**Perth voted 7th ‘most liveable’ city — up one spot from last year**

WE LOVE it, now Perth has been voted the seventh “most liveable’’ city in the world, with Melbourne taking top spot and Adelaide in the top five.

Melbourne, Australia’s sporting and arguably cultural home, again topped the charts, named the Most Liveable city in the world.

Based on lifestyle factors such as political stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure, Melbourne topped for the charts for the sixth year running.

Sydney, plagued by soaring house prices, failed to make the Top 10, despite it’s obviously attractive lifestyle, if you can afford a house.

Premier and Tourism Minister Colin Barnett said: “Perth is a vibrant city with clear skies, fresh air and beautiful beaches, where people can still enjoy the benefits of a modern, sophisticated city and a relaxed lifestyle.

“When you look around the world where else would you get the kind of health care and education standards that are delivered in WA.”

Port Moresby, one of our nearest neighbours, got a berth in the World’s Worst.

Perth Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi said Perth’s unique features make it an idyllic place to live, work, or visit.

“The face of the Perth has transformed significantly in recent years, and we are proud to see a long-term vision for our capital city coming to fruition,’’ Mrs Scaffidi said.

“With our rich history of arts and culture, iconic beaches and enviable weather, Perth — and greater Western Australia — offers unique experiences to make it an idyllic place to live, work, or visit.

“The City has worked alongside key stakeholders as a driving force in the revitalisation of new urban neighbourhoods, with our state-of- the-art Library a catalyst for the revamped Cathedral Square precinct.

“Furthermore, the City’s investment in public art, street and laneway enhancements has transformed the public realm, lending character to Perth’s urban fabric and making it an attractive destination for new venues, businesses, events and activation projects.’’

Perth’s seventh place, just behind Adelaide and Calgary, was a one-place improvement on 2015.

Melbourne Lord Mayor Robert Doyle described the win as “a fantastic accolade for Melbourne and something we should all be proud of”.

“We do not take this title for granted and are constantly planning and implementing policies that will continue to improve our quality of life,” Mayor Doyle said.

“It is an exciting time in Melbourne: we’ve got many major infrastructure projects underway including the Metro Tunnel, and the proposed renewal of the Queen Victoria Market precinct.

“It’s also the little things also make a big difference: planting more trees, recycling stormwater, making more parks and green spaces, providing better paths and connections for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as embracing technology and data to improve our operations.

“I can’t wait to make my annual phone call to Gregor Robertson, Mayor of Vancouver.”

**THE MOST LIVEABLE CITIES IN THE WORLD**

1. Melbourne — 97.5 out of 100

2. Vienna — 97.4

3. Vancouver — 97.3

4. Toronto — 97.2

5. Adelaide and Calgary — 96.6

7. Perth — 95.9

8. Auckland — 95.7

9. Helsinki — 95.6

10. Hamburg — 95.0

**THE CELLAR DWELLERS**

Damascus in Syria scored just 30.2 out of 100 and it wasn’t much better for the capital cities of Libya, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea.

**MORE ABOUT THE SURVEY**

\* 140 cities around the world rated on stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

\* Melbourne topped the index with perfect scores for healthcare, education and infrastructure.

\* Adelaide was equal fifth, Perth up one place to seventh, Sydney booted from seventh into 11th.

\* The ranking of Brisbane, which was 18 last year, is yet to be published.

**WHY BOTHER WITH THIS SURVEY?**

\* The Economist Intelligence Unit says the index is helpful for global businesses to determine how much extra they pay employees moving between cities.

\* For example, it suggests bumping allowances by 20 per cent if employees have to move from Melbourne to PNG’s Port Moresby. Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit’s Liveability Ranking 2016.