

# Plan Melbourne refresh

August 2015

## PLAN MELBOURNE

Melbourne needs a strategic long-term plan that reflects the aspirations of Victorians and is delivered through a robust and transparent planning process.

The Victorian Government has committed to refreshing Plan Melbourne, the long-term vision for our city to 2050, to ensure it accurately reflects community and expert priorities and advice. This will not be a total rewrite of the Plan but a return to a proper, transparent planning process.

Our city is facing some key challenges and requires long-term strategic planning to guide its development. In response to our projected population growth, changing economic conditions, and the pressures of climate change, we need to think and act thoughtfully about how to grow Melbourne sustainably, while enhancing its liveability.

A transparent and consultative update will produce a renewed Plan Melbourne that provides long-term vision. It will include examination of the future supply and affordability of housing, the city's response to climate change, transport priorities and public realm expectations.

### Plan Melbourne history

- Oct 2012: Release of Discussion Paper – *Melbourne, let's talk about the future*
- Oct 2013: Draft Plan Melbourne released
- May 2014: Plan Melbourne released
- Apr 2015: Update of Plan Melbourne announced

Melbourne has long benefited from strong planning frameworks and the foresight of its early planners.

Their legacy has contributed to Melbourne's position as one of the most liveable cities in the world. Our strong transport networks, high quality water supply, fine-grained network of CBD streets and laneways, and network of parks and open spaces is a credit to their courage and foresight.

Melbourne's future character and liveability must be shaped by investment in new development and infrastructure that supports a strong economy and delivers greater choice and diversity of housing.

We all want vibrant neighbourhoods, thriving shopping strips and affordable housing that is close to jobs, services, and transport options.

A refreshed Plan Melbourne will set out a vision and implementation plan to realise this ambition.



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## THE OPPORTUNITY

Over the coming decades there will be a five-fold increase in the size of Melbourne's CBD with the urban renewal opportunities offered by Fishermans Bend, Arden-Macaulay, the E-Gate precinct and the completion of the remaining half of Docklands, in addition to the central city which continues to attract the lion's share of development.

At the same time, more than 20 years supply of developable land at Melbourne's urban fringe requires careful planning and significant investment in community and transport infrastructure to make these the liveable neighbourhoods of the future.

Our middle ring suburbs, rich in public transport infrastructure, services and neighbourhood character, must also be supported to grow sustainably, while enhancing the values that have led to their success.

The government is putting in place a robust process to oversee the changes.

## WHY THE PLAN NEEDS TO BE UPDATED

The development of Plan Melbourne was guided by a Ministerial Advisory Committee who undertook extensive public and stakeholder consultation.

Almost 10,000 people participated in the consultation process, and over 450 submissions were received commenting on the draft.

However, the final Plan did not reflect the weight of community input or expert advice, and confidence was lost in the process.

The plan needs to be revisited to ensure it is a long-term plan for our city, reflecting key projects and priorities with bipartisan support so that successive governments will apply the same principles.

A renewed Plan Melbourne will give a long-term vision for housing Victoria's growing population, increasing jobs and liveability, integrating public transport and infrastructure and dealing with climate change.

There is already broad agreement on much in Plan Melbourne, such as:

- growing the population within a fixed urban growth boundary
- protecting the green wedges
- ensuring there are more jobs closer to where people live
- better transport and stronger activity centres
- better planned new communities in our growth corridors
- integrated public transport, infrastructure investment and land use planning.

To deliver certainty to the people who plan, build and live in our city, we need to have the Plan Melbourne that the community and stakeholders originally intended.

## REVIEW PROCESS TIMELINE

April-June 2014

Ministerial Advisory Committee review

Oct - Dec 2015

Release of issues and options paper for public consultation

Community Engagement

First half 2016

Release of revised Plan Melbourne

Revised Plan Melbourne introduced into Planning Schemes

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## THE WAY FORWARD

The Ministerial Advisory Committee charged with informing the original draft plan has been reconvened to address a number of issues and matters omitted from Plan Melbourne.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee focus on providing advice on:

- housing affordability
- the impacts of climate change on the development of metropolitan Melbourne and the opportunities to support energy efficient urban design
- overarching advice on the revised draft document prior to its release for consultation.

A task force within the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning will coordinate the update of the Plan. An issues and options paper outlining proposed changes is expected to be released for public comment later this year.

Forums with the northern, southern, eastern, western, and central region council groups will be held to ensure their views are recognised in the Plan. This is an opportunity for consensus building, for strengthening the understanding across government on the future direction of the city.

A final version of Plan Melbourne is expected to be released in the first half of 2016 followed by incorporation into Planning Schemes.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is Plan Melbourne?

Plan Melbourne is the metropolitan planning strategy that will guide the city's growth to 2050. It is a strategy to house, employ and connect more people to jobs and services closer to where they live. It will also build investment confidence and employment, which is vital for Victoria's long-term future.

### Why an update?

The refresh is an update of the existing strategy. It will build upon the foundations of the previous plan and reflect the key projects and priorities of the Victorian Government. The renewed plan will provide a long-term vision for housing, increasing jobs and liveability,

integrating public transport and infrastructure, and addressing climate change.

### Why is it a 'refresh', rather than a new strategy?

There are principles in Plan Melbourne that enjoy broad support that should be maintained, including:

- population growth within a fixed urban growth boundary and protection of green wedges
- more jobs closer to where people live
- better transport and stronger activity centres
- better planned communities in growth corridors
- integrated public transport, infrastructure investment and land use planning
- simplifying residential zones
- focusing on development along railway lines.

However, updates to the strategy are required to include:

- new entities and governance changes (such as Infrastructure Victoria)
- climate change and energy efficiency
- affordable housing
- transport priorities.

### When will the public be engaged in the process?

Public consultation is expected to begin in the coming months following the release of an issues and options paper.

Following consideration of the public submissions, the Plan will be revised in a transparent way to reflect community input where appropriate.

Updates will also be provided on the dedicated Plan Melbourne website: [planmelbourne.vic.gov.au](http://planmelbourne.vic.gov.au)

### A great deal of public consultation has already taken place – will this be revisited and considered?

The government has committed to release the submissions made to the Draft Plan Melbourne in October 2013 that were not previously released to ensure the community views are publicly available.

The reformed Ministerial Advisory Committee will draw on the information in the submissions to inform its report to the Minister for Planning.

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## When will the Plan Melbourne update take place and when will it be completed?

The process has already begun. The Ministerial Advisory Committee has provided its advice to the Minister and the Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning has established a framework to deliver the refreshed Plan.

A departmental task force has been established to coordinate the drafting of the revised Plan and the Committee's advice will feed into this work.

Community and stakeholder consultation on the refresh of Plan Melbourne will commence in the coming months. The final Plan is expected to be released in the first half of 2016 before being incorporated into Planning Schemes.

## How will the Plan Melbourne refresh be implemented?

The delivery and governance of Plan Melbourne will be framed in the context of two new authorities – the Victorian Planning Authority and Infrastructure Victoria. Further details of this will be included in the revised Plan.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information please visit:  
[planmelbourne.vic.gov.au](http://planmelbourne.vic.gov.au).

Or call the Victorian Government Contact Centre on 1300 366 356.

For translation services, call 131 450.

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