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Melbourne ranked the world's most liveable city – again



Melbourne's top ranking, for the fifth year running, gives it an edge in the tourism and education markets. Paul Jeffers

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by **Nick Lenaghan**

Melbourne has been ranked the world's most liveable city for the fifth time running, with Sydney coming in seventh in *The Economist's* Intelligence Unit's annual survey.

Trailing Melbourne was Vienna in second place, then Vancouver and Toronto. Adelaide came in on equal fifth place with Calgary in Canada.

The Economist survey placed Perth eighth in the rankings, while Brisbane was 18th. All five Australian cities are in the top tier of liveability, with scores above 90 per cent.

The annual survey ranks cities on a range of factors under categories including stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.

"Melbourne remains top for the fifth year running, but elsewhere in the ranking the situation is more depressing," said Jon Copestake, editor of the *Economist* survey.

"As well as conflicts in Ukraine, Libya and Syria, the last 12 months have seen protests in the US, sanctions in Russia and shootings in France and Tunisia. The hostage siege in Sydney late last year has put Australia on a high terror alert, which could affect future scores."

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Committee of Melbourne chief executive Kate Roffey quickly seized on the *The Economist* survey as the best recognised standard of liveability among global cities. But Ms Roffey also warned her home town should not rest on its laurels.

"Great cities do not happen by chance – they develop through visionary thinking and long-term planning.

"We should be proud of our ranking as the world's most liveable city, but we should also be mindful that if we fail to keep planning to improve, others will be very happy to strip us of our title."

Lord mayor Robert Doyle said the liveability branding carried real weight, especially in Asia, where Melbourne's ranking gave it an edge in the tourism and education markets.

"This is huge for us in terms of our international students, who wish to come to the city that is the most liveable in the world to study," he said.

And Melbourne's premier alderman was generous in recognition of the high ranking of other Australian cities, including Sydney.

"Seventh is good. It's not one, but seventh is good."

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