

removed

remo  
ved

## PPWCMA submission regarding Plan Melbourne Refresh

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the refresh of Plan Melbourne.

In commenting on Plan Melbourne, the Port Phillip & Westernport Catchment Management Authority (PPWCMA) draws on 20 years of experience in land, water and biodiversity conservation and management in and around Melbourne including the development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy as a legislative requirement under the Catchment and Land Protection Act.

The PPWCMA believes Plan Melbourne is a very important document that can lead Melbourne's development as a socially successful and sustainable city. The PPWCMA supports many of the changes that have been introduced to this refreshed version, particularly the following:

- The PPWCMA supports the directions outlined in Section 2 regarding 'Growth challenges, fundamental principles and key challenges', including the locking down of the existing urban growth boundary and better articulation of the values of green wedge and peri urban areas.  
Securing the urban growth boundary can help to retain Melbourne's place among the world's great cities by ensuring accessible landscapes, open space, climate change mitigation, local food production, healthy biodiversity, thriving tourism and recreation spaces in and around Melbourne. The concept of 'green wedges' should be expanded to include the peri-urban areas and wider surrounding hinterland, and landholders should be actively supported so they become willing and active providers of environmental services benefitting residents and visitors to Melbourne.
- The PPWCMA supports the directions outlined in Section 6 regarding 'A more resilient and environmentally sustainable Melbourne'.  
To strengthen this section further, the PPWCMA proposes that Plan Melbourne 2016 should:
  - Add strong, explicit reference to the Port Phillip & Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy as a companion/complementary Victorian Government strategy for Melbourne and surrounds which focuses on long-term environmental health and resilience, collaboration and coordinated action by many agencies, authorities, organisations and groups and strong community engagement.
  - Add strong support in section 6.5 regarding 'Natural habitats' for a series of strengthened environmental connections in and around Melbourne, including in the green wedges and peri-urban areas and Melbourne's hinterland, which

achieve environmental, social, recreational, health and educational benefits. Specific initiatives under way and identified as 'Naturelink' priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy include connections along the Maribyrnong Valley, the Werribee River, along the coasts on Port Philip Bay and Western Port, in the Yarra Valley (Yarra4Life project), around Bacchus Marsh (Grow West project) and in Melbourne's south east (Living Links project).

- Strengthen the emphasis on achieving a greener, cooler Melbourne to provide various benefits in a warming climate.
- The PPWCMA supports directions outlined in Section 8 regarding 'Implementation' including that the Plan Melbourne 2016 monitoring framework will address gaps in relation to environmental condition and climate change.  
In relation to this, the PPWCMA proposes that the monitoring framework be linked to and align with environmental condition indicators being jointly developed now by DELWP, Victoria's CMAs and the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability as the basis for future reporting on environmental and catchment condition.

Attached is the PPWCMA comments using the template provided by Plan Melbourne.

The PPWCMA looks forward to the completion of Plan Melbourne 2016 and to working as one of the partners for its implementation in the future.

removed [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

# PPWCMA response to submission template

---

## Chapter 2: Growth, challenges, fundamental principles and key concepts

1. The discussion paper includes the option (option 5, page 16) that Plan Melbourne better define the key opportunities and challenges for developing Melbourne and outlines some key points for considerations in Box 1. *Are there any other opportunities or challenges that we should be aware of?*

Infrastructure planning for Melbourne should embrace and include 'Green Infrastructure'. There is the opportunity to retain and feature nature, including native flora and fauna, in and around Melbourne by maintaining/establishing nature corridors to connect open spaces and parks and maintain connections and resilience in natural ecosystems.

The Port Phillip & Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy has identified 12 priority urban and peri-urban corridors called 'Nature Links' to achieve environmental, social, recreational, health and educational benefits. Specific initiatives under way and identified as 'Naturelink' priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy include connections along the Maribyrnong Valley, the Werribee River, along the coasts on Port Phillip Bay and Western Port, in the Yarra Valley (Yarra4Life project), around Bacchus Marsh (Grow West project) and in Melbourne's south east (Living Links project)..

2. The discussion paper includes the option (option 6, page 18) that the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals be included in Plan Melbourne 2016. *Do you agree with this idea? If so, how should the goals be incorporated into Plan Melbourne 2016? Choose one option:*

Agree

*Please explain your response:*

The PPWCMA supports, in principle, the idea that UN Sustainable development goals be referenced by Plan Melbourne. The PPWCMA recommends the goals be used as internationally-recognised starting points for Melbourne-specific goals that are specific and measurable.

The PPWCMA asserts that measurable goals are essential foundations for inclusive, integrated planning and adaptive management; critical to achieving success in uncertain, complex and contested environments.

3. The discussion paper includes the option (option 7, page 18) to lock down the existing urban growth boundary and modify the action (i.e. the action under Initiative 6.1.1.1 in Plan Melbourne 2014) to reflect this. *Do you agree that there should be a permanent urban growth boundary based on the existing boundary? Choose one option:*

Strongly Agree

*Please explain your response:*

The PPWCMA supports the locking down of the existing urban growth boundary and better

articulation of the values of green wedge and peri urban areas.

Securing the urban growth boundary can help to preserve the qualities that make Melbourne one of the world's successful cities by ensuring accessible landscapes, open space, climate change mitigation, local food production, healthy biodiversity, thriving tourism and recreation spaces in and around Melbourne.

The concept of 'green wedges' should be expanded to include the peri-urban areas and wider surrounding hinterland because green wedge values and the barriers to maintaining them also apply to Melbourne's peri-urban areas and wider hinterland.

Further, landholders should be actively supported so they become willing and active providers of environmental services benefitting residents and visitors to Melbourne. The PPWCMA expects that the economic conditions that put pressure on the UGB will persist in the future and that planning schemes and legislation will not be sufficient to 'hold the UGB line'. Policy, investment and action will be needed outside the UGB to reward, facilitate and purchase the ability of private land holders to be willing, active providers of green wedge values and environmental services.

**4. The discussion paper includes the option (option 8, page 18) that Plan Melbourne 2016 should more clearly articulate the values of green wedge and peri-urban areas to be protected and safeguarded. How can Plan Melbourne 2016 better articulate the values of green wedge and peri-urban areas?**

The PPWCMA considers that it is critical that Plan Melbourne 2016 clearly articulates the values of green wedge and peri-urban areas. 'Green infrastructure' and 'natural capital' may be useful concepts to describe these areas and systems that deliver open, natural space, biodiversity and opportunities for 'nature in the city' and their proven benefits for human health and well-being. The green wedges are spaces for multi-value flood mitigation infrastructure, climate change adaptation and mitigation. They provide clean air, noise abatement and recreation opportunities. Their economic values are in local food production, accessible and valued tourism as well as waste management and assimilation, mineral production and appropriate industries that need buffering from urban areas.

Some areas of Melbourne's Green wedges are in poor economic, social or environmental condition and this is used as argument for abandoning them to urban subdivision. But they are Melbourne's 'environmental inheritance' – once lost, unrecoverable. They need well-planned, goal-oriented, progressive investment. Where this is delivered, the green wedges exemplify all the best aspects of why nature in cities is critical to their success.

The PPWCMA is a resolute, long-term advocate for goal-setting as a way to articulate the values we seek to protect and the conditions we seek for their future. The PPWCMA recommends that specific, measurable goals for the future extent and environmental condition of green wedges and peri-urban areas can provide a strong basis for the protection and continued provision of the values of these areas.

**5. x**

6. x

7. x

8. x

### **Chapter 3: Delivering jobs and investment**

9. x

10. x

11. x

12. x

13. x

14. x

15. x

16. x

### **Chapter 4: A more connected Melbourne**

17. x

18. x

19. x

### **Chapter 5: Housing**

20. x

21. x

22. x

23. x

24. x

25. x

26. x

27. x

28. x

29. x

30. x

## Chapter 6: A more resilient and environmentally sustainable Melbourne

31. The discussion paper includes the option (option 46, page 69) to introduce Strategic Environmental Principles in Plan Melbourne 2016 to guide implementation of environment, climate change and water initiatives. *Do you agree with the inclusion of Strategic Environmental Principles in Plan Melbourne 2016? Choose one option:*

Agree

**Why?**

These principles can be seen as vision statements for Plan Melbourne's environmental directions. They are the starting point for specific, measurable goals for the values and outcomes they describe.

The Port Phillip & Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy is similarly committed to environmental vision, principles vision and goals, and there is an opportunity for it to be explicitly linked with Plan Melbourne as a companion/complementary Victorian Government document.

32. x

33. x

34. x

35. x

36. The discussion paper includes the option (option 52, page 76) to strengthen high-priority habitat corridors throughout Melbourne and its peri-urban areas to improve long-term health of key flora and fauna habitat. *Do you agree with this idea? Choose one option:*

Strongly Agree

**Why?**

Projects to create and improve flora and fauna habitat corridors in Melbourne and its peri-urban areas are a major part of the PPWCMA's mission and history.

Specific initiatives under way and identified as 'Naturelink' priorities in the Regional Catchment Strategy include:

- Connections along the Maribyrnong Valley and the Werribee River
- Connections along the coasts on Port Philip Bay and Western Port
- Corridors in the Yarra Valley (Yarra4Life project), around Bacchus Marsh (Grow West project) and in Melbourne's south east (Living Links project).

Where there is Government funding support, these projects rally many organisations and communities for coordinated action and offer enormous long-term benefit.

The PPWCMA recommends Plan Melbourne include strong links to the Regional Catchment Strategy by referencing and supporting these Naturelinks.

37. x

38. x

39. x

40. x

41. x

## Chapter 7: New planning tools

42. x

43. x

44. x

## Chapter 8: Implementation

**45. The discussion paper includes the option (options 1 and 61, pages 14 and 90) of Plan Melbourne being an enduring strategy with a long-term focus supported by a ‘rolling’ implementation plan. *Do you agree that separating the long-term strategy from a shorter-term supporting implementation plan is a good idea?***

Yes. Implementation of Plan Melbourne will rely on many organisations. They will each have strong motives, expertise and context for implementation actions. A role of Plan Melbourne should be to provide clear, agreed, measurable goals assigned to willing and responsible organisations. Plan Melbourne can then oversee progress and foster evaluation and learning among its partners.

This is the model the PPWCMA has developed for the Regional Catchment Strategy. It matches shared strategic directions with the strength and resilience of diversity and self-determination. It focusses accountability on achievement, learning and improvement. The PPWCMA would be pleased to discuss its experience in developing and implementing this model through the Regional Catchment Strategy.

**46. *If a separate implementation plan is developed for Plan Melbourne 2016 what will make it effective?***

Specific, measurable and assigned goals provide an important basis for an effective implementation plan.

The PPWCMA also supports Plan Melbourne’s Section 8 directions for ‘Implementation’ including its provision of a monitoring framework. In particular, the PPWCMA supports Plan Melbourne observed need to address monitoring and evaluation gaps for environmental condition and climate change. The PPWCMA proposes that the monitoring framework be linked to and align with environmental condition indicators being jointly developed now by DELWP, Victoria’s CMAs and the Victorian Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability.

As proposed throughout this submission, the PPWCMA offers Plan Melbourne the opportunity to use the Regional Catchment Strategy, its targets, accountabilities and its Catchment Condition reporting

requirements as a companion or complementary strategy. We would be pleased to discuss this idea further.

**47. Any other comments about chapter 8 (implementation)?**

The PPWCMA recommends Plan Melbourne include explicit and purposeful reference to the Port Phillip & Westernport Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS).

The RCS is complementary Victorian Government strategy for the Melbourne region. It focuses on long-term environmental health and resilience, collaboration and coordinated action. It aims to facilitate strong stakeholder and community engagement in environmental decision-making and action. The RCS can be a valuable adjunct to Plan Melbourne's future success.