

# The 2018 Inner Metro Assembly

Summary Report



Metropolitan Partnerships – Inner metro

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# Executive Summary

An Assembly was held by the Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership on August 16 July 2018. The Assembly brought together 130 community members, businesses, councillors and mayors to continue the conversation for the Inner Metro Metropolitan region.

The Metropolitan Assemblies are part of a commitment to give Victorians the opportunity to influence decisions and shape the future of their communities.

In its second year, the Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership Assembly provided the opportunity for the Partnership to report back to the community on how its shaped the 2017 advice and how the government has responded. It was also an opportunity to further explore the priorities for the region and how community, business and government can work collaboratively to address the challenges in the region.

The night was divided into three activities: reviewing the 2017 priorities, choosing top priorities for 2018, and exploring the priority outcomes in more detail. These activities were preceded by three presentations from:

1. Chair of the Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership, Tony Keenan, who shared the process the Partnership had been going through over the last year.
2. Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning, who discussed the government's response to the 2017 advice.
3. Ralph from the University High School who attended the Youth Forum in May 2018, sharing his experience and the top priorities for young people in the Inner Metro Region.

## Activity 1 results - Reviewing the 2017 priority outcomes

In the first activity, participants were presented with the Partnership's priority outcomes in 2017 and any related responses in the 2018 Victorian Government Budget. At tables of six to eight people, participants were asked to share their initial reactions to the priority outcomes and the government's response.

Overall, the participants supported the 2017 priority outcomes, confirming that they were still relevant in 2018. People were especially interested in seeing further progress on the main themes of rough sleeping and housing affordability and the need for a strong government response.

## Activity 2 results - The Assembly's top priority outcomes for 2018

In the second activity participants were given a list of priorities to review and asked to '*Choose the top three priority outcomes you think the Partnership should consider for their 2018 advice to government*'. The list included the Partnership's 2017 priority outcomes, the top priorities at the Youth Forum, priorities emerging in Partnership discussions throughout 2018 and two new priorities which emerged during the discussion on the night.

The top four priorities chosen by participants were: Rough Sleeping and Affordable Housing, Engagement and Inclusion of Migrant Communities, Improving Public Transport at all hours, and Youth Mental Health.

## Activity 3 results - Exploring the priority outcomes in more detail

For the final activity participants each chose a priority outcome to discuss in more detail. This included exploring the real issues that can be impacted, what opportunities exist, and how we will know we have successfully improved the outcome.

The key messages from the activity were:

Economy, innovation and start-ups: provide opportunities and support for start-up companies and innovation sector development, through increased funding, partnerships and training.

Social wellbeing – affordable and social housing: increase supply of social and affordable housing while improving the quality, security, accessibility of housing provision.

Social wellbeing – mental health: provide preventative and responsive mental health services that build resilience, confidence and increased feelings of self-worth.

Social wellbeing – supporting local Aboriginal communities: support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's engagement and participation in decision making processes and community life.

Early years, education and school provision: ensure excellent and equal standard of schooling across the Inner Metro Region.

Green infrastructure and open space: effectively utilise existing public open green spaces while also implementing innovative green infrastructure strategies.

Waste and recycling: develop waste and recycling management plans to prompt behavioural change and the adoption of sustainable practices.

Energy: enforce the use of renewable energy across individual and industry-based markets.

Active transport – walking and cycling: establish an integrated transport system prioritising active transport, encouraging greater walkability and cyclability in the region.

Built environment – zones, overlays and local planning policies: support mixed use medium density developments, adhering to appropriate overlays and statutory regulation.

Engagement and inclusion of migrant communities: meet the needs of migrant communities with compassion and respect, changing systems and attitudes which spread disadvantage.

Public transport: support the development of innovative, equitable, accessible and integrated public transport for all users in the Inner Metro Region.

More detail on each of these discussions and suggestions for addressing these challenges can be found on page 13.

### Summary of overall findings:

Overall, the participants supported the 2017 priority outcomes, confirming that they were still relevant in 2018. People were especially interested in seeing further progress on the main themes of rough sleeping and housing affordability and the need for a strong government response. Extensive consideration was given by Assembly participants to social wellbeing. Participants consistently commented on the need for enhanced preventative and responsive mental health services, enabling better health treatment for the inner metro community. Participants highlighted the importance of increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement, and participation in decision making

processes as well as in community life more broadly. This was recognised as a way to improve the social wellbeing of their communities. Participants also strongly advocated for the inclusion and engagement of migrant communities, challenging media representations and negative stereotypes. Increasing support services, providing empathetic leadership and developing community programs were encouraged by Assembly participants to increase opportunities and engagement of migrant communities.

The need for a consolidated and integrated public transport strategy for the Inner Metro Region was consistently raised in table discussions. Participants wanted to see a regional and multimodal approach, where buses, trams and trains are coordinated, connected, frequent and efficient. Participants also wanted further prioritisation of opportunities to increase cyclability and walkability. This could be achieved through increasing infrastructure and improving safety mechanisms.

Participants also acknowledged the natural environment and wanted to see greater utilisation and preservation of open spaces in the Inner Metro Region. Participants also called for the development of waste and recycling management plans, to prompt behavioural change and encourage more sustainable practices within the region. Strongly supported was the implementation of renewable energy across individual and industry-based markets.

Finally, participants of the Assembly were concerned with the cohesion and implementation of local planning policies, supporting mixed-use medium-density developments and the effective application of overlays to protect vegetation and heritage.

# INNER METRO REGION

TONY  
CHAIR OF  
INNER CITY  
COUNCIL

HOMELESSNESS  
BUSINESS RESIDENCE  
DIVERSITY



CONNECTED  
PUBLIC  
TRANSPORT

WHAT DO YOU  
LIKE  
ABOUT INNER METRO  
REGION

HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
ACTIVATIONS

# The Metropolitan Partnerships

**The Metropolitan Partnerships are a new and coordinated way for communities to advise government on what matters in their region.**

The Victorian Government wants to better understand and respond to the needs of Melbourne's communities. In May 2017, six Metropolitan Partnerships across Melbourne were established because the government recognises that local communities are best placed to advise on issues and priorities for their region.

Each Partnership is made up of eight community and business representatives with varied backgrounds, experiences and networks, the CEO of every local government in that region and a Deputy Secretary from the Victorian State Government.

Working closely with their communities, the Partnerships will identify opportunities for driving improved social, economic and environmental outcomes and advise the government on actions that can make a real difference to the liveability and prosperity of their metropolitan region.

The Partnerships will strengthen relationships and facilitate stronger collaboration across the three tiers of government, businesses and communities. They will also enable the government to respond in a more coordinated and targeted manner to deliver better outcomes for the community.

More information on the six Metropolitan Partnerships can be found at [suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au](http://suburbandevlopment.vic.gov.au).

## The Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership

The Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership members are:

- Tony Keenan, Chair
- Alexandra Lawlor, Deputy Chair
- Martin Brennan, Member
- Laura Cavallo, Member
- Peter McEwan, Member
- Sheree Siow, Member
- Ben Rimmer, CEO Melbourne City Council
- Peter Smith, CEO Port Phillip City Council
- Vijaya Vaidyanath, CEO Yarra City Council
- David Webster, Victorian Government representative.

## The Inner Metro Region

The Inner Metro Region of Melbourne extends from the Flemington Racecourse and Kensington to the coastline of Port Phillip Bay at Port Melbourne and St Kilda, taking in the inner-city suburbs of Collingwood and Richmond. The Inner Metro Region is the urban centre of Melbourne, home to the central business district, world-class sporting facilities, cultural heritage locations, and dense residential and commercial precincts. The Inner Metro region is the traditional home of the



Wurundjeri and Bunurong people of the Kulin nation.

Figure 1: The Inner Metro Region



# The 2018 Inner Metropolitan Assembly

On Thursday 16 August 2018, 130 community members, businesses, councillors and mayors came together to continue the conversation for the Inner Metro Region.

In its second year, the Inner Metro Metropolitan Assembly was a chance to report back to the community how the Partnership and Government have responded to their input of 2017. It was also an opportunity to further explore the priorities for the region and what advice the Partnership can give government about improving the Inner Metro Region.

The ways in which people could contribute to the conversation in 2018 included online pre-engagement, attending the Assembly in person, or online through live-streaming and answering questions on the Engage Victoria web-page. The Assembly also acknowledged the views of young people who attended the Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum on 7 May 2018.

## THE 2017 Priority Outcomes:

1. Rough Sleeping and Affordable Housing: More support for those rough sleeping and increasing supply of affordable housing.
2. Aboriginal Children: Improve health and well-being, safety and educational outcomes for Aboriginal children.
3. Fisherman's Bend Tramline: Improve connectivity to urban renewal areas to stimulate economic activity.
4. Innovation and Creative Economies: Retain and enhance places for local innovative and creative economies.
5. Environment: Ensure environmental benefits and mitigating environmental impacts.

## What happened on the night

The night was divided into three activities that were preceded by three presentations from:

1. Chair of the Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership, Tony Keenan, who shared the process the Partnership had been going through over the last year.
2. Hon Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning, who presented the government's response to the 2017 advice.
3. Ralph from the University High School who attended the Youth Forum in May 2018, sharing his experience and the top priorities for young people in the Inner Metro Region.

## Activity 1 – Reviewing the 2017 priority outcomes

Following presentations from the Partnership Chair and the Minister for Planning, participants reviewed the Partnership's 2017 priority outcomes and the government's response.

At tables of six to eight people, participants were asked to discuss three questions:

- *What are your initial reactions to the advice and commitments made since last year?*
- *Which of the priority outcomes would you like to see further action on in the next year?*
- *If you could add one priority outcome to the advice for 2018, what would it be?*

Their discussions were facilitated by a senior government member and recorded by a scribe.

## Activity 2 – The assembly's top priority outcomes for 2018 for 2018

To understand what remains the most important priorities for the Inner Metro region for 2018, participants were asked to choose their top three priorities using polling technology. They were able to choose from the 2017 priority outcomes, priorities emerging in Partnership discussions throughout 2018, priorities raised by young people and any additional priorities raised on the night. The results of this poll were displayed instantly.

## Activity 3 – Exploring the priority outcomes in more detail

Participants moved during the break onto tables according to the priority outcomes they wanted to discuss. Three questions were posed to participants, who discussed them in relation to the priority outcomes they were focussing on at their table. The questions were:

- *What is the real issue we can impact?*
- *What are the opportunities?*
- *How will we know we are successful?*

The table participants were then asked to design a vision board representing their responses to the questions.

The night concluded with evaluation questions, asking participants how satisfied participants were with the opportunities provided on the night to share and discuss the region's priorities. The results of this poll were displayed instantly, increasing transparency.

## Limitations

There are limitations associated with the Assembly that should be acknowledged. They include:

- Assembly participants were not necessarily a representative sample of the population of the Inner Metro Region. The results from the night are a good indication of the sentiment and ideas in the region but are not a statistically valid reflection of the views of the entire Inner Metro community. The Assembly engagement will be complimented with other engagement, which will inform the Partnership's advice to Government.
- Due to multiple registration processes, demographic information was not collected for all participants.
- Participants had a varied understanding of the issues in the region and possible solutions.
- Table hosts have taken care to record participant's feedback. However, we cannot guarantee the accuracy or inclusion of all comments. We are confident that the range of ideas, concerns and views reflect the comments made at the sessions.



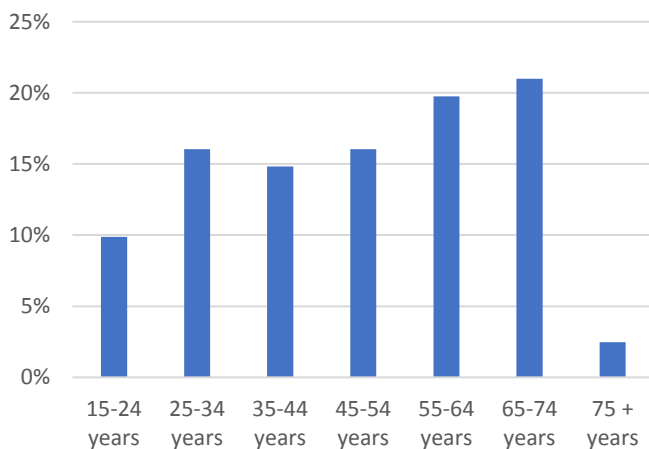


# Who took part in the conversation?

In total, 132 people attended the Assembly, including 110 community members, eight mayors and councillors, five MPs and Ministers, and eight Partnership members. Since June, a website has been live on [engage.vic.gov.au](https://engage.vic.gov.au) for the Inner Metro Metropolitan Partnership. Between 12 June and 16 August, the site was visited by 198 people and 107 people completed the pre-engagement questions through the registration form.

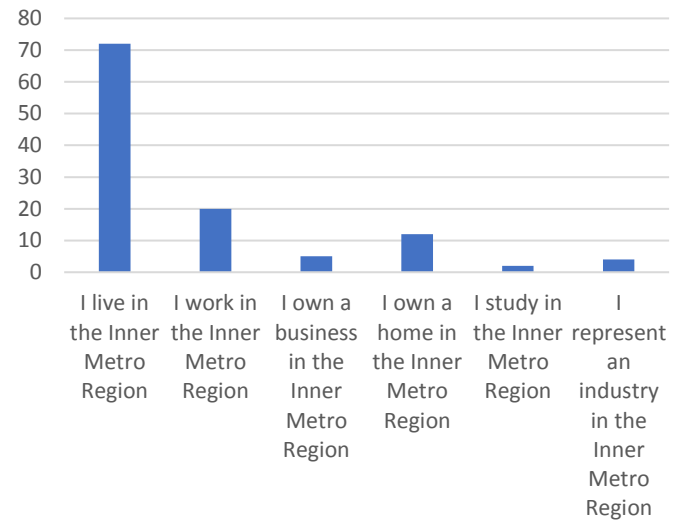
The key Assembly participant demographic attributes are as follows:

- The largest age group was 55-74 years of age, however over a quarter of people were under 35 (26 per cent).
- 72 participants live in the region and 20 work there.
- Quite a few participants indicated they came from a non-English speaking background (17 attendees).
- The City of Port Phillip had the highest number of attendees with 44 per cent.

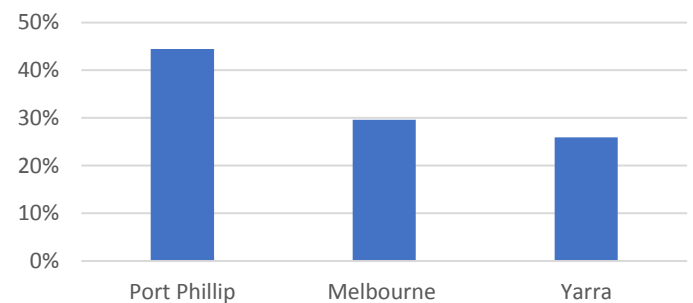


**Figure 2: Age breakdown of the Assembly community member participants<sup>1</sup>.**

<sup>1</sup> Graphs have been calculated for the people who attended the Assembly and do not include demographics of people who completed questions in the registration form but did not attend the Assembly.



**Figure 3: Assembly participants' relationship to the region<sup>2</sup>.**



**Figure 4: Municipality that Assembly participants live in<sup>3</sup>.**

<sup>2</sup> Participants could choose more than one option.

<sup>3</sup> Many participants did not provide their suburb.

# What we heard...

## Reviewing the 2017 priority outcomes

At each table, participants could review the Partnership's priority outcomes in their 2017 advice to government, as well as the government's response. The participants were asked to discuss what their reflections were on the 2017 advice and discuss whether they believed the priority outcomes captured everything that was important to the region, and what further action was required.

In the online registration form, people were also shown the priority outcomes and asked whether they were still relevant to the region in 2018 and what would be their top priority, if they could add one.

This section presents the findings from both the online and the face-to-face engagement.

### Participant's reflections on the 2017 advice

Overall, members of the Assembly endorsed the 2017 priority outcomes, reinforcing the need for funding allocation to address relevant and persistent concerns. Participants strongly supported the prioritisation of rough sleeping and housing affordability, commenting on the need for a greater government response. Reflecting on the 2017 advice, participants recommended greater provision of social and affordable housing in the Inner Metro Region.

Participants identified areas that were not prioritised at last year's assembly, articulating concerns relating to mental health services and education. During the reflective discussions, participants highlighted the need for integrated and coordinated public transport networks whilst social wellbeing was also discussed as an area requiring a greater focus and funding allocation in the region.

### What do the Partnerships need to do more work on in 2018?

Participants were asked what other areas required attention in 2018 and provided many ideas for additional priorities and work to be progressed by

the Partnership. Participants continued to advocate for greater housing affordability, recommending creative and mandatory social and affordable housing provision. Participants of the Assembly commented on the links between mental illness and rough sleeping, recommending greater access to mental health support services for all members of the Inner Metro Region.

Whilst focusing on the environment, participants of the Assembly wanted to see waste management, environmental degradation, catchment flooding, and public, open and green spaces further provided. Assembly participants reflected a common desire for greater integration of public and active transport strategies, mitigating car dependency, congestion and environmental pollution. Assembly participants further discussed the need to see public transport opportunities developed that will link with the renewal of Fisherman's Bend, highlighting how connected public transport and employment opportunities will be necessary components for the future success of the urban renewal area.

Addressing the social wellbeing of individuals in the Inner Metro Region, participants acknowledged specific inequalities that are creating disadvantage for members of migrant, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Addressing these concerns, participants identified the need for greater social cohesion and inclusion, through better promotion of support services and facilitation of community engagement.

Other priorities requiring more of a focus which emerged from the initial discussions included: school provision and education, greater innovation and opportunities for creative economies and better integration of planning and policies such as transport, housing, services and the environment.

# The top priorities for 2018

After a tea break, participants were given a list of priorities to review and asked to 'Choose the top three priority outcomes you think the Partnership should consider for their 2018 advice to government'. These included the Partnership's 2017 priority outcomes, the young people's priorities and two new priorities that emerged on the night.

## Partnerships priority outcomes:

1. Rough sleeping and affordable housing
2. Aboriginal children
3. Fisherman's Bend tramline
4. Innovation and creative economies
5. Environment

## Priorities from the Youth Forum:

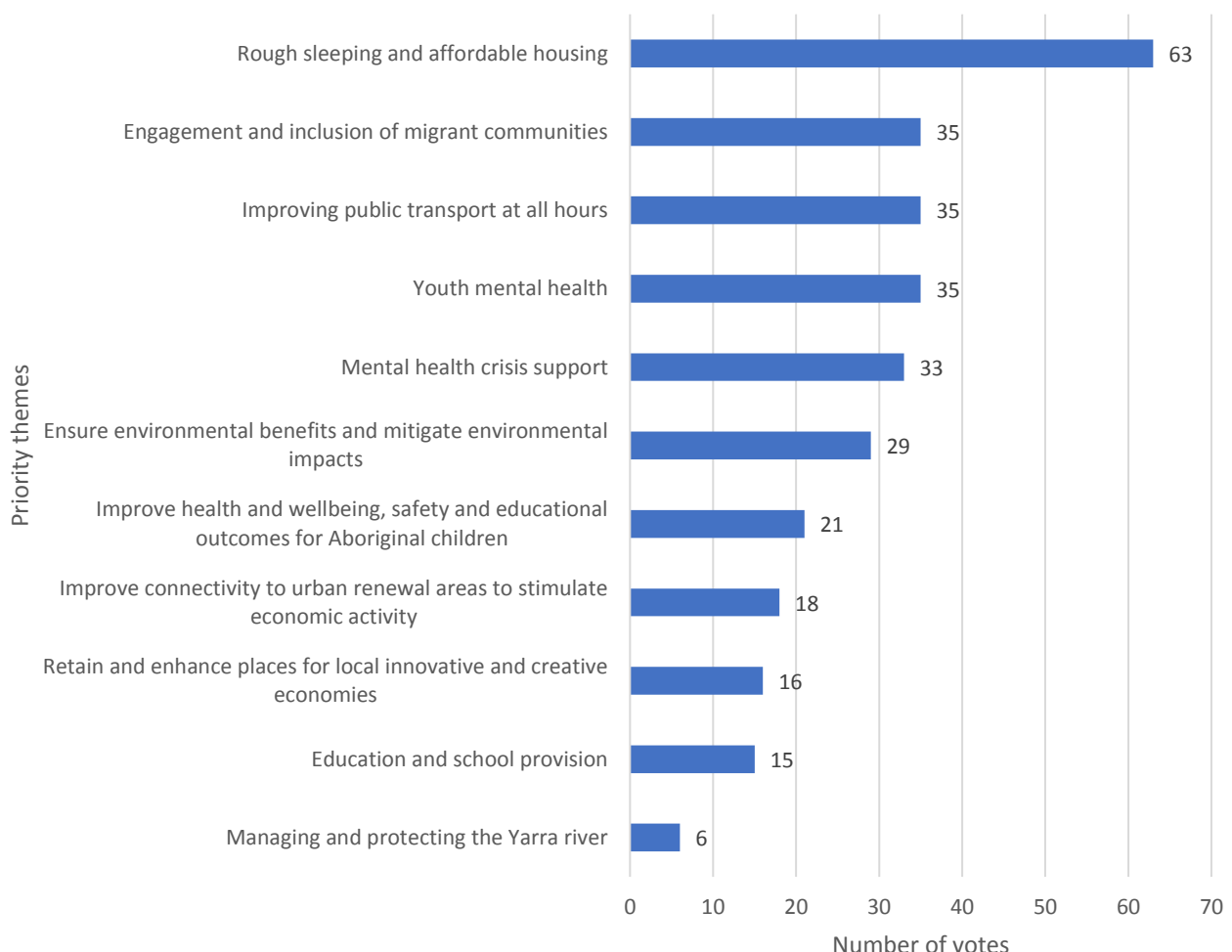
6. Rough sleeping and housing affordability
7. Mental health
8. Cycling and pedestrian safety

## Additional priorities submitted at the Assembly:

9. Engagement and inclusion of migrant communities
10. Managing and protecting the Yarra River.

The results, displayed in Figure 5, show that the top four priorities chosen by participants were rough sleeping and affordable housing, engagement and inclusion of migrant communities, managing and protecting the Yarra River, and public transport.

**Figure 5: Results of the poll 'Choose the top three priority outcomes you think the Partnership should consider for their 2018 advice to government'**





# Exploring the priority outcomes in more detail

In the third activity participants sat at theme-based tables, and explored three questions:

1. *What is the real issue we can impact?*
2. *What are the opportunities?*
3. *How will we know we are successful?*

Their responses have been summarised under each theme in the following section. The themes are not presented in order of weighting or priority.

## Social wellbeing: affordable and social housing

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- There is a lack of housing diversity.
- Housing prices are unaffordable.
- Minimal tenure rights limit tenant stability, security and control.
- There is a link between poor mental health and housing unaffordability.
- The transition into crisis accommodation needs improvement.
- There is a lack of services and support for those who have recently left jail.
- Immigrants are struggling to find affordable housing options.
- The vacancy tax is not enough of an incentive to fill vacant properties.
- Subsidies flow to landowners rather than tenants.
- There are extended waitlists for accommodation in public housing.
- Poor conditions exist in public housing.

### The opportunities are:

- Improve the standard of crisis accommodation and transition housing.
- Encourage build to rent schemes in the Inner Metro Region.
- Plan regional-wide inclusionary zoning for greater amounts of social and affordable housing.
- Increase the supply of housing choices and social housing.
- Increase the occupancy of social and affordable housing and decrease vacant housing units.

- Invest in pop up housing to provide temporary shelter for Inner Metro residents requiring short term housing.
- Ensure that housing is developed and applies universal design principles to better accommodate people who have a disability or who have limited mobility.
- Government to partner with integrated services to deliver wrap around services for people in crisis and transition housing.
- Include 10% of social housing as part of developments in Fisherman's Bend.
- Develop long term integrated housing policies and plans.
- Increase security in public housing estates. For example, provide CCTV cameras and security guards.
- Improve maintenance of public housing.

### We will know we are successful when:

- There is a reduction in homelessness in the Inner Metro Region.
- There is a reduction in people unable to access employment and housing.
- Housing is more affordable.
- There is an increase in rental supply.
- The wellbeing of those living in social housing improves.
- New developments are required to provide a percentage of social and affordable housing.
- There is a reduction in mental illness amongst residents in public housing.
- Government allocates larger sums of money into social and affordable housing.
- Occupants of public housing are safe.
- Applications for public housing are processed and approved at a faster rate.

## Engagement and inclusion of migrant communities

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- There is misrepresentation of migrant communities.
- Bias and prejudice are not challenged enough.
- English tests pose a challenge to those attempting to attain Australian citizenship.
- Migrant communities face difficulties attaining registration and approval to work.
- Current immigration policies limit the possibility of family members in home countries to reunite with family members that have migrated to Australia.
- People experience difficulty paying electricity bills, rent and other costs of living.
- Cultural differences pose challenges for engagement with wider communities.
- Children from migrant families struggle with mainstream schooling services.

### The opportunities are:

- People should hold institutions to account and deplore the misrepresentation of migrant communities. For example, the media's false representation of 'African gangs.'
- Challenge the assumption that migrant communities are homogenous. Allow a greater intake of immigrants and approve those attempting and seeking refuge and asylum in Australia.
- Allow the attainment of citizenship through face-to-face interviews with a translator in the migrant's native language, rather than sitting through unattainable English tests.
- Provide English classes and tutorials for new migrants.
- Allow migrant communities to advocate and support their own communities.
- Challenge colonial attitudes of the 'Australian' way.

- Provide greater investment in educational pathways, leadership opportunities and support for young members of migrant communities.

### We will know we are successful when:

- There are more role models within migrant communities.
- Migrant communities have greater access to employment, education and housing.
- There is no negative press generalising an entire migrant community.
- Employees recognise skills from native countries.
- Employment agencies welcome migrant communities into the workforce.
- Those who have applied for immigration visas are brought to Australia.
- Citizenship is granted to non-English speaking migrants.

## Public transport

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- There is a lack of an effective and collaborative integrated transport plan.
- Car dependency is causing congestion in the Inner Metro Region.
- Shared road space slows down public transport services.
- Due to high rates of car usage, car users are occupying local resident's car parking spaces in the Inner Metro region.

### The opportunities are:

- Develop innovative, equitable and accessible public transport for all users in the Inner Metro Region.
- Extend public transport hours and provide increased services during high demand periods during the day.
- Improve the lived experience of public transport users.
- Prioritise trains, buses and trams over cars.
- Reduce the rate of council charges for shared car spaces to encourage carpooling.
- Shift community expectations and engagement with buses by improving conditions, frequency and routes.

- Plan for the expected population growth to mitigate and decrease overcrowding on public transport.
- Consider and advertise the economic and environmental efficiencies of public transport.
- Increase parking restrictions in the Inner Metro Region to allow residents in the area to have priority over street parking.
- Provide permits for local residents to have access to street parking on local main roads.
- Strategically plan for a whole system approach, whereby buses, trams and trains are coordinated and connected.
- Introduce electric buses.

**We will know we are successful when:**

- There is a reduction of cars on the road.
- Travel times have decreased.
- The number of cars per household has decreased.
- Satisfaction and experience of public transport has improved.
- The government allocates greater funding to public transport.

## Active transport: walking and cycling

**The real issue that can be impacted:**

- Prioritisation of cars needs changing.
- Unsafe conditions exist for cyclists.
- Drivers have negative attitudes towards cyclists and pedestrians.
- Cycling infrastructure is unsafe.
- There is limited parking for bicycles.
- Perceptions of safety for pedestrians and cyclists.
- It is difficult for cyclists to ride in pairs.

**The opportunities are:**

- Increase bicycle storage, parking and security.
- Provide a range of cycling opportunities for diverse cyclists e.g. commuters, leisure, endurance etc.
- Establish an integrated transport system prioritising active transport.

- Provide more appealing places for people to walk.
- Educate road users to respect existing measures like bike lanes, bike boxes at intersections and other cyclists.
- Plan proper bike and pedestrian routes from the commencement of development plans.
- Adjacent councils could plan connected bike paths and lanes on roads, so they continue across municipal boundaries.
- Involve users in the design of new infrastructure.
- Enforce the installation of bike infrastructure in new developments.
- Re-focus street lights on footpaths rather than on roads.
- Provide a countdown on the time left at pedestrian crossings.
- Implement a 'Head Start' for cyclists and pedestrians at intersections and provide signalling that allows cyclists to proceed before cars at traffic lights

**We will know we are successful when:**

- There are increased rates of people using active transport.
- Dooring accidents with between cars and cyclists decrease.
- There is a shift in public perception favouring public transport and active transport over car usage.
- There are greater amounts of bicycle parking spaces.
- The number of female cyclists increases.

## Social wellbeing: mental health

**The real issue that can be impacted:**

- Poor community connectedness is contributing to loneliness and isolation.
- Mental illness in the Inner Metro Region.

**The opportunities are:**

- Provide fully funded preventative programs that build resilience, confidence and feelings of self-worth.
- Increase mental health services and provide greater public access.



- Provide access to community services which address individuals' vulnerability.
- Develop and fund a program that focuses on retaining mental health.

**We will know we are successful when:**

- There are decreased rates of rough sleeping.
- There is a reduction in rates of people suffering from mental illnesses.
- 19% of new housing growth within the region is allocated to affordable housing.
- There are reduced waiting lists for mental health crisis support.

## **Social wellbeing: supporting local Aboriginal communities**

**The real issue that can be impacted:**

- Transform the way in which state and local government support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Focus on leadership, employment and social opportunities for current and future young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- Provide early prevention services to local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

**The opportunities are:**

- Enhance Melbourne's ability to acknowledge, celebrate and communicate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.
- Create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in government.
- Utilise technology to ensure people can access relevant services and engage with community decision making processes.

**We will know we are successful when:**

- There is a reduction in reported stress.
- There is an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait people's contribution to meaningful decision making.
- The gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and Non-Indigenous Australians is closed.

## **Economy, innovation and start ups**

**The real issue that can be impacted:**

- There is limited understanding of start-up processes and procedures.
- There is a need to change the community's perception of economic industries, innovation and mixed-use development.
- There are barriers to starting up and scaling up new initiatives.
- Statutory regulations limit the development of economic industries.
- There is a shortage of relevant skills.

**The opportunities are:**

- Increase support for partnerships between universities and the business sector.
- Reduce local, state and federal regulations of economic industries.
- Improve use of data to better understand business opportunities.
- Create and lead community conversations to communicate benefits of mixed use development.
- Connect economic industries with TAFE to respond to skill shortages.
- Fund initiatives like Launch Vic, supporting the startup ecosystems in Victoria.
- Assist people in the automotive industry to transition into other industries.
- Invest in venture capital for firms with high growth potential.

**We will know we are successful when:**

- There is an increase in employment rates.
- There is a decrease in unemployment rates.
- There is greater community acceptance of mixed-use development.
- Melbourne is a city renowned for start-ups and employment in the innovation sector.

## Early years, education and school provision

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- Schools are not taking adequate accountability for student welfare.
- There is an absence of psychologists in schools.
- There are barriers for vulnerable families accessing education and support services.
- There are cycles of disadvantage.
- Parents are uninformed as to how to support children with mental illnesses.
- Disparities exist between schools in the Inner Metro Region.
- The perception and reputation that some schools in the region have poor quality teachers, and therefore people move to access other schools.
- There are issues of inclusion.
- There is an over representation of expulsion for students from vulnerable backgrounds.

### The opportunities are:

- Provide satellite services in growth areas.
- Increase schooling, family and health facilities in schools such as children's health services and kindergartens.
- Reduce barriers to strengthen the sense of community.
- Work to equalise the standard of schools in the Inner Metro Region.
- Refurbish underserviced schools.
- Ensure all schools have the same funding opportunities.
- Identify individual challenges early to provide the necessary support needed for all students.

## Green infrastructure and open space

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- Existing open space is not utilised to its best capacity.
- There is poor interconnectivity between private and public open spaces.
- Parkland is being taken up by sporting infrastructure.

### The opportunities are:

- Integrate planning between government departments to better address green infrastructure and open spaces.
- Implement green infrastructure approaches like greening the streets, green walls, green roofs and protecting tree canopies.



- Regulate and support the addition of public, open green spaces in new developments.
- Maximise the efficiency and utility of public, open green spaces. For example, football fields could have multiple purposes.
- Improve the linkages between private and public open space.
- Increase the number of walking paths to increase engagement with open spaces.
- Effectively utilise road reserves as public open spaces, particularly road reserves with minimal vehicular traffic. Improve storm water retention and usage.
- Develop integrated water strategies.
- Preserve and protect coastal foreshore environments.
- Protect and support the growth of the Yarra Urban Forest.
- Enhance urban wetlands.
- Create green corridors to encourage pedestrian movement.
- Educate the public on the benefits of trees and urban forests in both private and public realm.
- Explore provision of green spaces as part of the development of community facilities.

#### **We will know we are successful when:**

- Existing green spaces are preserved.
- Interfaces between private and public realms have increased.
- There is greater allocation of funds for the provision of green infrastructure.
- Building heights are level with trees on streets.
- People can swim safely in the Yarra River.
- People can always swim safely in the bay.
- The urban heat island effect is reduced in the Inner Metro Region.
- The community has embraced alternative water resources.

### **Waste and recycling**

#### **The real issue that can be impacted:**

- Plastic take away containers at food retailers could be reduced or eliminated.
- There is no legislation to prevent people using single use plastic bags.
- Separating different wastes in high rise buildings is a problem.
- There is cultural resistance to recycling and waste reduction.





#### The opportunities are:

- Increase behaviour change programs and campaigns.
- Enforce waste regulation across Victoria.
- Develop products created from waste. For example, vehicle fuel, heat, electricity, buildings, water for parks and gardens.
- Improve the regulation and packaging of fast food retailers.
- Generate the utilisation of alternative water resources.

*Participants did not complete the question 'What will success look like?'.*

## Energy

#### The real issue that can be impacted:

- The high cost of energy.
- The environment is impacted by fossil fuel-based energy sources.

#### The opportunities are:

- Support renewable energy by providing investment certainty. Investment certainties could include; grid transmission line upgrades, power purchase agreements, Victoria's Renewable Energy Targets style agreements.
- Apply pressure on the federal government to develop and regulate a coordinated national energy scheme.
- Ensure that new buildings incorporate renewable energy and adhere to a standard of sustainable design practice.
- Support renewable energy through power purchase agreements.

#### We will know we are successful when:

- Energy prices have been reduced across individual and industry-based properties.
- There is an increased uptake of renewable energy.
- There is a bipartisan government consensus on renewable energy, providing certainty for investment by individuals, industry and energy generators.





## Built environment: zones, overlays and local planning policies

### The real issue that can be impacted:

- There is not enough diversity in new housing stock to meet the growing population, for example accommodation for families.
- Poor quality new developments.
- Overlays are not being applied appropriately to protect vegetation or heritage.
- Residential development is encroaching areas that are meant to be predominantly commercial.

### The opportunities are:

- Advocate for medium density development.
- Ensure the preservation of areas of cultural significance and heritage value.
- Adhere to heritage overlays.
- Better coordinate planning policies at state and local government levels.

- Create stronger mechanisms and action to ensure compliance with laws.
- Plan for short, medium and long-term transport infrastructure.
- Accommodate population needs through suitable development.
- Identify 'growth' areas and plan appropriate overlays.
- Protect significant trees through appropriate overlays.
- Remove heritage overlays from buildings that do not offer heritage contribution.
- Protect zones that are designated to be commercial from residential development.

### We will know we are successful when:

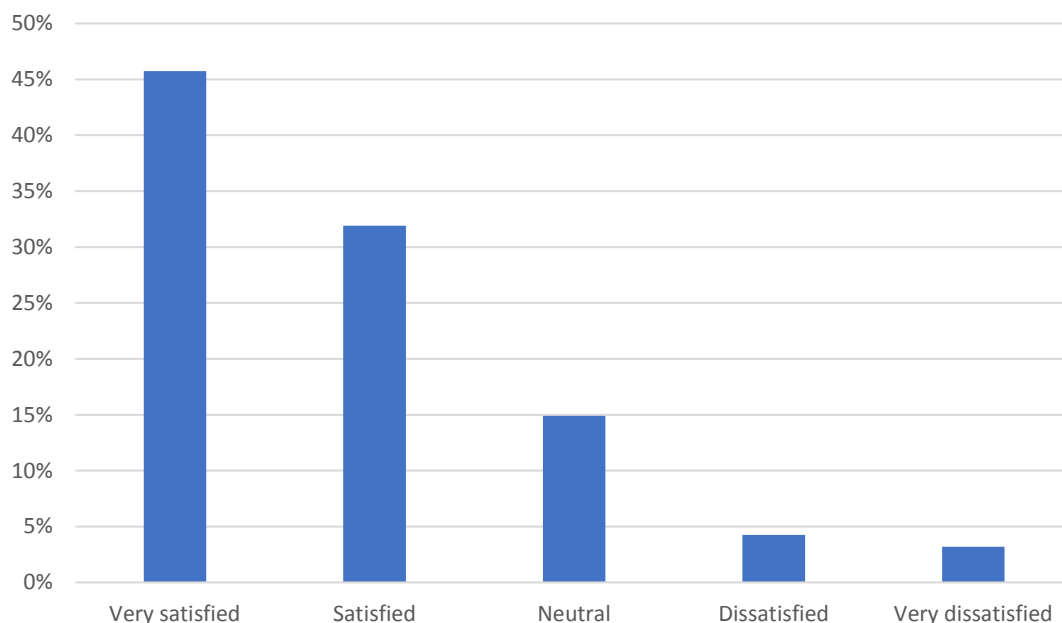
- There are less matters being determined by VCAT.
- There are clear objectives for what is culturally suitable development in two years.



## Evaluation

Participants were asked to evaluate the success of the Assembly by answering the question: *'How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided tonight to share and discuss the priorities for your region?'*, with possible responses ranging from 'very dissatisfied' to 'very satisfied'.

The overall feedback for the assembly was positive, with 73 per cent of respondents stating that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the opportunities provided at the assembly.



**Figure 6: Participant's responses to the question: 'How satisfied are you with the opportunities provided tonight to share and discuss the priorities for your region?' (n=94)**

