

LIVING SUBURBS

A policy for
metropolitan
Melbourne into
the 21st century



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State Government
of Victoria



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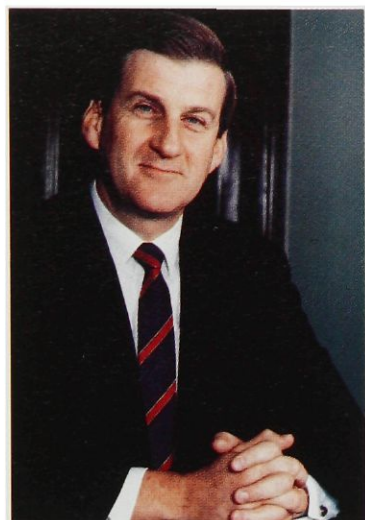
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FOREWORD



The Victorian Government has devoted the last three years to a reform program designed to get the fundamentals right for Victoria's future.

This has meant balancing the State Budget, making changes in major service areas like education, health and transport, and reforming the public service and the structures of government – local government in particular. It has involved a first-priority focus on business and employment growth, operating public trading companies as truly commercial entities to ensure that they are fully competitive, and now the first repayment of debt.

Together, the Government and all Victorians have made sacrifices and demonstrated a preparedness to change so that we are apace with the challenges of the 21st century. Our efforts are starting to pay off – in the practical results we are achieving, and in our success in building a new, confident, competitive, outward-looking culture in Victoria.

These elements shape the underlying philosophy of *Living Suburbs*. This is a policy for Melbourne's future which is founded on our capital city's traditional urban, commercial, industrial, social, cultural and environmental characteristics. It also provides a framework for future development which is relevant to the times and has the ability to adapt to change.

Living Suburbs respects the diversity of the metropolitan area and the way it is changing – the growth of business in the suburbs, the strengthening sense of community in suburban areas, their services, infrastructure and lifestyles.

The policy presents, for the first time, a whole-of-government and community approach to cater for development and the lifestyle requirements of suburban neighbourhoods on an individual basis. It provides a means of anticipating and planning ahead for demographic and social change across the spectrum of our urban environment.

Living Suburbs will live up to the promise of its name. It will make Melbourne a more attractive and efficient place to live and do business. It will integrate the metropolitan area with its commercial heart in the central business district. Most importantly, it is anchored in our local neighbourhoods and squarely addresses the future needs of families.

I commend it to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jeff Kennett'.

Jeff Kennett
Premier of Victoria

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