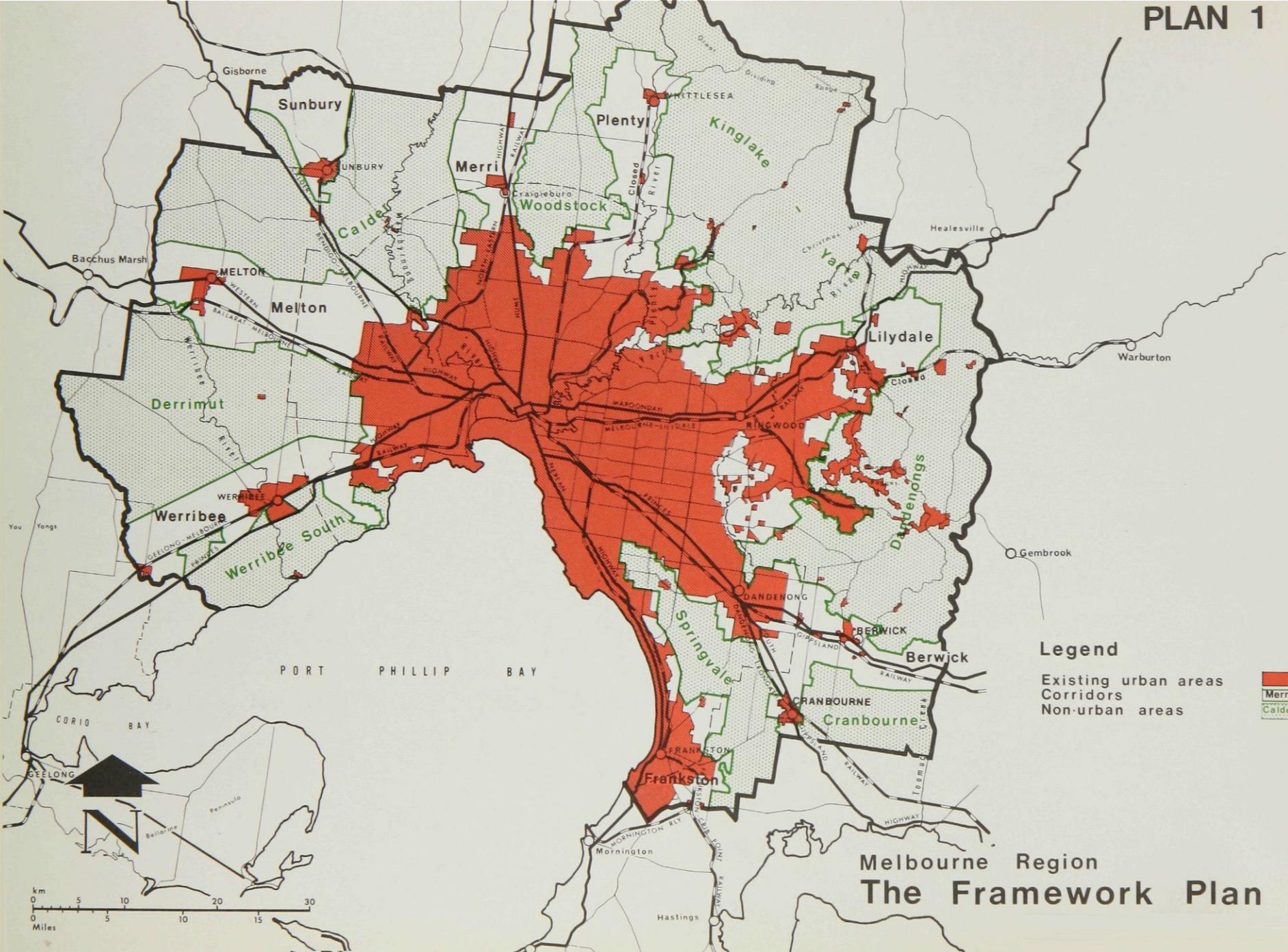


Part A. Background and Objections



Melbourne Region
The Framework Plan

1. Background

To appreciate the 1971 Report and the objections and submissions made, a brief review of the stages leading up to the present is necessary.

The 1954 Scheme

This represented the first overall proposals for Melbourne since the 1929 Metropolitan Planning Commission Report and covered a planning area of some 1,800 square kilometres (700 square miles). The proposals were intended to accommodate a metropolitan population of some 2½ million primarily through additional outward settlement distributed in accordance with demand. The Central Business District was looked on as a prime focus of the metropolitan area supplemented by five suburban district centres and it was envisaged that extensive re-development would occur in the inner suburbs to maintain population there at the then current levels. Action was proposed to encourage industrial development to the east and south-east where the major population settlement was occurring. A rural (non-urban) zone surrounded the defined urban areas, but it was envisaged that this would include further urban development at later stages. There was no thought at that time that Melbourne would not continue to grow, and it was hoped that growth would be rapid.

The 1967 Reports

In 1967 two reports on the long-term development of the metropolis were published. These reports were intended as a long-term look into the future; one, prepared by the Town and Country Planning Board, "Organisation for Strategic Planning" and one by the Board of Works, "The Future Growth of Melbourne".

The possibility of large scale re-development in the inner suburbs was examined and the conclusion reached that even after allowing for re-development to occur in this area, provision would have to be made for major growth in the perimeter areas. This could take place in a number of forms.

The recommended form was in a series of corridors radiating from the existing urban area with green wedges of open country between. It was suggested that there was a case for redirection of growth to the northern and western areas possibly through development of satellite cities at Whittlesea and Sunbury.

The Town and Country Planning Board Report agreed with the corridor concept but favoured much more emphasis on the east and south-east.

In 1968 the Government adopted the corridor/green wedge concept as policy and also favoured the possibility of satellite development in the locations suggested as a means for encouraging development to the north and west. Melton was mentioned as a possible location. The Board's planning area was extended to cover 5,029 square kilometres (1,942 square miles).

The 1971 Planning Policies Report and Amending Schemes

The 1971 Report represented a development of the 1967 recommendations and the Government's adopted policy, and attempted to define these recommendations in more detail over the extended planning area.

The main 1971 proposals were:—

1. Definition of a series of permanent non-urban areas or green wedges worthy of conservation because they contained most of the areas of significant landscape, historic and scientific interest, the major agricultural resources, the water catchments, and the major areas supporting significant bird, animal and plant life.
2. Definition of a series of corridors as the only areas within which future urban development might occur as a result of future development policies. Plan No. 1—the Framework Plan—indicates these corridors and wedges.
3. Delineation of additional urban zoning within the corridors to provide an ample margin for development.
4. Preparation of outline development plans for urban zones taking account of the social, economic and physical needs of people and activities intended to be located in the zones, and conservation of resources. Such plans were intended to set a framework for development in local areas.