

## DIRECTION 4

### Enhance Melbourne's environment and livability

Melbourne didn't achieve its status as the world's most livable city by chance. The city and suburbs we know today reflect the vision and effort of many preceding generations. Over the past 150 years, governments and the private sector, planners and developers have worked in partnership to make the most of Melbourne's location and physical assets. They have given us an urban environment second to none. Melbourne's international reputation for livability and its demonstrated ability to attract investment and tourists are based to a considerable extent on the quality of that environment.

However, there is more to livability than this. Metropolitan Melbourne is also exceptional for its high standards of personal safety and comfort, its social cohesion and its cultural diversity. Each part of the metropolis – from the cosmopolitan inner suburbs to the semi-rural fringe – has its own appeal.

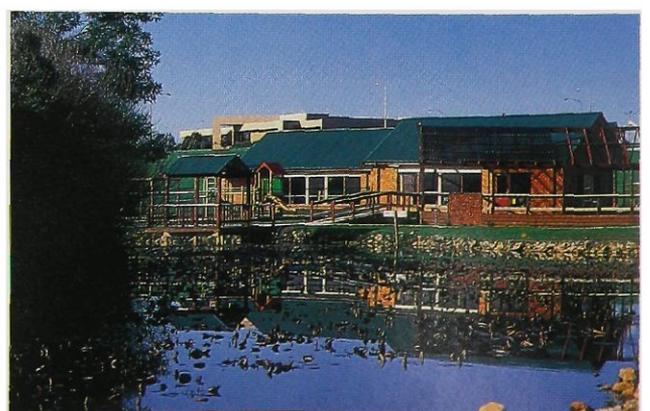
The Victorian Government is committed to maintaining and extending physical and human services throughout metropolitan Melbourne. New schools, health care facilities, roads, railway stations, water, gas and electricity facilities and other essential services will be provided subject to a rigorous analysis of need and the availability of funds. This will make the city more appealing to people contemplating setting up a business here. Just as importantly, it will make life better for the 3.2 million Victorians who currently live in Melbourne and the thousands more who use its services.

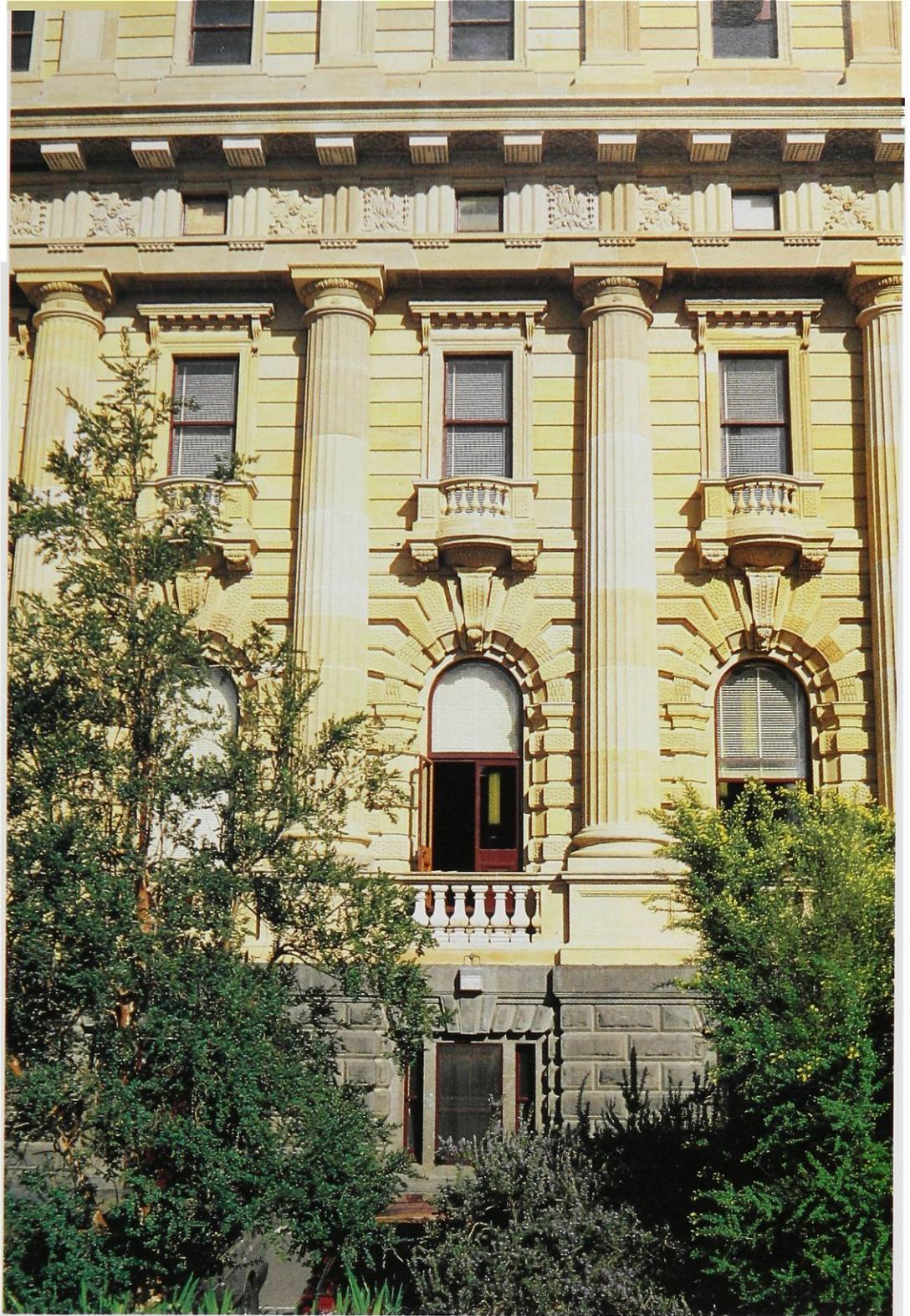
Measures specifically designed to improve Melbourne's urban amenity and quality of life are outlined in this strategic direction and the one that follows.

The Government will enhance Melbourne's environment and livability by:

- preserving Melbourne's urban character and heritage
- extending and supporting Melbourne's arts facilities and organisations
- developing sport, recreation and racing facilities
- fostering cultural diversity
- creating safer communities

Providing the people of suburban Melbourne with the facilities they need is a high priority. The new Craigieburn Police Station and the Bridgewater Neighbourhood House at Narre Warren are two recent examples.





Melbourne is a treasure trove of 19th century architecture and urban design. The State Government works with local councils and the private sector to identify and protect the city's many heritage assets. Parliament House, where the stonework is currently being restored, is just one of them.

- taking full advantage of Port Phillip Bay and the Yarra River to make Melbourne a waterfront city
- marketing Melbourne as a world-class tourism destination
- developing an open space network of parks, trails, bicycle paths, waterways and habitat corridors throughout the metropolitan area
- minimising and managing wastes.

### PLANNING AND EPA LIBRARY

## Preserving Melbourne's urban character and heritage

The image of a city depends to a large extent on the character of its streets, buildings and landscaping and the relationships between them. Enhancing



Melbourne's suburbs are rich with heritage assets like Graff's Farm (1873), part of an early Lutheran settlement in Thomastown.

Melbourne's urban character involves consideration of a number of factors, including how – and how intensively – land is used; public spaces; pedestrians and mobility; parking and access; personal safety; historic and contemporary building design; and landscape and urban art.

Heritage buildings and streetscapes contribute significantly to Melbourne's distinctiveness, as well as providing historical continuity and a sense of place. Melbourne's heritage assets also have enormous intrinsic cultural importance and enhance the city's appeal to residents, investors and tourists.

The Government will encourage optimal urban design, architectural and heritage conservation outcomes in Melbourne by:

- helping local government and the private sector identify and protect areas with significant heritage value and urban character
- streamlining the identification, assessment and registration of heritage structures and places
- improving heritage and urban character information by integrating existing data in a single geographical information system
- providing urban design input on sites and projects of metropolitan significance and focusing more attention on urban design.