**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MELBOURNE 2030 AUDIT**

Division: Sustainability & Regulatory Services

Presenter: David Mayes, Acting Manager Strategic Planning & Sustainability

**Purpose**

1. To advise Council that an audit of *Melbourne 2030 – Planning for Sustainable Growth* is currently being undertaken by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (“DSE”).

**Recommendation from Management**

2. That the Planning Committee note:

   2.1 an Audit of Melbourne 2030 is being conducted by DSE; and
   2.2 that officers are meeting with representatives from DSE and will prepare a response to the Audit process.

**Key Issues**

3. DSE has now commenced the first five yearly review of Melbourne 2030 and is undertaking an audit of the document.

4. This is a two stage process with Stage One being a DSE stocktake of recent trends and an assessment of the views of key stakeholders. Stage Two will consider the outcomes of the stocktake as well as submissions from local governments, key stakeholders and the public.

5. An audit committee (AEG – Audit Expert Group) has been established to oversee Stage Two and is comprised of:

   5.1 Chair, Professor Rob Moodie, current Chair of Global Health, Melbourne University. Former CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation and almost 30 years experience in multi-disciplinary public policy roles;
   5.2 Michael Wright QC, a specialist in planning law for 20 years;
   5.3 David Whitney, an eminent Victorian planner with over 35 years experience; and
   5.4 Dr Ann McAfee, an international planning expert with many years of experience at the City of Vancouver.

6. The Terms of Reference of this Group are included as Attachment 1.
7. The key tasks of the audit are to:

7.1 determine whether recent development trends are consistent with the outcomes sought through Melbourne 2030;

7.2 evaluate the progress and effectiveness of the initial Melbourne 2030 implementation initiatives;

7.3 advise on strategic and implementation priorities for the next five years; and

7.4 identify key aspects of Melbourne 2030 and where there is a need for refinement of policy or implementation initiatives to achieve the strategic intent of the strategy and enhance Melbourne’s liveability.

8. The Terms of Reference specifically note that this process will not review the fundamental principles or directions of Melbourne 2030 but are focussed on its operation and effectiveness in achieving its objectives.


**Time Frame**

10. Council officers are meeting with DSE in mid-July to discuss the Audit process. Submissions are expected by DSE by late August.

**Relation to Council Policy**

11. Melbourne 2030 is a high level strategy and there is a high degree of consistency between various Council policies including CityPlan 2010, the Municipal Public Health Plan, the Social Housing Strategy, Moving People and Freight, the Zero Emissions Strategy and the draft Sustainable Water Strategy.

12. IMAP (Inner Melbourne Action Plan) and the Regional Housing Statement have been developed by the Inner Melbourne Councils of Melbourne, Port Phillip, Yarra, Stonnington and VicUrban (Docklands), in response to Melbourne 2030.

**Consultation**

13. The Minister has announced the intention to consult on the implementation of M2030. At this stage no details are available of the form of consultation.

**Government Relations**

14. The State Government sees implementation of Melbourne 2030 as a partnership, with local government being a significant player in the implementation of the directions of the strategy.

15. Melbourne 2030 is a Whole of Government strategy aimed at providing a decision making framework across Government and particularly seeks to guide transport and infrastructure provision and decision making.
Finance

16. There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations contained in the report.

Legal

17. This report is for noting only and no direct legal issues arise. Section 12(2)(a) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires that in preparing a planning scheme or amendment, a planning authority must, amongst other things, have regard to the Minister’s directions. Melbourne 2030 is such a Ministerial Direction.

Sustainability

18. Melbourne 2030 has been developed as a plan for the sustainable growth of Melbourne over the next thirty years. It contains policies and initiatives addressing economic, social and environmental matters.

Background

Melbourne 2030 – Planning for Sustainable Growth

19. In November 2002, the State Government released its metropolitan strategy, Melbourne 2030 – Planning for Sustainable Growth, for comment. Submissions were called for by February 2003.

20. In its submission to DSE, the Council welcomed the release of Melbourne 2030 as a necessary framework to guide and coordinate the future development of Melbourne and its immediate surrounds and noted that Council’s own policies and objectives were substantially consistent with the strategy regarding the future role of the City of Melbourne as the capital of Victoria.

21. In its submission, Council provided feedback on the strategy, the draft implementation plans, the draft Clause 12 and other issues of importance. The submission focussed particularly on the City’s capital city role, activity centres, housing and transport and made several recommendations regarding changes or new initiatives that would assist with the effective implementation of the strategy.

22. The key issues raised in Council’s submission to DSE included:

22.1 the need for a whole of government approach to planning, implementation and funding;

22.2 the City of Melbourne’s and Central Melbourne’s capital city role and function – greater definition and clarity required;

22.3 the ‘Central Activities District’ (as defined by Melbourne 2030 - includes CBD, Docklands, Sport and Entertainment Precinct, the Knowledge Precinct, the Arts Precinct and Southbank) – definition/extent and role in the network;

22.4 Activity Centres (as defined by Melbourne 2030) – clarification, definition and future role; Fisherman’s Bend and St Kilda Road to be included as Activity Centres;

22.5 housing growth and population projections – the management thereof and the provision of affordable and social housing and infrastructure;

22.6 employment and business opportunities – key and emerging sectors;
22.7 Port of Melbourne, mixed use areas – buffers and management of land use conflict;

22.8 transport issues – central city access, and the need for a detailed and integrated transport implementation plan;

22.9 water and energy efficiency – ratings and tools; and

22.10 implementation tools and mechanisms - to achieve Melbourne 2030 outcomes.

**Melbourne 2030 – DSE’s ‘Response to submissions’ report**

23. DSE’s ‘Response to submissions’ report acknowledged the need for strong leadership and committed the Government to leading the successful and effective implementation of *Melbourne 2030*. It prioritised actions, identifying ‘priorities for implementation’ and those of ‘immediate priority’, identified relevant projects and indicated which agencies are responsible for putting into practice specific initiatives and tasks.

24. It acknowledged the importance of a strong partnership between the State and local government in the successful implementation of *Melbourne 2030* and gave immediate priority to the Melbourne 2030 Implementation Reference Group, the Regional Housing Working Groups, the Metropolitan Fringe Councils’ Strategic Planning Partnerships, Communities for Smart Growth and the establishment of the Melbourne 2030 Local Government Assistance Fund.

25. The Inner Melbourne Group of Councils (Melbourne, Port Philip, Yarra, Stonnington and VicUrban (Docklands) have developed a collaborative response to Melbourne 2030 in the form of IMAP - the Inner Melbourne Action Plan - and are working together to implement the Plan through the IMAP Implementation Committee (a special Section 86 Committee of Mayors and Chief Executive Officers). Council’s representatives on this Committee are Cr Ng as Chair of the Planning Committee and the Director of Sustainability and Regulatory Services.
Audit Expert Group to inform the Audit of Melbourne 2030

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE
To provide advice to the Minister for Planning to inform the Government’s Audit of Melbourne 2030.

BACKGROUND
Melbourne 2030 is the Government’s strategic plan to guide the sustainable development of metropolitan Melbourne and the surrounding region and enhance Melbourne’s liveability now and in the future. This strategy was released in October 2002. There is a commitment to undertake a review every 5 years involving local government, the development industry, key stakeholders and the community in the process.

To fulfil this commitment the Minister for Planning in 2006 announced an Audit of Melbourne 2030 to be undertaken in two Stages.
  • Stage One comprises DSE’s stocktake of recent trends and an assessment of the views of key stakeholders.
  • Stage Two will consider the outcomes of DSE’s stocktake, submissions from local governments, key stakeholders and the general community and provide advice to the Minister for Planning on the priorities for enhancing and promoting the liveability of Melbourne through the ongoing implementation of Melbourne 2030.

SCOPE OF WORK
General tasks
The Audit Expert Group is to provide a set of conclusions on issues it sees as relevant to the effective implementation of Melbourne 2030. The policy aspects of Melbourne 2030 are not under examination. The AEG will review the principal findings of DSE’s stocktake and will report via the Convenor to the Minister for Planning.

The consideration of the AEG should include:
I. Whether recent development trends are consistent with the outcomes sought through Melbourne 2030;
II. Progress and effectiveness of the initial Melbourne 2030 implementation initiatives;
III. Advice on strategic and implementation priorities for the next five years; and
IV. Identification of key aspects of Melbourne 2030 where there is a need for refinement of policy or implementation initiatives to achieve the strategic intent of the strategy and enhance Melbourne’s liveability.

Specific issues
In addition, advice is requested on the following specific issues:
I. The effectiveness of local government’s role in the implementation of Melbourne 2030;
II. Appropriate mechanisms for monitoring implementation of Melbourne 2030;
III. Melbourne 2030 designates 26 Principal and 94 Major Activity Centres and their immediate environs as places for significant change. Advice is sought regarding actions that could reasonably be taken to make these locations:
  • investment ready to attract additional retail and office development; and
  • a focus for residential development, increasing opportunities for higher density housing;
- **locally accessible** with improved accessibility for walking and cycling modes to and within centres.

IV. Further actions to increase residential development opportunities including:
- **providing greater planning certainty** for desired change in appropriate locations;
- **levers required** to facilitate housing choice in and around activity centres in established areas;
- **the potential of corridors / boulevards along the Principal Public Transport Network**; and
- **achieving a balance** between housing intensification and reflecting local character.

It is not intended that the audit of *Melbourne 2030* include fundamental changes to the strategy’s principles and directions. *Melbourne 2030* is a 30 year strategy and a fundamental change to the strategic direction within the first five years would be premature.

The AEG is not expected to consider proposals to amend the Urban Growth Boundary, designation of particular activity centres, the merits of specific development proposals or particular investments in infrastructure or services.

**SUBMISSIONS**
Written submissions will be invited over a four week period.

DSE will place advertisements in local newspapers in early August advising of the Government’s audit and the opportunity to make a submission to the AEG.

Submissions will be received by the Office of Planning and Urban Design on behalf of the AEG. Individual submissions as well as thematic summaries of submissions will be provided to the AEG to inform its work.

The AEG will determine whether submissions require further consideration.

Submissions should be concise and directly address matters raised in the Terms of Reference.

**MEETINGS WITH SUBMITTERS**

The AEG:

- Is not required to undertake public hearings, but may initiate meetings it deems necessary in its consideration of the outcomes of DSE’s stocktake and submissions. Particular consideration will be given to meeting with interested local governments and other key stakeholders including former members of the *Melbourne 2030* Implementation Reference Group.
- May invite other submitters to meet with one or more AEG members where the Convenor considers such a meeting necessary to fully inform the Group.
- May consult with relevant officers from Government Departments and Agencies to assist in its work.

The AEG’s final report should provide a description of all consultation conducted by the AEG, including a list of all agencies, organisations and people consulted met with by the AEG.
MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION

The AEG will comprise four members, with the Convenor responsible for the operation of the Group and the finalisation of advice to the Minister for Planning.

Members
- Dr Rob Moodie (Convenor)
- Michael Wright QC
- Mr David Whitney
- Dr Ann McAfee

Quorum and procedures
A quorum of the Group will comprise the Convenor plus one other member.

Meetings between the AEG and submitters may be undertaken by one member, with the agreement of the Convenor. The outcomes of these meetings should be reported back to the full AEG to inform its work.

Reporting and timelines
The AEG must submit:

Support
DSE will provide administrative support to the Group as required.

In addition, the AEG may utilise the wider resources of DSE in undertaking additional research if required.

ADDITIONAL EXPERT ASSISTANCE

DSE will make arrangements for experts to be available to assist the Group in its work including:
- Professor Bill Randolph (Sydney based) – expertise in metropolitan planning and social disadvantage;
- Professor Bill Young (Monash University) – expertise in transport planning;
- Mike Waller – former BHP Chief Economist; and
- Neil Bird (Sydney based) – ex-National President of the Urban Development Industry of Australia and Deputy-Chair of LandComm.

The Convenor of the AEG will determine, in consultation with DSE, if and when expert assistance is required.
FINANCE ATTACHMENT

MELBOURNE 2030 AUDIT

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations contained in the report.

Joe Groher
Manager Financial Services
LEGAL ATTACHMENT

MELBOURNE 2030 AUDIT

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of the report.

Section 12(2)(a) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires that in preparing a planning scheme or amendment, a planning authority must, amongst other things, have regard to the Minister’s directions. Melbourne 2030 is such a Ministerial Direction.

In addition, Section 3C(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 (“the Act”) provides that:

“the primary objective of a Council is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions”.

Section 3C(2) of the Act further provides that in seeking to achieve its primary objective, a Council must have regard to facilitating objectives including:

“to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district.”

Section 3E(1)(d) of the Act provides that one of the functions of a Council is undertaking strategic and land use planning for the municipal district.

This report is consistent with these objectives and functions.

Kim Wood
Manager Legal Services