



# SCOPE OF OPTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

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## KEY POINTS

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Much of **Plan Melbourne 2014** enjoys bipartisan support and will not change.

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The **Plan Melbourne** refresh addresses key issues of housing supply, diversity and affordability and climate change and will reflect current transport network priorities.



As Victoria's capital city, Melbourne is at the centre of our state's economy. Like other modern economies, Melbourne is becoming a city where knowledge-based businesses are critical to our economic prosperity.

It is important to plan for the city's growth in a way that responds to how we will live and work.

**Plan Melbourne 2016** provides a framework to enhance the city's productivity, move jobs closer to where people live and to create great new urban areas that accommodate much of Melbourne's growth. This will maintain Melbourne's globally-recognised liveability and its role as an efficient business services city, tourism destination and freight and manufacturing hub.

This will optimise benefits from investment in infrastructure and maintain what we value about our city.

The Victorian Government has committed to refreshing **Plan Melbourne 2014** with a particular focus on the future supply and affordability of housing, the city's response to climate change, and transport priorities. **Plan Melbourne 2016** will be published in the first half of 2016 following a review of updated data, submissions and advice from the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC).

This discussion paper aims to promote community, stakeholder and expert discussion of options to refresh **Plan Melbourne**.

## What is not changing

This refresh is not intended to comprehensively revise **Plan Melbourne 2014**. It builds on the extensive work and consultation underpinning **Plan Melbourne 2014**.

There is bipartisan support for much of **Plan Melbourne 2014**.

**Plan Melbourne 2016** will maintain the focus on:

- Providing for employment in an expanded central city, and state-significant employment clusters and industrial precincts
- Transforming the transport system to support a more efficient, productive city with improved travel options to increase social and economic participation
- Directing growth and increased development intensity to strategic locations
- Achieving a city of '20-minute neighbourhoods'
- Delivering a compact urban form with a fixed urban growth boundary
- Protecting environmental values and agricultural productivity in green wedges and the peri-urban area
- Supporting growth in regional Victoria.

## What is changing

The refresh of **Plan Melbourne** will strengthen the focus on climate change, energy efficiency and housing affordability (see Chapters 2, 5 and 6). It also provides opportunity to update **Plan Melbourne 2014** to:

- Achieve an enduring strategy with a focus on longer-term rather than short-term actions
- Incorporate current transport commitments and priorities, including the Melbourne Metro Rail Project
- Reflect progress in implementation of **Plan Melbourne 2014** related policy reviews, such as transport initiatives, the implementation of the new residential zones, apartment standards, regional growth plans, updating of Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines, Open Space and Boulevards strategies and the Yarra River Strategy
- Better define how implementation and outcomes will be measured
- Update data and projections. **Victoria In Future 2015** (VIF 2015) indicates changes to population and economic growth projections will not be significant and will not affect the challenges to be addressed by the metropolitan strategy<sup>1</sup>
- Reflect significant changes in the form of housing being developed which affects the associated projections in **Plan Melbourne 2014** (see Chapter 5)
- Recognise new entities and governance changes
- Improve clarity and usability.

The **Plan Melbourne** refresh focuses on areas where the planning system has:

### A lead role

This includes, for example, strategies relating to urban form, identifying locations for growth, urban design and built form, development responses to various opportunities and constraints (such as natural hazards, protection of significant assets, brownfield development).

### An enabling role

This includes facilitating achievement of policy relating to social housing, urban renewal, supporting private sector development to meet employment and housing objectives, ensuring opportunities to support climate change mitigation and adaptation and establishing the basis to plan for delivery of infrastructure and services.

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<sup>1</sup> Melbourne's base population becomes 4.4 million (up from 4.3 million) and Victoria's becomes 5.8 million (up from 5.7 million) and the 2051 population total of 7.7 million for Melbourne does not change.

## Plan Melbourne MAC

The development of **Plan Melbourne 2014** was prepared with input from a MAC and extensive public and stakeholder consultation. The MAC was reconvened in March 2015 to advise the Minister for Planning on the **Plan Melbourne** refresh. The MAC's 2015 Terms of Reference are available at [www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au](http://www.planmelbourne.vic.gov.au).

The MAC provided a further report in May 2015 to inform the refresh of **Plan Melbourne** which has been released alongside this discussion paper. The MAC will provide a final report to the Minister on the Draft **Plan Melbourne 2016**.

While the MAC's report and recommendations (2015) have made a valuable contribution that has informed options set out in this discussion paper, a number of issues raised by the MAC:

- Are more appropriately addressed through the more comprehensive 5-year review of **Plan Melbourne 2016**. For example, it is premature to consider additional National Employment Clusters. However, it is acknowledged that innovation was an important component of these clusters and should be recognised in a revised name
- Are being progressed through the ongoing work programs of responsible departments and agencies, rather than through the current more focused refresh
- Will be referred for consideration to other government strategy or policy reviews currently underway such as the transport network planning and the government's Review of Housing Affordability in Victoria (in relation to recommended fiscal and financial initiatives).

Just one MAC recommendation will not be advanced in some way: recently introduced legislation to reform Development Contributions did not extend to contributions to net additional dwellings across the metropolitan region as recommended by the MAC (2015) and it is not proposed to revisit this issue for the **Plan Melbourne** refresh.

This discussion paper, including Appendix A incorporates the government's preliminary response to the MAC recommendations. Appendix A lists the MAC's recommendations and indicates whether:

- The issue requires further consideration and is addressed in the discussion paper
- The MAC recommendation is supported and appropriate changes will be incorporated into **Plan Melbourne 2016** (and do not need to be addressed in this discussion paper)
- The recommendation is being progressed through the ongoing work programs of responsible departments and agencies, or will be referred for consideration to other government strategy or policy reviews currently underway
- The recommendation is considered to be out-of-scope (these recommendations could be considered as part of the 5-year review of **Plan Melbourne 2016**)
- The recommendation is not being recommended to government.

## Aligning with other strategies and policy reviews

**Plan Melbourne** contributes to advancing the government's broader economic, social and environmental policy. This requires an integrated approach across government that delivers overarching policy goals, such as delivering jobs, securing economic prosperity, and protecting environmental values. Complimentary action is required on issues such as transport planning to serve key land uses, urban form that supports reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and policies that support more diverse and affordable housing. **Plan Melbourne** also sets the strategic framework for specific strategies (such as the strategies for boulevards and public open space) and for more localised planning.

The **Plan Melbourne** refresh will align and integrate with concurrent Victorian Government reviews presently underway, without pre-empting the outcomes of these reviews, to achieve a whole-of-government approach. Where possible the outcomes of more advanced comprehensive policy processes will be reflected in **Plan Melbourne 2016**. Concurrent reviews (see Appendix B) are set out below:

### Economy and infrastructure

- Regional Economic Development and Services Review
- Transport planning under the *Transport Integration Act 2010*
- Victorian Construction Industry Technologies Strategy
- Policy development addressing changing farm practices, competing land uses and export opportunities
- Extractive Industries Task Force
- Possible east coast High Speed Rail

### Housing

- Review of Housing Affordability in Victoria
- The development of a strategy to improve the response to Victorians' in housing crisis
- Review of *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*
- Accessible Housing
- 'Better Apartments' review of development requirements
- Review of the implementation of Reformed Residential Zones

### Environment and energy

- Review of the *Climate Change Act 2010*
- Renewable Energy Roadmap and Action Plan
- The Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement and Strategy
- State Water Plan
- Victorian Biodiversity Strategy and reviews of the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* and native vegetation regulations
- Yarra River Strategy
- Open Space Strategy

### Other

- Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015–2019
- Central City Framework to be prepared by the Metropolitan Planning Authority
- Boulevards Strategy
- Establishment of Infrastructure Victoria
- Establishment of Victorian Planning Authority
- Review of the *Local Government Act 1989*.