



Living Locally 20 Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program

Plan Melbourne 2017–2050

Plan Melbourne 2017–2050 is a long-term plan to accommodate Melbourne’s future growth. The plan is guided by the principle of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

The 20-minute neighbourhood is all about ‘living locally’—giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local public transport options.

Research shows that 20 minutes is the maximum time people are willing to walk to access daily needs locally. This represents an 800m walk from home to a destination, and back again.

20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program

In January 2018, the Minister for Planning launched the 20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program to test the practical delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

The program was delivered in two stages:

- Stage 1 Existing Neighbourhoods
- Stage 2 Greenfield Neighbourhoods

The projects were delivered in partnership with the Victorian Planning Authority, local government, Victoria Walks, Resilient Melbourne and the Heart Foundation.



Stage 1 Existing neighbourhoods

Croydon South

Led by Maroondah City Council’s Council and Community Planning team, the project focused on developing a neighbourhood plan to manage growth and liveability. The report for the Croydon South pilot program can be found [here](#).

Key opportunities for Croydon South included:

- streetscape improvements
- enhancing connections to and amenity of Tarralla Creek
- exploring housing diversity options.

Strathmore

Led by Moonee Valley City Council, the project focused on delivering a high-quality public realm and open space, supporting council’s strategic plan MV2040. The report for the Strathmore pilot program can be found [here](#).

Key opportunities for Strathmore include:

- improving pedestrian safety and access
- providing bicycle lanes connecting to the activity centre
- support housing diversity.

Sunshine West

Led by Brimbank City Council’s Economic Development division, the project focused on developing business strategies to support a thriving local economy. The report for the Sunshine West pilot program can be found [here](#).

Key opportunities for Sunshine West include:

- encouraging ‘pop up’ shops and street trading
- exploring streetscape improvements
- supporting public art installations and ‘creative spaces.’

20-Minute Neighbourhoods Creating a more liveable Melbourne

A report detailing key findings and recommendations from the neighbourhood projects and wider program was released in August 2019 and can be found [here](#).

The report establishes a 'roadmap' for government to deliver 20-minute neighbourhoods.

The recommendations are grouped into themes:

Policy — Embedding 20-minute neighbourhoods in decision-making

- 1 Review the Victoria Planning Provisions to strengthen 20-minute neighbourhood policies
- 2 Develop guidelines, resources and evidence to support implementation
- 3 Embed an approach to delivering 20-minute neighbourhoods in infrastructure projects
- 4 Improve planning of Neighbourhood Activity Centres
- 5 Monitor neighbourhood liveability — measure impact of planning on public health and wellbeing
- 6 Investigate a process to streamline approval of best practice development that delivers a 20-minute neighbourhood—'Green light initiative'

Place — Guidance to design liveable places

- 7 Scale up the pilot program and investigate funding opportunities
- 8 Support delivery of pilot program opportunities
- 9 Support implementation of the Movement and Place framework

Partnerships — Connecting government, industry and communities

- 10 Encourage better neighbourhood design— density done well
- 11 Promote 20-minute neighbourhoods
- 12 Encourage councils to take a coordinated place-based approach
- 13 Support improved whole-of-government coordination of 20-minute neighbourhoods

Progressing community priorities in the pilot sites

To respond to community priorities raised in the 20-minute neighbourhood pilot program, both temporary activation and longer-term transformational concept plans have been prepared for the pilot sites.

The temporary activations respond quickly to the COVID-19 recovery process through low-cost and easy-to-implement activations that support local traders and the community. They are the first step in developing the pilot sites as 20-minute-neighbourhoods and provide an opportunity to trial possible permanent interventions.

View the activation plans via the links below:

[Living Locally - Activating Croydon South](#)

[Living Locally - Activating Sunshine West](#)

[Living Locally - Activating Strathmore](#)

Stage 2 Greenfield neighbourhoods

New neighbourhoods in greenfield areas face a different set of challenges than more established neighbourhoods. To better understand and respond to these challenges, in 2019 DELWP partnered with Resilient Melbourne to coordinate research projects and test the principle of 20-minute neighbourhoods in greenfield developments settings.

The final report from Resilient Melbourne released in October 2020 brings together the findings of four DELWP-funded research projects conducted by Monash University and RMIT University that looked at issues and potential pathways for achieving 20-minute neighbourhoods in greenfield developments: Living Locally: [Creating Resilient 20-minute Neighbourhoods in Greenfield Growth Areas. \(PDF, 6.7 MB\)](#)

The four research projects that the Resilient Melbourne report summarises were undertaken by RMIT University and Monash University and include:

- Mambourin report, recommended strategies to stage community infrastructure delivery in growth areas through temporary activation and land-use
- Beveridge North-West report, reviewing key literature, precinct structure planning and 20-minute neighbourhoods in growth areas
- Assessment of retail model in greenfield development settings: The social and health impacts of the form of shopping centres in new suburbs, and
- Report identifying and valuing the economic benefits of 20-minute neighbourhoods: Higher density mixed use and walkability dimensions.

The research supported the review of the Precinct Structure Plan Guidelines in 2020. These guidelines to be released in 2021, will embed delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods in planning, particularly in greenfield neighbourhoods.

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