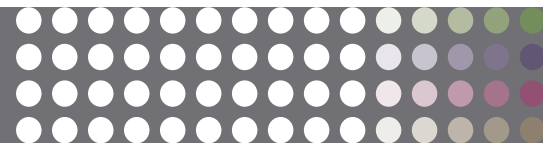


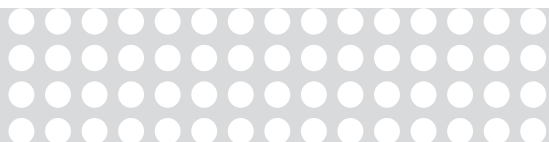
PLANNING FOR ALL OF MELBOURNE

The Victorian Government response to the *Melbourne 2030* Audit

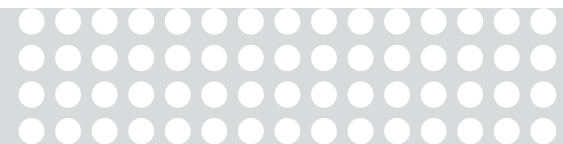


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PREMIER'S AND MINISTER'S FOREWORD

Successful international cities like Melbourne depend on a strong and responsive planning system to manage the challenges of growth.

Successful cities are also those that evolve and respond to the needs of the community.

Since the Victorian Government released its metropolitan planning strategy in 2002, the forces of change have been moving rapidly.

One million more residents are now expected to live in Melbourne about a decade earlier than forecast in 2002.

A growing economy and population boom of Gold Rush proportions is adding pressure to transport and other infrastructure, and the affordability of housing.

Within recent times, climate change has been accepted by governments within Australia and overseas as the greatest environmental, economic and social challenge of our time.

We must ensure our land-use planning system is dynamic and flexible enough to prepare Melbourne for the challenge of a more extreme climate, and to enable Victoria to capitalise on opportunities generated by the emerging climate change economy.

All of these changes have made the original policy principles of *Melbourne 2030* more urgent.

It is now imperative to provide for more housing close to good transport, to balance the locations of jobs and housing, maximise the use of existing infrastructure, protect neighbourhood amenity and preserve green spaces and agricultural opportunities around the city.

Victoria is well placed to meet these challenges: Melbourne is one of the few cities in the world to set an Urban Growth Boundary to help manage the city's growth; Melbourne remains the most affordable city on the east coast because of sound urban planning policies and systems; we have world-first legislation to protect the city's green wedges; we have established the Department of Planning and Community Development to ensure that the needs of the community are at the heart of our urban development planning; and our new housing is environmentally sustainable because we set high environmental benchmarks for water and energy use.

Melbourne is attracting record numbers of new citizens because of our strong economy and reputation as one of the world's most liveable cities. We must now work even harder, together, to protect and build on the qualities that make it so.

In the first five-year Audit of our planning framework, the report of the independent *Melbourne 2030* Audit Expert Group has provided valuable advice and recommendations towards how we will remain a liveable city.



The group's Report pulls together and analyses the ideas of many Victorians on how we can put the principles of good urban planning into practice right across Melbourne's suburbs and neighbouring regions. The Government thanks all those who have provided input to the Audit for sharing their submissions and views.

We will take up many of the Audit Expert Group's recommendations as we move forward with new policies to meet the challenges of climate change, population growth, transport congestion and housing affordability.

The clear message from the Audit is that we must marry the opportunities from this period of strong economic growth with the desires of Victorians to live more sustainably. More action is needed to bridge the policy intentions with on-the-ground actions.

Planning for all of Melbourne identifies four priority areas for action as we move forward. These are: planning for all of Melbourne; transport and managing congestion; environmental sustainability and climate change; and managing urban growth and change.

We will focus our efforts on:

- Developing a new planning partnership with clearer State/local government responsibilities.
- Increasing State Government resourcing and coordination of implementation.
- Establishing clear requirements for the amount and diversity of housing growth in each metropolitan municipality.
- Improved activity centre planning.
- More effective community and stakeholder engagement.
- Planning for longer term growth.

The 2008/09 State Budget builds on our substantial investments in sustainably developing Melbourne, with over \$1.6 billion of initiatives to strengthen our planning agenda and deliver on our infrastructure and service commitments.

We thank the members of the Audit Expert Group and all Victorians who have contributed to the Audit which will help us deliver the urban planning reforms Victoria needs.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Brumby'.

JOHN BRUMBY MP
PREMIER OF VICTORIA



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Madden'.

JUSTIN MADDEN MLC
MINISTER FOR PLANNING

Melbourne is a growing international city with a population that could reach five million people by 2030.

This growth is welcomed by the State Government for the significant new jobs and economic opportunities and vibrancy it brings to our communities. Strong growth provides opportunities to restructure the city and its infrastructure in ways which make it more sustainable for the future. However, growth must be carefully managed so Melbourne remains a liveable, productive and sustainable city – the very qualities that make Melbourne so attractive.

The current period of high population and economic growth is increasing demand for housing, water, power, transport and other infrastructure. Victoria needs to find new ways to manage this growth and increased demand sustainably while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Breaking the link between economic growth and Victoria's levels of greenhouse gas emissions will be fundamental to reducing Victorians' impact on climate change.

The first five-year Audit of *Melbourne 2030* brings all of these challenges into focus. The Audit Expert Group's report states that:

"We are convinced that the fundamental principles of Melbourne 2030 are more relevant than ever. This is because of the challenges posed by climate change, traffic congestion, the faster than expected growth of Melbourne's population, and the fact that Melbourne is still an extremely spread-out city. Compared to five years ago, there is now an even greater urgency to implement the many initiatives of Melbourne 2030 if Melbourne's development is to be sustainable and the city is to remain liveable."

The recently released report by Sir Rod Eddington (*Investing in Transport – East West Link Needs Assessment, 2007*) supports this view, noting that there is "*compelling evidence that more compact, higher density cities can achieve significant economic, social and environmental benefits*" and recommends "*the Government should continue to implement Melbourne 2030 and resist pressures to significantly alter the framework's parameters*".

The Government invited Victorians to have their say on the ongoing development and implementation of the metropolitan strategy through public submissions to the Audit Expert Group (AEG), made up of four independent experts.

More than 200 contributions were received from a range of community groups, public and private sector organisations, and individuals. Ideas raised in submissions, and in meetings and forums were carefully considered by the AEG in preparing its report, and by the Government in providing this response to the Audit.



AUDIT PROCESS

Melbourne 2030 includes a commitment to five yearly reviews.

In June 2006, the Minister for Planning announced that an audit of *Melbourne 2030* would focus on:

- Assessing whether new development on the ground reflected the intent of *Melbourne 2030*;
- Assessing whether the first five year implementation program had been completed and its effectiveness; and
- Identifying initiatives to be completed over the next five years to continue effectively implementing *Melbourne 2030*.

Planning for all of Melbourne has been informed by a wide range of research, analysis, engagement and input including:

- A stocktake by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (and later the Department of Planning and Community Development) which considered implementation progress, recent trends including 2006 Census data, and the views of key stakeholders. A report titled *Melbourne 2030 Audit: Analysis of Progress and Findings from the 2006 Census* was released.
- More than 200 public submissions and other information provided through meetings and workshops conducted by the independent Audit Expert Group. Organisations and individuals put significant time and thought into submissions and many ideas will be adopted.
- The Report of the Audit Expert Group.

www.melbourne2030.vic.gov.au

With the conclusion of the Audit, it is important for the Government to now move forward with the next stage of action. A wide range of views have been expressed by submitters and stakeholders. Whilst not all ideas can be adopted, many suggestions will be taken up now and in coming years as the Government works with the local government sector, the community and stakeholders to take action.

Managing congestion and providing world-class transport; planning well-connected new communities and providing for more housing near existing transport and services; and increasing the accessibility to quality jobs and services to all residents, are among the key challenges ahead.

The AEG has provided valuable advice in its report back to Government on translating the sound objectives of *Melbourne 2030* into the next stage of implementation.

The Government broadly accepts the advice of the AEG and will take action in four key areas:

1. Planning for all of Melbourne

The State Government will:

- ▶ Establish *Development Assessment Committees*, in partnership with the local government sector, to make planning decisions in relation to areas and matters of metropolitan significance.
- ▶ Prepare integrated infrastructure plans for urban areas experiencing substantial growth and key strategic activity centres to ensure more timely delivery of State and local government investments, overseen by a Cabinet Committee.
- ▶ Establish a new *Melbourne 2030* Implementation Unit in the Department of Planning and Community Development to drive and monitor implementation.
- ▶ Prepare longer-term plans for Melbourne's growth, informed by the latest population and economic growth forecasts, transport network needs, climate change and other environmental and community needs.
- ▶ Engage communities in planning matters early in the planning process, including piloting a range of community engagement approaches with the local government sector, to involve communities in planning for growth.
- ▶ Establish a Planning and Development Industry Round Table, including planning professionals and the local government sector, to advise the Minister for Planning on continual improvements to the planning system, and hold regular local government forums on urban issues.



OVERVIEW

2. Transport and managing congestion

The State Government will:

- ▶ Identify and implement priority projects under the Government's \$10.5 billion *Meeting Our Transport Challenges* plan to respond to demand.
- ▶ Develop an integrated, longer-term vision for Melbourne's transport system beyond 2035, that helps Victoria meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target and builds on the Government's response to the *East West Link Needs Assessment*, due later in 2008.
- ▶ Implement the new \$112.7 million congestion plan, *Keeping Melbourne Moving*, to deliver traffic management and roadwork improvements to alleviate congestion, and deliver new walking and cycling infrastructure to provide more transport choice.
- ▶ Invest \$4 million to plan and protect future major transport routes, and ensure existing public transport services are integrated to provide greater access to employment opportunities.

3. Environmental sustainability and climate change

The State Government will:

- ▶ Create financial incentives for the retrofitting of existing residential buildings through the *Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Scheme* to start in 2009.
- ▶ Improve the long-term energy efficiency of Victorian homes, offices and other buildings by promoting higher energy performance requirements.
- ▶ Update policies for the design, construction and retrofitting of buildings, transport systems and other infrastructure and the planning of new and existing suburbs to reflect the latest assessment of climate change risks.
- ▶ Accelerate and extend mapping of important areas of vegetation and habitats in Growth Areas and Green Wedges to avoid, minimise and offset any losses, and integrate planning for biodiversity into precinct structure planning in Growth Areas to provide greater certainty for future development.
- ▶ Diversify our water resources through the initiatives in Victoria's Water Plan and continue to emphasise household and industry recycling and conservation.



4. Managing urban growth and change

The State Government will:

- ▶ Support councils to plan for future community needs, by developing clear requirements for the amount and diversity of housing needed in each municipality, taking into account the capacity of each area to accommodate growth and the protection of neighbourhood amenity and the character of streets.
- ▶ Work in partnership with councils to implement new residential zones, with extensive community engagement, to increase certainty for communities and developers about the location of future housing.
- ▶ Introduce a new Activity Centre Zone and simple Development Frameworks to provide greater certainty for communities and developers about the scale of development, public realm improvements, types of uses, and to identify the boundaries of Activity Centres.
- ▶ Continue to streamline planning processes in Growth Areas to fast-track residential development and reduce cost to developers and homeowners.
- ▶ Continue to ensure up to 25 years of land supply for future urban growth (with a minimum of 15 years supply) in areas that are served by major transport infrastructure and close to employment opportunities.
- ▶ Continue to accelerate development in Geelong through fast-track planning for the Armstrong Creek growth area and investing an additional \$32.4 million over four years in central Geelong.
- ▶ Continue to work with councils to develop strategic regional plans that integrate planning for land-use, transport, economic development and community planning for rural and regional Victoria to better manage growth.
- ▶ Maintain the UGB and consider the timing of future UGB changes on the basis of updated forecasts, the development capacity of existing urban areas, longer-term urban growth issues (including future economic and employment opportunities) and transport investment requirements.

Planning for all of Melbourne sets out a framework for action over the next five years and beyond. The Government's response is not about a fixed point in time or a certain trigger in population levels, but putting in place a series of steps to ensure Melbourne continues to grow and prosper in a balanced way.

The pace at which steps are taken will be linked to the pace of growth.

