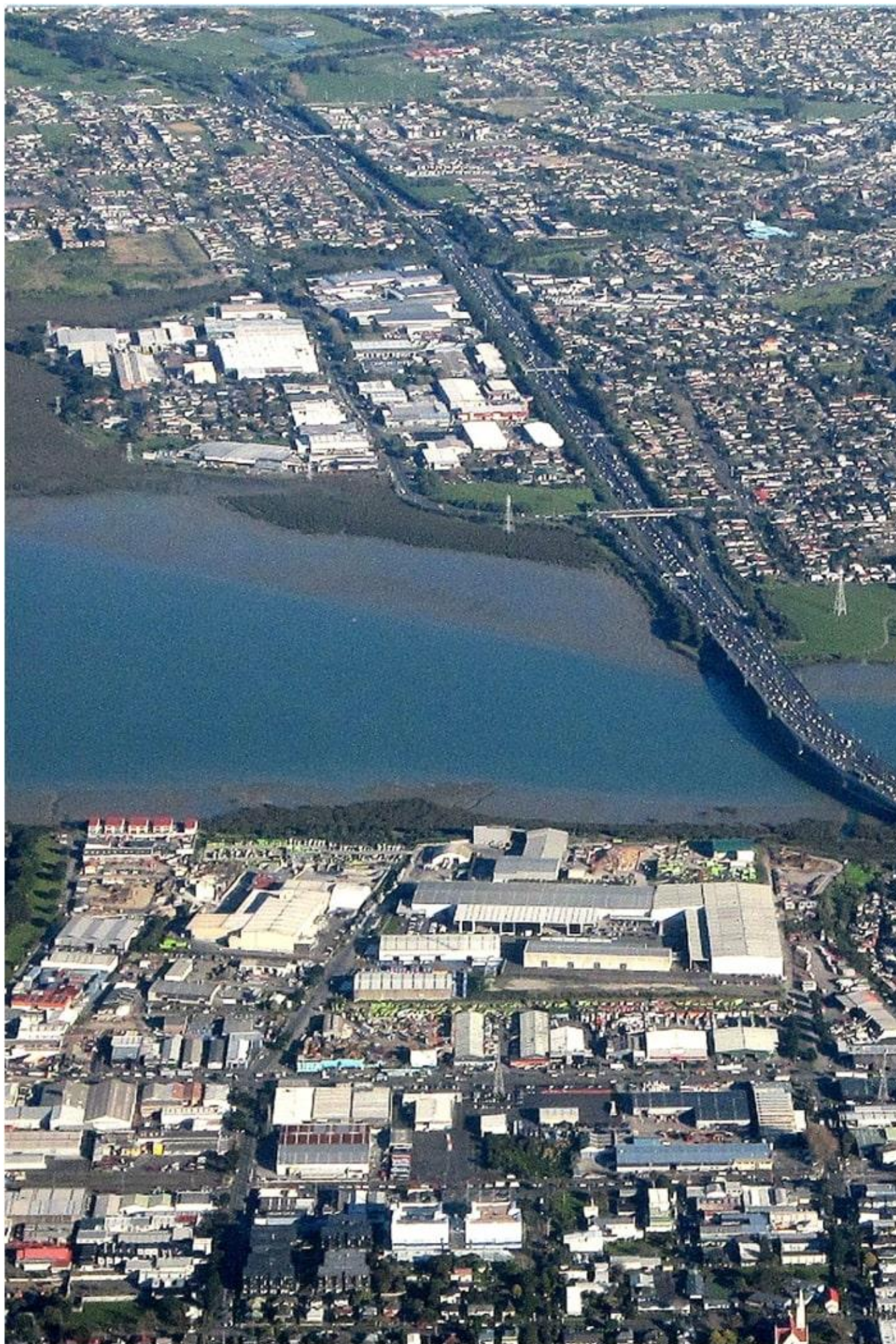
**Approaching Auckland**





**Airport [21 July 2025]**





**Approaching Auckland**





**Airport [21 July 2025]**





**Approaching Auckland**





**Airport [21 July 2025]**



**TRIP DIRECTORS**

**Regan MacDonald & Yvette Bell.**

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR**

**Andre MacDonald.**

**EXECUTIVE PRODUCER**

**Logan Bell.**

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

**Jean MacDonald, Rose MacDonald,  
Aliyana MacDonald, Hannah MacDonald,  
Ryan Bell.**

**SCRIPT WRITER**

**Sandy MacDonald.**

**AUDIO EDITOR**

**Molly MacDonald (Dog).**

**ASSISTANT AUDIO EDITORS**

**Kora Bell (Dog), Frodo MacDonald (Dog).**