

Audit Expert Group to inform the Audit of *Melbourne 2030*

Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

To provide advice to the Minister for Planning to inform the Government's Audit of *Melbourne 2030*.

BACKGROUND

Melbourne 2030 is the Government's strategic plan to guide the sustainable development of metropolitan Melbourne and the surrounding region and enhance Melbourne's liveability now and in the future. This strategy was released in October 2002. There is a commitment to undertake a review every 5 years involving local government, the development industry, key stakeholders and the community in the process.

To fulfil this commitment the Minister for Planning in 2006 announced an Audit of *Melbourne 2030* to be undertaken in two Stages.

- Stage One comprises DSE's stocktake of recent trends and an assessment of the views of key stakeholders.
- Stage Two will consider the outcomes of DSE's stocktake, submissions from local governments, key stakeholders and the general community and provide advice to the Minister for Planning on the priorities for enhancing and promoting the liveability of Melbourne through the ongoing implementation of *Melbourne 2030*.

SCOPE OF WORK

General tasks

The Audit Expert Group is to provide a set of conclusions on issues it sees as relevant to the effective implementation of *Melbourne 2030*. The policy aspects of *Melbourne 2030* are not under examination. The AEG will review the principal findings of DSE's stocktake and will report via the Convenor to the Minister for Planning.

The consideration of the AEG should include:

- I. Whether recent development trends are consistent with the outcomes sought through *Melbourne 2030*;
- II. Progress and effectiveness of the initial *Melbourne 2030* implementation initiatives;
- III. Advice on strategic and implementation priorities for the next five years; and
- IV. Identification of key aspects of *Melbourne 2030* where there is a need for refinement of policy or implementation initiatives to achieve the strategic intent of the strategy and enhance Melbourne's liveability.

Specific issues

In addition, advice is requested on the following specific issues:

- I. The effectiveness of local government's role in the implementation of *Melbourne 2030*;
- II. Appropriate mechanisms for monitoring implementation of *Melbourne 2030*;
- III. *Melbourne 2030* designates 26 Principal and 94 Major Activity Centres and their immediate environs as places for significant change. Advice is sought regarding actions that could reasonably be taken to make these locations:
 - **investment ready** to attract additional retail and office development; and
 - **a focus for residential development**, increasing opportunities for higher density housing;
 - **locally accessible** with improved accessibility for walking and cycling modes to and within centres.
- IV. Further actions to increase residential development opportunities including:
 - **providing greater planning certainty** for desired change in appropriate locations;
 - **levers required** to facilitate housing choice in and around activity centres in established areas;
 - **the potential of corridors / boulevards along the Principal Public Transport Network**; and
 - **achieving a balance** between housing intensification and reflecting local character.

It is not intended that the audit of *Melbourne 2030* include fundamental changes to the strategy's principles and directions. *Melbourne 2030* is a 30 year strategy and a fundamental change to the strategic direction within the first five years would be premature.

The AEG is not expected to consider proposals to amend the Urban Growth Boundary, designation of particular activity centres, the merits of specific development proposals or particular investments in infrastructure or services.

SUBMISSIONS

Written submissions will be invited over a four week period.

DSE will place advertisements in local newspapers in early August advising of the Government's audit and the opportunity to make a submission to the AEG.

Submissions will be received by the Office of Planning and Urban Design on behalf of the AEG. Individual submissions as well as thematic summaries of submissions will be provided to the AEG to inform its work.

The AEG will determine whether submissions require further consideration.

Submissions should be concise and directly address matters raised in the Terms of Reference.

MEETINGS WITH SUBMITTERS

The AEG:

- Is not required to undertake public hearings, but may initiate meetings it deems necessary in its consideration of the outcomes of DSE's stocktake and submissions. Particular consideration will be given to meeting with interested local governments and other key stakeholders including former members of the *Melbourne 2030* Implementation Reference Group.
- May invite other submitters to meet with one or more AEG members where the Convenor considers such a meeting necessary to fully inform the Group.
- May consult with relevant officers from Government Departments and Agencies to assist in its work.

The AEG's final report should provide a description of all consultation conducted by the AEG, including a list of all agencies, organisations and people consulted met with by the AEG

MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION

The AEG will comprise four members, with the Convenor responsible for the operation of the Group and the finalisation of advice to the Minister for Planning.

Members

- Dr Rob Moodie (Convenor)
- Michael Wright QC
- Mr David Whitney
- Dr Ann McAfee

Quorum and procedures

A quorum of the Group will comprise the Convenor plus one other member.

Meetings between the AEG and submitters may be undertaken by one member, with the agreement of the Convenor. The outcomes of these meetings should be reported back to the full AEG to inform its work.

Reporting and timelines

The AEG must submit:

1. A preliminary draft Findings Report to the Minister for Planning by Friday 23 November 2007.
2. A Final Report to the Minister for Planning by the end of December 2007.

Support

DSE will provide administrative support to the Group as required.

In addition, the AEG may utilise the wider resources of DSE in undertaking additional research if required.

ADDITIONAL EXPERT ASSISTANCE

DSE will make arrangements for experts to be available to assist the Group in its work including:

- Professor Bill Randolph (Sydney based) – expertise in metropolitan planning and social disadvantage;
- Professor Bill Young (Monash University) – expertise in transport planning;
- Mike Waller – former BHP Chief Economist; and
- Neil Bird (Sydney based) – ex-National President of the Urban Development Industry of Australia and Deputy-Chair of LandComm.

The Convenor of the AEG will determine, in consultation with DSE, if and when expert assistance is required.