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A MORE DIVERSE, MORE INTERESTING, MORE DYNAMIC MELBOURNE



This report sets out the means of implementing the metropolitan strategy, endorsed in principle by State Cabinet in 1980. A strategy designed to help Melbourne develop as a more diverse, more interesting, more dynamic city.

The strategy builds on and modifies existing planning policy, to keep Melbourne in step with changing economic conditions and community attitudes. It takes into account changes since 1971 (when the current approach to planning was first presented) in population trends, job prospects and location, family sizes, lifestyles, energy costs, public investment and trends in commerce and industry.

1.1 A Planning Strategy Evolves

Planning is an evolutionary process. As part of this process planning policies must be reviewed regularly and be responsive to the aspirations and goals of the community.

The changes in planning policy set out in this report have evolved from a series of studies by the Board and from public discussion, details of which have been published in recent reports, notably:

The Challenge of Change, March 1979
Alternative Strategies for Metropolitan Melbourne, October 1979
Metropolitan Strategy, July 1980

The strategy has regard to the five main areas of concern highlighted in these reports: energy, efficiency, employment, environment and equity (the equitable use and distribution of community resources).



The Board has also taken into account responses by the public to these reports in developing the strategy and this now provides opportunities for change and development that the people of Melbourne desire.

In announcing State Government endorsement in principle for the proposals outlined in the Board's July 1980 Metropolitan Strategy report, the Minister for Planning, the Honourable L S Lieberman MLA, said *'The incremental approach in the Board's Strategy Report is in line with the Government's stated aim of encouraging imaginative development and redevelopment to provide for future growth in keeping with the assets and attributes of the city'*.

The objectives set out in the July 1980 report have been further developed, expanded and clarified for inclusion in the Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Scheme.

Until recent changes to legislation, planning objectives could only be implied from various planning scheme controls and not explicitly stated in the scheme. The Statement of Objectives in the Metropolitan Planning Scheme will in future provide guidance and greater certainty as to the Board's planning intentions for metropolitan Melbourne.

1.2 Metropolitan Strategy - Incremental Growth

The metropolitan strategy is one of incremental growth.

It recognises that Melbourne's future growth, like its past growth, will result from a large number of decisions made by people individually or collectively. Governments must ensure that these decisions lead in total to an acceptable end result.

Every decision that people take affects demand for social services, schools and such utility services as water, sewerage, drainage, gas, roads, electricity and telephones. Some decisions lead to better use of existing services. Some require the provision of entirely new services, most of which must be publicly funded.

The strategy establishes the metropolitan framework within which incremental decisions and actions can be taken while ensuring an optimum balance between freedom of action and the public interest. It seeks to channel development into areas where it will provide the people of Melbourne with the most benefits at the least cost, while encouraging freedom for individual action.