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CHAMPION DATA SPECIAL, SPORT

TIGERS' NEW PRIDE

BOLD PLANS FOR RICHMOND REVIVAL: SEE SPORT

FOOD FESTIVAL'S TASTIEST EVENTS

KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL SPECIAL, PAGES 5, 21

GET SET TO ROCK & GROHL

CONCERT BUZZ, PAGE 9

Jeff backs Crown bid

KIERAN ROONEY

FORMER premier Jeff Kennett has backed a proposed \$8.9bn takeover of Crown Resorts by US private equity giant Blackstone, saying "Australian ownership hasn't been too good".

Crown Resorts announced on Monday a bid to buy it outright was endorsed by the casino operator's board.

Mr Kennett, who spearheaded the opening of Crown in the 1990s, said he supported a change in ownership.

"It may still be some months before ownership actually transfers," he said.

"I welcome the bid and hope it is successful."

FULL REPORT, PAGE 2

EXCLUSIVE Lack of services, attractions in outer suburbs holding city back, landmark report shows

MIND THE GAP

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE is on the cusp of becoming one of the world's great cities, but is being held back because its prized services and attractions are not adequately spread to the outer suburbs.

A landmark report, Benchmarking Melbourne, has identified "a tale of two cities" in which the central area provides "walkable cultural and dining options,

easy access to sporting events ... plenty of public transport and reliable internet".

"But a significant number of people do not enjoy these benefits of Melbourne's liveability," it says.

Commissioned by advocacy group the Committee for Melbourne and commercial real estate firm JLL, the report shows how Melbourne stacks up against 20 peer cities, including Sydney.

REPORTS, PAGES 6-7

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LANDMARK REPORT

MIND THE GAP

FLAWED CITY ON CUSP OF GREATNESS

Study urges broader strategy

EXCLUSIVE
JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE is on the cusp of becoming one of the world's great cities, but is being held back because its prized services and attractions are not adequately spread to the outer suburbs, a landmark report says.

The Benchmarking Melbourne report identified "a tale of two cities" in which the central area provided "walkable cultural and dining options, easy access to sporting events ... plenty of public transport and reliable internet".

"But a significant number of people do not enjoy these benefits of Melbourne's liveability," it said.

Commissioned by prominent advocacy group the Committee for Melbourne and commercial real estate firm JLL, the report shows how Melbourne stacks up against 20 peer cities, including Sydney, Brisbane, London, Berlin, San Francisco, Toronto, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Done by consultant The Business of Cities, the report also ranked Melbourne among many other cities after reviewing more than 100 global benchmark studies.

It found Melbourne was: **FIRST** out of 48 top cities for the number of train station and tram stops in the central city; **SECOND** among 14 peers for climate policy actions; **THIRD** out of 75 cities for cultural vibrancy and variety; and **THIRD** among 20 peers for providing exceptional sporting and cultural events.

The report said some key Melbourne strengths were hit

hard by the pandemic, and while the city was expected to bounce back, "Melbourne can't rest on its laurels".

Melbourne was rated the ninth-most congested city among its 20 peers, and ranked a lowly 295th out of more than 350 cities for walkability.

Just over 20 per cent of Melburnians live within 500m of regular transport services, compared with 51 per cent in Berlin, 40 per cent in Toronto and 38 per cent in Milan.

And Melbourne is the sixth-least affordable English-speaking city for buying a home.

"In effect, the Melbourne metropolis may become a competitive disadvantage for the assets and capabilities concentrated in the inner city - which are all increasingly interdependent on the labour market, housing market, mobility systems and environmental resilience of the wider region," the report said.

Committee for Melbourne chief Martine Letts said Melbourne was on the cusp of becoming one of the world's great cities if the delivery of prosperity and affordable liveability was well planned.

"There's got to be better connection between the inner suburbs and outer suburbs ... and there are exciting projects in train like Suburban Rail Loop and Melbourne Airport Rail Link," she said.

"Not only do we want it to be easier for Melburnians to travel to their places of work, but also to be able to work more at home because some of the work will come to them through better connectivity."

Padam Katai, 39, of the western growth suburb of Tar-

neit, said it was a good place for cheap houses.

"But there is still a lot of difference compared to the inner suburbs when it comes to transport and infrastructure," he said. "Most people have to travel for their job, so we need more public transport."

Ms Letts said greater Manchester had shown the value of spreading economic benefits more widely, and the Suburban Rail Loop could play a key role here. "It could decentralise some of that knowledge work and the modern economy that we clearly have some good fundamentals for; it's about transport connectivity, it's about affordable housing," she said.

The report found Melbourne was lagging on productivity relative to its high education standards and performance, which was also an Australia-wide problem.

"GDP (gross domestic product) per capita in Melbourne is now 20 per cent below its peer group average, while household disposable income has also fallen relative to others," it said.

JLL managing director and Committee for Melbourne board member Craig Shute said the city remained highly attractive for local and international students.

"There is an opportunity to convert students to long-term residents, locking in a skilled and educated future workforce to deliver the innovative-tech businesses of tomorrow," he said.

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Additional reporting by Mitch Ryan

melbourne.org.au
OPINION, P43

Partnerships vital to be more than a bit player in tech

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE'S perception as a world-leading technology and innovation hub has taken a hit in a key report comparing global cities.

The Benchmarking Melbourne study said while the city had excellent university and research capabilities, other cities had tended to outperform Melbourne in luring risk capital for things such as biotech ventures.

"Melbourne has yet to gain international recognition for many world-class specialisms

and commercialised products," it said.

"In general, capital raising companies in science and engineering industries are still thinner on the ground than in the innovation hub cities Melbourne compares itself to."

Commissioned by the Committee for Melbourne and commercial realtor JLL, the report found Melbourne was second to Israeli city Tel Aviv for the combined value of its "innovation ecosystem", growing by 1600 per cent since 2017.

Melbourne placed fourth among similar-sized cities for

among 87 top cities for the number of tech company headquarters relative to its population size.

Committee for Melbourne chief Martine Letts said in many ways, Melbourne was Australia's leading city for innovation and research, particularly in biotech.

"We've got really good researchers and thinkers, and what we've managed to do in terms of contributing to solutions on Covid vaccines and cancer, and all the other areas that we're really good at," she said.

Ms Letts said the state government's proposed development of the Cremorne Digital Hub was promising, and urban renewal precincts such as Fishermans Bend had a lot of potential to bolster innovation.



"Better access to public transport would be good. More buses. There are a few around the area, but a few more couldn't hurt."

JASON OH, STUDENT, DOREEN

Picture: Josie Hayden

VIEW FROM DOREEN

"I've been a bit disappointed with the state of the parks. I've noticed the grass isn't getting cut often enough, especially in summer. There's been a lot of snake sightings lately."

JOHN TSIRGIANIS, SECURITY GUARD, SOUTH MORANG

"We need safer roads. Some of them are a bit dangerous with lots of kids riding around. Probably some skate parks in the area, too. And around school zones, safer crossings."

MADELYN CARDIN, STUDENT, DOREEN

"I'm really impressed with the development they have had; the choice of schools, the roads, and the fact that they're building the sports centre not far from here."

ALLISON HODGE, TRAVEL CONSULTANT, DOREEN

VIEW FROM TARNEIT



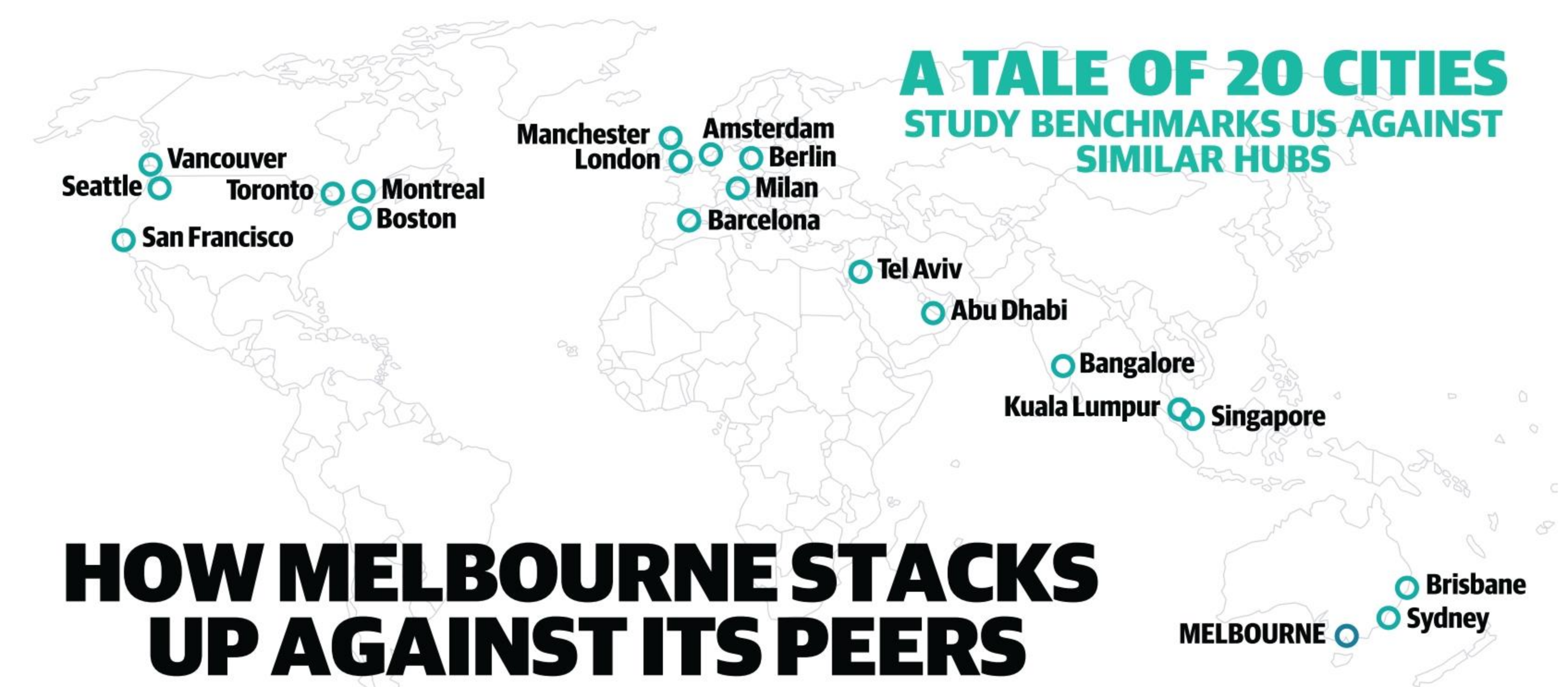
"I just feel they should be doing a lot more planning before they get things up and running."

BROOKE BRICKIE, TARNEIT



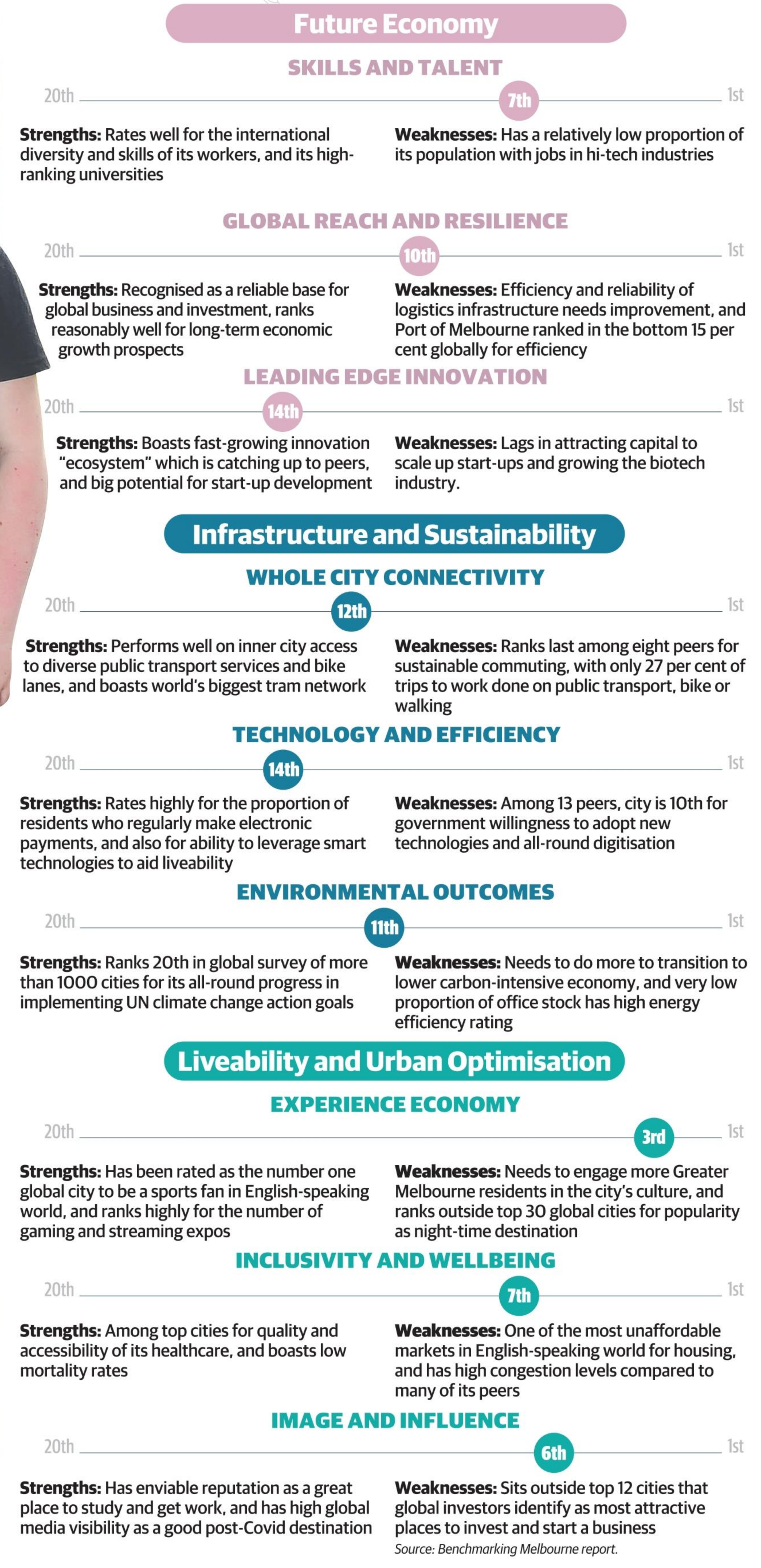
"It is not easy to get around and there aren't many green spaces. There need to be more parks and community centres."

ADI KHADKA, TARNEIT



A TALE OF 20 CITIES STUDY BENCHMARKS US AGAINST SIMILAR HUBS

HOW MELBOURNE STACKS UP AGAINST ITS PEERS



1st out of 48
Top cities for number of inner city train stations and tram stops

3rd out of 48
Cities for hosting high-capacity sports and events stadiums



3rd out of 75
Cities for vibrancy and cultural variety

4th among 50
Similar size cities for high-ranked computer and engineering unis

4th
Most committed to climate action out of 48 cities

6th
Most unaffordable English-speaking city for home buying

7th
Least resilient rental market among 27 top cities

9th
Most congested among 20 peers



10th
Friendliest city in the world

14th of 18
Peers for metro mobile broadband speeds