



MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN
PLANNING SCHEME 1954

Report

MELBOURNE, within the space of 120 years, has grown from an aboriginal camping ground to a great city with a population approaching 1½ million, and there are no signs that this growth is likely to cease.

In common with many other large cities, it suffers from congestion in the inner areas and a sprawling development on the outskirts. Its land is not being put to the most appropriate use, public transport is loaded to strap-hanging capacity while the roads are so crowded that there is a constant danger to life and an economic loss through long delays and slow movement of traffic.

The Planning Scheme which is explained in this report points the way in which many of these ills may be remedied and at the same time will guide future development of the city in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Er. A. J. Mc Ivor. J. P.
M. H. R.

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Melbourne - - - Victoria



"The Village . . . grew into the city."



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EXPLANATION OF THE PLANNING SCHEME SUBMITTED TO
THE TOWN PLANNING COMMITTEE BY E. F. BORRIE, M.C.,
M.C.E., M.I.C. AUST., F.A.P.I., CHIEF PLANNER, ON BEHALF
OF THE PLANNING STAFF

FOREWORD

by the Chairman of the Board

It must seem strange to many thinking people, especially businessmen and industrial leaders, that Melbourne has not been functioning and growing to a preconceived plan, but has been allowed to expand in a haphazard and disorderly way. It is easy to visualise what would happen to a business that was not planned, or a school, or a hospital, or a private home, or indeed any human enterprise. And just as any other human activity requires planning, so do cities. They are living entities, constantly changing, and if these changes are not guided along the most fruitful lines, the community must suffer.

The comparatively recent growth of large, complex cities in which great numbers of people live in relatively small areas has shown that large-scale community living can become inconvenient and difficult if individual ambitions are allowed to prevail to the detriment of community interest. Existing conditions in our city have already created some almost intolerable situations for the community, and a certain measure of restraint will be necessary if the cause or causes are to be removed.

In a democratic country any restraint or control of individuals must be the least necessary to achieve the desired community goal, and this is the principle the Board has followed in drawing up this plan. It has worked on the basis that there must be minimum interference to the individual compatible with maximum freedom and benefit to the community.

Behind this Planning Scheme lie three years of intensive research and work. The Board does not claim to have produced a panacea for all the defects and weaknesses of our city, but we do say that we have made an honest endeavour to give Melbourne a practical and worthwhile plan. It is a means to a more efficient and more orderly city, and is designed to serve the public, not to become its master. It offers what the planning staff and the Board consider is the best solution of many pressing and costly problems, and the safest shield against a recurrence of those problems in the future.

The plan will be on public exhibition for three months, during which time all citizens will have the right to inspect it, and approve or criticise it. Before finally submitting the plan to the Government for approval the Board will carefully consider all objections and suggestions, weighing individual rights against the community interest and reconciling them wherever possible.

We are sure it will be the wish of every intelligent and socially-minded member of our great city that positive action will be taken to ensure a better Melbourne with the highest possible standards of community life. The Board believes that this Planning Scheme can confer such advantages on our city and its people, and counts it a privilege to have been trusted with the task of drawing up these proposals.

JOHN C. JESSOP

1st July, 1953