



Bayside City Council

Submission to the Victoria State Government

Plan Melbourne Refresh – Discussion paper

December 2015

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1. Introduction and scope

Bayside City Council appreciates the opportunity offered by the Victorian State Government to provide feedback regarding the Plan Melbourne Refresh (The Refresh) Discussion Paper, October 2015. While Council is generally supportive of the proposed changes outlined as a result of this process, Council strongly advocates for further opportunities to comment as part of an engagement process, including an opportunity to Comment on the release of the revised Plan Melbourne 2016 prior to it being implemented into the Bayside Planning Scheme.

2. Background

The Refresh aims to strengthen the focus on climate change energy efficiency and housing affordability and reflect current transport network opportunities.

At a high level, the Plan Melbourne refresh seeks 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;
- Reflect significant changes in the form of housing being developed which affects the associated projections in Plan Melbourne 2014;
- Recognise new entities and governance changes; and
- Improve clarity and usability.

Much of Plan Melbourne 2014 enjoys bipartisan support and there is the expectation that it will not change. 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.

The Refresh identifies the following themes:

- Growth challenges, fundamental principles and key concepts;

- Delivering jobs and investment;
- A more connected Melbourne;
- Housing;
- A more resilient and environmentally sustainable Melbourne;
- New planning tools; and
- Implementation.

3. Options for discussion

The identified themes will inform the discussion, which reflects the structure of the Discussion Paper and the options for discussion presented for comment.

3.1 Growth challenges, fundamental principles and key concepts

3.1.1 An enduring Strategy

Options for discussion	Bayside response
1 Revise Plan Melbourne 2014 to articulate an enduring strategy with a long-term focus supported by a 'rolling' implementation plan and updated State Planning Policy Framework.	Council supports changes to provide certainty about long-term strategic directions for sound investment decisions by government and the private sector.
2 Align Plan Melbourne 2014 and the implementation plan with current government strategies, priorities and policy reviews.	The preparation of an implementation plan that supports the delivery of the long term strategy is supported. The release of the first implementation plan along with Plan Melbourne 2016 will provide certainty and reflect commitment in delivering the recommendations and achieving the overall vision of the Strategy.
3 Edit Plan Melbourne 2014 to provide a clearer narrative, reduce repetition, limit content that describes existing conditions and align text with more relevant graphics and maps.	A well written document that is not open to interpretation and is well communicated is supported.
4 Remove unnecessary content that does not assist in the use of Plan Melbourne 2014 as a statutory planning document (such as vox pops, quotes, case studies).	

3.1.2 Better define opportunities and challenges

Options for discussion	Bayside response
5 Better define the key opportunities and challenges for developing Melbourne	Council supports the Ministerial Advisory Committee recommendation to better communicate and reinforce the nine strategic principles included in Plan Melbourne as the basis to guide Melbourne's long term planning.

3.1.3 Strategic Principles

- A distinctive Melbourne
- A global-connected and competitive city
- Social and economic participation
- Strong communities
- Environmental resilience
- A polycentric link to regional centres
- Living locally – a 20 minute city
- Infrastructure investment that supports growth
- Leadership and partnership

Bayside response
Council supports the retention of the strategic principles and the purpose identified for each them. Identifying the purpose as expressed in the discussion paper will facilitate a better understanding of outcomes along with actions and measures to facilitate their implementation.

3.1.4 Sustainable development goals

Options for discussion	Bayside response
6 Include the United Nations (UN) sustainable development goals in Plan Melbourne 2016	<p>Council supports the introduction of the updated UN sustainable development goals as they relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic prosperity• Social inclusion• Environmental sustainability <p>This update will ensure that the strategy planning goals are at the forefront of international best practice.</p>

3.1.5 Shaping the City

Options for discussion	Bayside response
7 Lock down the existing urban growth boundary and modify the action to reflect this.	Council supports changes to retain a permanent urban growth boundary (UGB). Reaffirming the importance of the UGB is vital in providing certainty and facilitating the creation of more compact and sustainable Melbourne.
8 More clearly articulate the values of green wedge and peri-urban areas to be protected and safeguarded	Council supports changes to reflect the significance of these areas and facilitate the careful planning in a more coordinated way that prevents inappropriate development.
9 Remove the Integrated Economic Triangle	Plan Melbourne identified an integrated

and replace it with a high-level 2050 concept map for Melbourne	economic triangle as a key concept to tie in economy, key land uses and transport as a key concept for planning for Melbourne's future economy. The proposed new concept will provide a clearer interpretation of the vision by bringing in elements such as national employment clusters, metropolitan activity centres, state significant industrial precincts, transport gateways, health and education precincts and renewal precincts.
10 Better define the concept of a polycentric city and 20-min neighbourhoods- particularly the ability to meet daily (non-work) needs locally, primarily within a 20 min walk- and include the polycentric city as a key concept	Council supports this change in order to facilitate liveable, connected and sustainable communities. A clearer rationale and development principles is supported.

3.1.6 Housing a key concept

Options for discussion	Bayside response
11 Strengthen housing affordability and choice as a key concept and better explain the key linkages throughout Plan Melbourne 2016.	Council welcomes a state initiative that investigates planning mechanisms that will facilitate the provision of social and affordable housing in locations that facilitate good access to jobs and services. However, there is concern with the potential removal of Local Government from the decision making process. Implications of this proposal need to be investigated.

3.1.7 Climate change

Options for discussion	Bayside response
12 Identify the challenges of climate change for Melbourne's development and define how the city can best mitigate, adapt and respond to its projected impacts.	Council supports the recognition of climate change in the planning system. Understanding and responding to the challenges it poses to our community and our environment are key in the retention of high liveability standards.
13 Add climate change as a key concept and better explain the linkages throughout Plan Melbourne 2016	Council supports the introduction of mechanisms that address increased hazard risks as a result of climate change and facilitate adaptation that results in more resilient communities.

3.1.8 People, place and identity

Options for discussion	Comment
14 Add as a key concept, the importance of people in Melbourne's identity and place making and embed it through Plan Melbourne 2016	Council supports the introduction of guidelines to facilitate the creation of quality environments across Melbourne that support the retention of the distinct social, cultural and economic activity of different areas within

	Melbourne.
15B Introduce a new 'Place and Identity' chapter incorporating policy directions outlined in Direction 4.5 - Make Our City Greener, Direction 4.6 - Create More Great Public Places Throughout Melbourne, Direction 4.7 - Respect our Heritage as We Build for the Future and Direction 4.8 - Achieve and Promote Design Excellence and other elements from the Ministerial Advisory Committee (2013) report omitted from Plan Melbourne 2014.	Council supports mechanisms to emphasise the importance of public participation in planning and the integration of place making strategies as a way to achieve design excellence and liveable communities.
16 Better recognise the contribution of Aboriginal values and perspectives to the planning of our built and natural environments	The contribution of Aboriginal values and perspectives to the planning of our built and natural environments through ongoing partnerships with traditional owners and local communities is key in retaining Aboriginal cultural and heritage values if it complements current legislation (Heritage Act)..

3.1.9 Partnership with Local Government

Options for discussion	Bayside response
17 Recognise and reinforce the importance of partnership with local government in sub-regional planning and the implementation of Plan Melbourne 2016.	<p>Strengthening and recognising the role of local government as a key partner in achieving a metropolitan vision is a welcomed and critical initiative. However it needs to be recognised that place and identity play a key role in implementing this vision.</p> <p>Recognising the key roles and responsibilities in implementing <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> will be fundamental in understanding the resource implication for Local Government in a time of austerity through a rate capping environment. Expected implementation timeframes and outcomes could be compromised as a result.</p>

3.2 Delivering jobs and investment

Options for discussion	Bayside response
18 Add as a key concept, the importance of people in Melbourne's identity and place making and embed it through <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i>	The introduction of guidelines to facilitate the creation of quality environments across Melbourne that support the retention of the distinct local social, cultural and economic activity viability and diversity of different areas within Melbourne is supported.
19 Rename National Employment Clusters to National Employment and Innovation Clusters to distinguish their significance in the metropolitan context, and use the term consistently throughout <i>Plan Melbourne</i>	Recognising the role that technology and innovation play in the current economic environment is seen as a positive change. While none of these clusters are located in the City of Bayside, background analysis

2016.	prepared for the business and employment areas within the municipality recognise how manufacturing is transitioning into services that promote an environment of innovation.
20 Revise the Delivering Jobs and Investment chapter to ensure the significance and roles of the National Employment Clusters as places of innovation and knowledge-based employment are clear.	
21A Focus planning for National Employment Clusters on core institutions and businesses. OR 21B Take a broader approach to planning for National Employment Clusters that looks beyond the core institutions and businesses.	Option 21B is supported. A broader approach to planning for National Employment Clusters is supported. A regional approach that looks at locations for supporting services that facilitate employment generation and local economic development will be beneficial in supporting the 20 minute city concept, and ensuring supporting services to the clusters are identified in a regional employment/services network.
22 Broaden the East Werribee National Employment Cluster to call it the Werribee National Employment Cluster in order to encompass the full range of activities and employment activities that make up Werribee. This could include the Werribee Activity Centre and the Werribee Park Tourism Precinct.	The proposed change does not have a direct impact on Bayside and is supported.
23 Broaden the Dandenong South National Employment Cluster to call it the Dandenong National Employment Cluster in order to encompass the full range of activities and employment activities that make up Dandenong. This could include the Dandenong Metropolitan Activity Centre and Chisholm Institute of TAFE.	The proposed change does not have a direct impact on Bayside and is supported.

3.2.1 Designation of Activity Centres

Options for discussion	Bayside response
24 Update the Metropolitan Melbourne Structure Plan (Table 1 and Map 8 in <i>Plan Melbourne</i> 2014) to remove any anomalies and reincorporate the list of activity centres into the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP's) and planning schemes.	Reintroducing the list of activity centres into the VPP's and planning scheme recognises the role of these centres in a regional context. Identifying a hierarchy of centres provides clear expectations in relation to the mix and intensity of uses as well as identifying infrastructure and investment requirements to achieve the vision for these areas. Having a regional understanding of the location and hierarchy of activity centres will also facilitate the implementation of the '20 minute city' and save misinterpretations.
25 Reclassify Toolern and Lockerbie as Future Emerging Activity Centres (local significant element) in the Metropolitan	The proposed change does not have a direct impact on Bayside.

Melbourne Structure Plan (rather than as Future Emerging Metropolitan Activity Centres).	
26 Reinstate Greenvale and Truganina as Activity Centres (local significant element) in the Metropolitan Melbourne Structure Plan.	The proposed change does not have a direct impact on Bayside.
27 Separately list emerging activity centres as part of the Metropolitan Melbourne Structure Plan.	It will be beneficial to include the list of emerging activity centres with the list of existing activity centres, this will assist in recognising their role and function early on and facilitate investment opportunities that support a vibrant economy align with the overall hierarchy of centres and vision for this areas.
28 Revise the strategic direction for activity centres to remove reference to growth associated with the removal of floorspace caps for retail and office development.	Floorspace requirements for retail and office development that align with the role and function of activity centres will be beneficial in supporting the hierarchy of centres and achieving a good mix of uses that enable the 20 minute neighbourhood vision. This will also facilitate the retention of a commercial focus in this areas.

3.2.2 Criteria for Activity Centres

Options for discussion	Bayside response
29 Develop clearer activity centre policy and a practice note for identification and establishment of new activity centres based on the final criteria included in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> .	A clear criteria and practice note for new activity centres will be beneficial in ensuring that the new activity centres are well planned and respond to the <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> vision for these areas.
30 Modify the existing criteria in Plan Melbourne (at Initiative 1.1.1) for identifying new activity centres to explicitly include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet an identified market gap • Contribute to the delivery of a network of 20-minute neighbourhoods. 	The criteria will assist to identify and establish new activity centres and provide greater certainty and consistency for local government and developers likely to invest in these areas.

3.2.3 Protecting strategic agricultural land

Options for discussion	Bayside response
31 Evaluate the range of planning mechanisms available to protect strategic agricultural land.	Highly productive agricultural land around Melbourne is under threat from urban encroachment and residential development. The implementation of planning mechanisms to protect strategic agricultural land is supported.

3.2.4 Extractive industries

Options for discussion	Bayside response
32 Implement the outcomes of the Extractive Industries Taskforce through the planning scheme, including Regional Growth Plans, to affirm that extractive industries resources are protected to provide an economic supply of materials for construction and road industries.	Actions identified to support the protection of natural resource assets through mapping identification and the review of planning provisions to address the impact of incompatible uses in these areas is supported.

3.3 A more connected Melbourne

Options for discussion	Bayside response
33 Include future transport options in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> as areas for further development and assessment through transport planning and Infrastructure Victoria's advisory role.	<i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> will benefit from the inclusion of strategic transport options that respond to Melbourne's growth patterns and overall vision. This change will result in providing a better response to strategic land use planning.

3.3.1 Transit corridors and the Principal Public Transport Network

Options for discussion	Bayside response
34 Include the Principal Public Transport Network (PPTN) in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> .	An integrated planning approach that includes transport and land use will be beneficial in delivering the vision for <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> . However, the inclusion of the PPTN should not be used to dictate a blanket approach to encouraging high density. The approach to planning for density must be led at the local level.

3.3.2 Active Transport Victoria

Options for discussion	Bayside response
35 Incorporate references to Active Transport Victoria and linkages to land use outcomes in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> .	It is expected that this change will provide clarity for local governments and communities about key public transport routes to guide local development decisions. It encourages development along and near public transport routes and nodes and demonstrates the network ability to support future growth.

3.4 Housing

3.4.1 The balance between established and growth area development

Options for discussion	Bayside response
<p>36 Increase established area housing supply by one or more of:</p> <p>36A Establish a 70/30 target where established areas provide 70 per cent of Melbourne's new housing supply and greenfield growth areas provide 30 per cent.</p> <p>36B Investigate a mechanism to manage the sequence and density of the remaining Precinct Structure Plans based on land supply needs.</p> <p>36C Focus metropolitan planning on unlocking housing supply in established areas, particularly within areas specifically targeted for growth and intensification.</p> <p>36D Identify planning tools and reforms to boost established area housing supply.</p>	<p>The new residential zones already identify areas with development potential and those where retaining existing character is a priority.</p> <p>Existing Policies and Strategies respond to option 36C. The application of the residential zones and implemented policies and strategies for activity centres provide a clear framework for the location of areas targeted for growth and intensification.</p> <p>Policy objectives to increase housing in established areas and to make better use of existing infrastructure are in place and are already represented in state planning policy aspirations.</p> <p>An integrated approach that responds to demographic change, community needs and aspirations, place and identity is vital in ensuring Melbourne retains its high liveability standards while ensuring housing supply and affordability are maintained.</p> <p>A 70/30 target will not provide the expected outcomes, while it provides a split in number of dwellings delivered it does not provide a picture indicative of housing mix.</p> <p>Strategic justification for the application of the new residential zones had to demonstrate that demographic change and future housing supply were provided in accordance with state forecasts. A monitoring and review program that looks at the implementation of the residential zones will provide a better picture on not only housing provision but at the delivery of outcomes that enhance place and identity. A similar approach was established by the Ministerial Direction for the new residential zones.</p>

3.4.2 Population growth and housing

Options for discussion	Bayside response
<p>37 Better define and communicate Melbourne's housing needs by either:</p> <p>37A Setting housing targets for metropolitan Melbourne and each sub-region relating to housing diversity, supply and affordability.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>37B Developing a metropolitan Housing Strategy that includes a Housing Plan which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies preferred housing outcomes 	<p>Local Government Housing Strategies and Structure Plans already address housing and demographic needs in response to Metropolitan objectives.</p> <p>While a metropolitan Housing Strategy may assist Local Government Areas that do not have the resources to develop their own strategic work to identify preferred housing outcomes, such a strategy will have negative implications if prepared in isolation and not given consideration to existing Housing</p>

<p>(rather than targets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifies key Victorian and local government actions • Includes preferred housing scenarios for sub-regions and defined locations. 	<p>Strategies that respond to a local context. Resources invested in the preparation and implementation of existing housing strategies should be taken into consideration and not be undermined.</p> <p>Council wants to see a more tangible approach before supporting any of these options.</p>
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3.4.3 Clarify locations that support population growth and new housing

Options for discussion	Bayside response
<p>38 Introduce a policy statement in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support population and housing growth in defined locations • That acknowledges that some areas within defined locations will require planning protection based on their valued character. 	<p>Plan Melbourne should clearly identify where future residential change and increased densities are supported and where change is limited. This is critical for defining the preferred future form of the city, guiding planning decisions and providing certainty for the community and investment.</p> <p>The City of Bayside incorporates this model in the Bayside Planning Framework.</p>
<p>39 Clarify the direction to 'protect the suburbs'.</p>	<p>Direction and support should be provided in response to neighbourhood character, identity and place.</p>

3.4.4 What is the role of the Reformed Residential Zones in delivering diversity?

Options for discussion	Bayside response
<p>40 Clarify the action to apply the Neighbourhood Residential Zone to at least 50 per cent of residential land by:</p> <p>40A Deleting the action and replacing it with a direction that clarifies how the residential zones should be applied to respect valued character and deliver housing diversity.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>40B Retain at least 50 per cent as a guide but expand the criteria to be applied in variations between municipalities.</p>	<p>Land use zones should continue to be applied to land according to strategic policy and the attributes of land, and not according to blanket percentages, as determined by local housing strategies.</p>

3.4.5 Greyfield renewal

Options for discussion	Bayside response
<p>41 Introduce a policy statement in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> supporting greyfield renewal and investigate planning scheme mechanisms to achieve coordinated</p>	<p>A state approach to guide the development process for greyfield renewal precincts frameworks that considers the implications and opportunities of transitioning industrial</p>

and sustainable renewal of established suburbs.	land into residential areas on a regional basis will be supported.
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3.4.6 Promoting housing diversity through design

Options for discussion	Bayside response
42 Include an action in <i>Plan Melbourne 2016</i> to investigate how the building and planning system can facilitate housing that readily adapts to the changing needs of households over the life of a dwelling.	Investigating opportunities for internal design to increase choice and diversity is supported.

3.4.5 Affordable housing

Options for discussion	Bayside response
43 Affirm that the Minister for Planning should be the responsible authority for social housing planning applications recommended by the Director of Housing (and include definitions of housing affordability and social and affordable housing in planning schemes).	While this action may appear to improve the delivery of social housing, it is important to recognise that social housing supply goes beyond the planning system. Responsible authorities must continue to guide built form outcomes across local neighbourhoods and powers should not be reduced for this purpose.
44 Introduce expedited planning approvals processes for selected social housing projects, including modified third-party appeal rights.	Third-party appeals right should be retained. Broader community consultation should be undertaken as part of the development of a modified third-party appeal rights.
45A Consider introducing planning tools that mandate or facilitate or provide incentives to increase social and affordable housing supply. 45B Evaluate the pilot affordable housing initiative on land sold by government to determine whether to extend this to other suitable land sold by government. 45C Identify planning scheme requirements that could be waived or reduced without compromising the amenity of social and affordable housing or neighbouring properties.	The current planning system does not facilitate the development of social or affordable housing. An understanding of social and affordable housing needs at a local level needs to be provided. While the planning tools will cover some of the gaps in relation to affordable and social housing provision this issue goes beyond the planning system. An inclusionary zone on its own will not work unless adequate funding and coordination of housing agencies, amongst other strategies, are put in place.

3.5 A more resilient and environmentally sustainable Melbourne

3.5.1 Strategic Environmental Principles

Options for discussion	Bayside response
46 Introduce the Strategic Environmental Principles in Plan Melbourne 2016 to guide	Overarching environmental principles will help facilitate sustainability actions to

implementation of environment, climate change and water initiatives.	address pressures such as population growth, climate change and changing community expectations. These could be introduced into Plan Melbourne 2016 to guide planning authorities in developing and amending planning schemes so they are meeting sustainability outcomes. The City of Bayside has been a pioneer in implementing water sensitive initiatives to support the retention of water in the landscape. Opportunities to apply an integrated approach to addressing sustainability while supporting economic and social wellbeing is supported.
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3.5.2 Melbourne: A resilient city prepared for climate change

Options for discussion	Bayside response
47 In consultation with land and emergency management authorities, review policy and hazard management planning tools (such as overlays) to ensure the planning system responds to climate change challenges.	Council supports updating the planning system to identify extreme risk locations as part of all rezoning and strategic planning, and ensuring appropriate development in high hazard areas. The review and update of existing planning standards is vital in ensuring that Melbourne can effectively respond to a changing climate. The inclusion of a state policy to guide Environmentally Sustainable Design will assist in a better response to climate change.
48 Update hazard mapping based on the best available climate change science and review risk management actions to promote resilience and avoid unacceptable risks.	
49 Update the legislative and policy framework so the best available climate change science and data at regional and local spatial scales is periodically incorporated into the planning system.	
50 Incorporate natural hazard management criteria into Victorian planning schemes to improve planning in areas exposed to climate change and environmental risks.	A map that includes a combination of hazards informed by all government agencies will provide a better approach to planning in response climate change events.

3.5 New Planning Tools

Options for discussion	Bayside response
58 Evaluate whether: 58A New zone(s) are needed for National Employment Clusters and urban renewal areas OR	Clarification is required regarding what constitutes an urban renewal area and areas to which this designation would apply. Potential adaptation of the Activity Centre Zone (ACZ) could facilitate this outcome.

58B Existing zones (and overlays), possibly with standardised schedule templates, can provide effective planning frameworks.	Option 58B which include the use of existing zones and schedules will provide an effective planning framework for these areas.
59 Evaluate the merits of code assessment for multi-unit development, taking into account the findings from the 'Better Apartments' process, to either: 59A Replace ResCode with a codified process for multi-unit development OR 59B Identify ResCode standards that can be codified.	In its submission to the 'Better Apartments' discussion paper, Council has previously indicated it support for this process as there is a strong need to improve the standards of accommodation for residents living in apartment buildings. However, further consultation is required in order to determine which of the above approaches is best to evaluate the merits of code assessment for multi-unit development.

3.6 Implementation

Options for discussion	Bayside response
60 Review the existing Central Sub-region boundary to better align with the Central City planning area. 61 Review and refresh Plan Melbourne 2014 actions to form the basis of a new 'rolling' implementation plan. 62 Rationalise and update indicators, including addressing gaps relating to environment and climate change.	<p>Further detail is required regarding the content and nature of a new 'rolling' implementation plan, in addition to indicators relating to the environment and climate change. Consultation is required to ensure that the role of local government is clear and that the resource burden on local government is not increased as a result of introducing an implementation plan to accompany Plan Melbourne 2016. Consultation should also address the timing of the implementation plan and the review mechanisms.</p> <p>Bayside should not be included in the Central sub region. There is limited relationship between the Central subregion and Bayside.</p>

4. Other implementation mechanisms

The implementation of Plan Melbourne 2014 has already begun and is reflected in the concurrent review of State Government plans, policies and strategies. Therefore, the Plan Melbourne refresh is intended to align and integrate with these concurrent reviews in order to achieve a cohesive implementation approach. Concurrent State Government reviews are presented 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*.

As reviews are completed consultation regarding the implementation of their findings should be conducted. The findings and implementation from the reviews should be clearly linked to how they contribute to the implementation of Plan Melbourne 2016.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

Council supports the Plan Melbourne refresh for the following reasons:

- It is appropriate that Plan Melbourne 2016 will maintain its key priorities and strengthen the focus on housing affordability, climate change and energy efficiency. Including these elements within a strategic framework acknowledges how Melbourne is facing a broad range of challenges with significant strategic planning implications.
- It is appropriate that Plan Melbourne 2016 will edit content, and clarify growth challenges, fundamental principles and key concepts in order to improve its general usability and usability as a statutory document.

The Plan Melbourne refresh discussion paper is a good starting point to identify changes and process improvements in relation to Plan Melbourne. Moving forward, the following factors must be considered:

- The State Government must engage with local government in order to determine its role in implementing Plan Melbourne 2016 and avoid potential and local government policy discrepancies;

- Support Local Government in the form of resources and authority to deliver on its role as a partner, particularly considering the implications of the Victorian Government Fair Go Rates system upon Councils financial sustainability; and
- Council expresses some concern about the potential for changes to Plan Melbourne that would increase the resource burden on local government. As a result, it is recommended that the financial implications for Councils as a result of the implementation of this change are considered.

Further consultation needs to be undertaken on the options for discussion presented in the discussion paper and the type of tools to assist in the implementation of this work. It is recommended that a consultation and engagement strategy, which clearly outlines the next stages of consultation timeframes and level of involvement, is prepared and released to all stakeholders and made available to all submitters to the review.