

2050 Discussion Paper Dec 18th 2015

By – Elwood

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to a few points outlined in 2050.

I think it is important to review Policy – as the effects of decisions happen visibly - within a 5 year time frame - let alone 35 years.. a bit far into the future – as personal transport will be vastly different.

Adherence to Planning Laws –

I think the adherence to Policy can often cause irreparable damage to a City.. such as – **compromising Heritage Laws & buildings**. We have lost too many CBD Iconic Buildings.. yet when Melbourne is displayed on video .. it is the Heritage Buildings that are highlighted & enamoured.. Please – stop compromising your own Laws & guidelines. It also sends the wrong message to the children – about our Legal system! Getting bought out – so it seems.. Adherence to Planning Laws & Guidelines – **MUST CONTINUE TO OCCUR**- otherwise – what is the point of having the laws & Guidelines. It wastes people's time & money when it comes to objecting.. **COUNCILS – MUST NOT BE OVERRIDDEN @ VCAT – but the views of Locals MUST BE RESPECTED.**

2030 - has failed in my view – as it is a massive 'overkill of uninviting, commission housing-type box Architecture'. No style at all with these high rises.. No heart, no Soul- certainly nothing to be surprised at. Please take a look at the Buildings in Qatar – they are gorgeous.. Same in Shanghai.. Stop pandering to developers, create a 'new' set of rules re- front garden or street planting , some sculpture incorporated (Local artists – upcycled materials) , & don't sell out or compromise a Standard.. Get a body – or the public – to vote on designs of permanent buildings. They must be Unique, and this should be specified. Some diversity, creativity should be mandatory- whilst at the same time – being environmentally contributable,

Involvement further with Local Govt- a number of points –

- Councillors – who represent the Community – are often bound & dictated by State govt- like height restrictions & amenity. This needs to change dramatically – so as not to affect the rights of Community who have often lived in the area much longer than what the other LOCALS have .. The Locals are often far more knowledgeable & experienced – in – what changes can occur. Councillors- lack experience often in managing large projects & often Councillors do not represent the views of Locals & community.
- If this is the case – then State Govt – should respect the views of the Community @ Local area – for height restriction, amenity, consideration of streetscape. Therefore – VCAT – should not overrule "inappropriate development".
- If this is the approach & avenue of further involvement @ Local level – then the Salary of Councillors should rise – in order to attract Professional & experienced Administrators.. Times have changed in the role of Councillors.. where once they were retired Locals in the Community.. Now with the Amalgamation – there is far more knowledge required to make "serious" decisions, & far more at stake.

Growth and changing demographics

- High Density of often really horrible architecture & way too high – such as in St Kilda rd, St Kilda- do not blend in neighbourhood flavour. The over kill to speed thru massive developments- of oversized

height apartment blocks – are missed opportunities – for Melbourne to deliver interesting & creative Architectural World class buildings & designs – the look cold & unwelcoming, are often way too small, & don't respect the local environs or existing streetscape. This needs to change, after all – who is actually benefitting from these ugly monolith – It is certainly not the locals. Melbourne does not need an over kill of high rise.. WE are a large country with some gorgeous country towns – who already have full services & infrastructure.. Melbourne 2050 – should RESPECT – the quality of lives of existing families & family homes - who often find a complete loss of amenity, privacy & sunshine – to something ugly, cheap & way too high.. Let us not all forget 'our childhoods' – being able to play **SAFELY** in our back yards – or the Local street.. This is the Aussie way.. There is more than ample land – that can be used inland & developed & I think **Migrants** – should be encouraged to live in these areas , often as a community – to start fresh.. WE need to use their skills – at least support our Farmers.. It would also be a good way for new Immigrants to give back & grow with the Country – not handed everything handed to them on a silver platter - without working for it – just as our predecessors have done.. Built up the land. This would also provide employment & safety for the youth who are often caught up ..& in the wrong place culturally & in a mix where they don't belong. It takes a generation to integrate.. There is no point mixing 'oil with water'.

- **I think consideration should be given to “Setbacks” of high rise .. There should be sufficient ‘setback’ to ‘plant’ trees, providing Co2 & shade .. ever increasing need.**
- I would like to see – that new laws for “rooftop equipment – such as Air conditioners” changed – so that they are ALWAYS Aesthetically screened.
- **Re Social Inclusion:** I think the high rise – fragments society & we should look more 'not to high rise' which isolates people from their neighbours – but make use of our existing Country towns- that are often beautiful, but lacking in people & employment opportunities. As a wonderful country – I believe we should encourage & support 'industry' again, small business, & not look to China – to fill this hole. Youth need to learn skills.. it is healthy for both mind & spirit.. If anything bring back 'more trade assisted programs'. Whilst China might benefit.. we will lose a generation of skills & trades- that made our country great..
- **The Environment:** It's time to give a greater Dollar value.. We must ensure that areas – are sufficiently managed – in regards to refuse & not NGO's or Volunteers – relied upon – to keep areas clean & pollution free. There is way too much rubbish on our streets. Large buildings should have clear instructions on recyclables – so that it is not corrupted.
- **Transport:** Whilst it is important to have great public transport, I don't believe we should change streetscapes – where it is harmful to local shopping strips & limiting access, but flexibility in adapting these oversized trams.. Some leeway must be given.. in order not to destroy our local & valued shopping strips. PTV – must be more adaptable.
- **Disabilities:** Whilst we assume that everyone is capable of walking – there are times when it is difficult & especially, when we are taking our parents – who are aging with limited mobility- to do shopping or daily routine issues, even social outings- limiting parking & access to shopping strips by trying to be carless – does not always work. Nor does everyone want to use Public Transport or feel safe on it. The access to & from transport – is not always suitable. Please stop PTV –from destroying our shopping strips.
- **Cars:** We cannot live without them, & whilst we pay taxes for the roads – we have the right to choose them. Govt must ensure – that people can travel with their families – to events, social outings, tourist spots. The focus on Public Transport as the only means to travel – is flawed.

These are points – I, as an individual – feel could be improved & a little more viability of living in a city as a way to not “clutter” our lives – with too many tall buildings & high rise.

Thanking you, – Elwood