

Hawker Britton

Government Relations Strategy

Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper

October 2015

On 22 October 2015, the Victorian Government released the [Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper](#) that will guide public consultations to address Melbourne’s growth needs until 2051.

The discussion paper presents key options for consideration during the public consultation process, especially jobs and investment, public transport, housing affordability and climate change.

These options have been developed following independent expert advice provided by the Ministerial Advisory Committee. The Committee was reconvened earlier in 2015 by the Victorian Government and comprises of a chairperson and five members, including: Chair – Professor Roz Hansen and members – Ms Chris Gallagher, Mr Brian Haratsis, Mr Bernard McNamara, Mr Tony Nicholson and Professor John Stanley.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee was originally appointed over two years ago by the previous Coalition Government, to develop *Plan Melbourne 2014*. Five out of the six members of the committee however, left it in 2013 amid claims of political interference that the final document released focused heavily on political elements – especially the East West link – aimed at the 2014 election, rather than a focus on long-term project needs for Melbourne.

A majority of the original *Plan Melbourne 2014* - as released by the previous Coalition Government - maintains bi-partisan support, such as a fixed urban growth boundary, specialist industry and hubs and jobs precincts, integration of transport, social and land use planning, increased density around activity centres and transport corridors and protection of food production and agriculture in the green wedges.

The Victorian Government wants to revisit *Plan Melbourne 2014* to incorporate planning issues experts and the community had raised during previous consultations over the last few years that were not included in the original Plan Melbourne.

Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper	2
Jobs and investment	2
A more connected Melbourne	2
Housing	2
Climate Change	3
New planning tools	3
Implementation	3



Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper

The Victorian Government reconvened the Ministerial Advisory Committee in April 2015 to review *Plan Melbourne 2014* that was released by the previous Coalition Government.

The development of the *Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper* has been guided by the options raised in a *Ministerial Advisory Committee Report*, released in June 2015.

The *Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper* provides stakeholders, industry experts and the broader community with an opportunity to respond to key issues raised in the *Ministerial Advisory Committee Report*.

A refreshed *Plan Melbourne 2016* is due to be released in the first half of 2016.

The full *Ministerial Advisory Committee Report 2015* report is available, [here](#).

The Victorian Government is seeking public feedback on options from the *Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper*, including:

Jobs and investment

- Addressing planning issues for the expanded central city, and particularly in the major urban renewal areas, needs to preserve commercial development opportunities and deliver transport infrastructure.
- Clarification of the role the six [National Employment Clusters](#) of knowledge based businesses and institutions – Parkville, Monash, Latrobe, Sunshine, Werribee and Dandenong – will play in relation to economic and social future of Melbourne.
- Planning long-term options for the major airports, ports and freight facilities, stemming from expert advice from [Infrastructure Victoria](#).

A more connected Melbourne

- Addressing the broad transport needs of Melbourne over the next 35 years, with the detail and timing of projects subject to transparent assessment and approval processes.
- Updating Plan Melbourne to reflect revised and new transport projects, including the Melbourne Metro Rail Project and the improvements to the Cranbourne Pakenham and Mernda rail lines, and the removal of the East West Link.

Housing

- Revising long-term land use policies and reforms to meet projected housing needs and expand housing choice and affordability, including: streamlined planning approvals, clarifying the definition of affordable housing, regulatory change to reduce the cost of building social housing and requirements to provide affordable housing in new developments.
- Addressing the proposal to increase certainty to generally favour change in defined locations except where heritage precincts or other existing infrastructure or land should be protected.
- Assessing further initiatives to support housing diversity and the provision of more social and affordable housing.

Climate Change

- How the planning system can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage renewable energy use in order to reduce exposure to the effects of climate change.

New planning tools

- Assessing the need for new planning scheme tools to support National Employment Clusters and designated urban renewal precincts.
- Assessing the need for a 'code assess' approach to multi dwelling developments – which could constitute building permits being processed within a specific time frame.

Implementation

- The development of a separate 'rolling' plan for the purpose of clarifying the role of government departments and agencies in the eventual implementation of *Plan Melbourne 2016*.
- How best to recognise and reinforce the role of local governments in delivering *Plan Melbourne 2016*.

The Victorian Government is encouraging the public to make submissions to the *Plan Melbourne Refresh: Discussion Paper* by 18 December 2015, [here](#).

Further information

Plan Melbourne refresh discussion paper and a full report is publicly available online, [here](#).

The Victorian Government is encouraging the public to make submissions to the discussion paper, [here](#).

Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on the Victoria in Future Report is available [here](#).