

metropolis as a whole. Yet the problems of planning and administering a large city like Melbourne are far greater, and far more complex, than those of any individual organisation within it.

There are at present more than 60 different public authorities responsible for various essential services within the metropolitan area of Melbourne. These include forty-two municipal councils, fifteen public boards and commissions and a number of State and Commonwealth Government departments. Each of these authorities is independently responsible for planning and administering its respective activity which, in times of shortages, involves competition for public funds, manpower and materials. In addition, there are thousands of private organisations engaged in business and social activities spread throughout the metropolitan area. All these organisations, both public and private, are vitally concerned with the development of Melbourne, its problems,

the rate of its population growth, and the form its future development is likely to take. In many instances their very existence is dependent on it. Thus apart from preparing a planning scheme for the city's future development, a metropolitan planning authority performs an immensely valuable function in merely co-ordinating the basic information so essential to the efficient and intelligent development of a large city.

For this reason, and believing it will be of value and interest to many people, the information obtained in the course of preparing the planning scheme is recorded systematically and in detail in the following pages. The assembly of all these facts concerning Melbourne and its people was an immense task, covering as it did all the principal activities that go to make a large city function. Its completion within the short period available was possible only because of the willing and active co-operation of every section of the community.





*Melbourne today showing the city centre, the port and environs*