



# Challenge Melbourne

ISSUES IN METROPOLITAN PLANNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



INFRASTRUCTURE





## MINISTERS' FOREWORD

The planning of Melbourne's future presents many challenges and opportunities. We could let matters take their own course or, as a community, decide what shape our future should take and start working towards it now.

The Metropolitan Strategy offers one way for us to take charge of our future. The strategy will provide a framework for both State and local government to make decisions to improve the region as a place in which to live, work and visit. Businesses and the community will also be able to use the strategy to guide their own decisions.

The strategy will support the four pillars of government: delivering better services, restoring democracy, developing the whole State and responsible financial management. It will address how strategic land use and transport planning can best support the Bracks Government's social, environmental and economic policy agendas. The principles of ecologically sustainable development will underpin the strategy.

The Government recognises that strategic land use and transport planning needs to be more inclusive of community development, economic development, infrastructure coordination, service delivery, social justice and environmental resource management.

Improving people's everyday experience of Melbourne is becoming increasingly important for residents and visitors. Cultural diversity, tolerant and open attitudes and safe, attractive environments all help people feel they can fully participate in urban life.

The Government is committed to improving the liveability, prosperity and sustainability of Melbourne and all Victoria. The future of Melbourne and regional Victoria are fundamentally linked.

All Victorians have a stake in the development of Melbourne. All Victorians should enjoy the benefits and meet the challenges of building a prosperous, just and inclusive society.

As the Metropolitan Strategy will impact on us all it is essential that the community helps to shape it and its actions. This paper is one of the many opportunities for community involvement in the process of preparing a Metropolitan Strategy for Melbourne.



John Thwaites MP  
Minister for Planning

Peter Batchelor MP  
Minister for Transport



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# INTRODUCTION

Our quality of life tomorrow will be determined by decisions made today. It will be influenced by social trends already visible – the globalisation of business, the fragility of the environment, and the rate of technological change are some of the important issues that will affect the future of Melbourne.

In dealing with them, the Government needs to understand the community's expectations. It must also ensure that all Victorians have a chance to express their opinions and participate in devising plans for the future.

Where do we start? What do we value from what we have? What do we want to change? We face many challenges in building on today's assets to create a sustainable community for the twenty-first century.

Cities are complex entities and it is impossible to consider any one of their elements in isolation. For example, our decisions about where we live, the transport we use, our access to work, friends and services and the environmental impacts of our lifestyle choices are all related.

This paper outlines trends and identifies some of the issues that could have a significant impact on Melbourne's development. The Government would like your views on these and any other issues you see as important to the city's future.

## What is the Metropolitan Strategy?

The strategy is one of a number of initiatives of the Bracks Government that will shape the future direction of Melbourne and Victoria. It will concentrate on the ways in which land use management and transport development can best support the economic, social and environmental needs of Melbourne. Its main focus will be metropolitan Melbourne and its immediate surrounds. However, the development of Melbourne and the whole of Victoria are fundamentally linked, so the relationship between the two will be an important consideration in the strategy. The links are particularly strong with Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley.

