

10 April 2019

The Hon Bill Shorten MP
Leader of the Opposition
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

SUBJECT: Committee for Melbourne 2019 Election Policy Priorities

Dear Mr Shorten,

The Committee for Melbourne has, for over 30 years, worked with our members and other stakeholders to shape Victorian state and Federal policy and investment priorities to ensure the prosperity and liveability of greater Melbourne. Melbourne is one of the world's great cities and is a significant contributor to the economic, cultural and social fabric of our great nation. Its continuing growth and success benefits all Australians.

During the past 18 months, we conducted a detailed survey of our 150 member organisations to better understand their priorities and to determine how we can better serve them. The insights from that survey have formed our current agenda, and have been the catalyst for a number of task forces and discussion forums.

We are pleased to provide you with a summary of Committee for Melbourne's policy priorities for the 2019 Federal Election (see attached). Committee for Melbourne's 2019 policy priorities outline a vision for the future and address the rapid pace of change we are experiencing.

Many of these priorities and associated initiatives will require the involvement and support of the Commonwealth Government to bring them into effect.

It is our view that the next Federal Government should commit to proactively preparing Australia for success in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. How the Federal Government approaches the associated challenges and guides our nation to respond to the resulting opportunities, will have significant economic and social implications for future generations.

The Committee encourages you to review these policy priorities and help us pursue them during the election period and beyond.

We look forward to sharing your response with our members.

Our CEO, Martine Letts (mletts@melbourne.org.au) would be pleased to provide more information on these election priorities.

Yours sincerely,



Scott Tanner
Chair
Committee for Melbourne

Committee for Melbourne 2019 Federal Election Priorities

'Vote for the future'

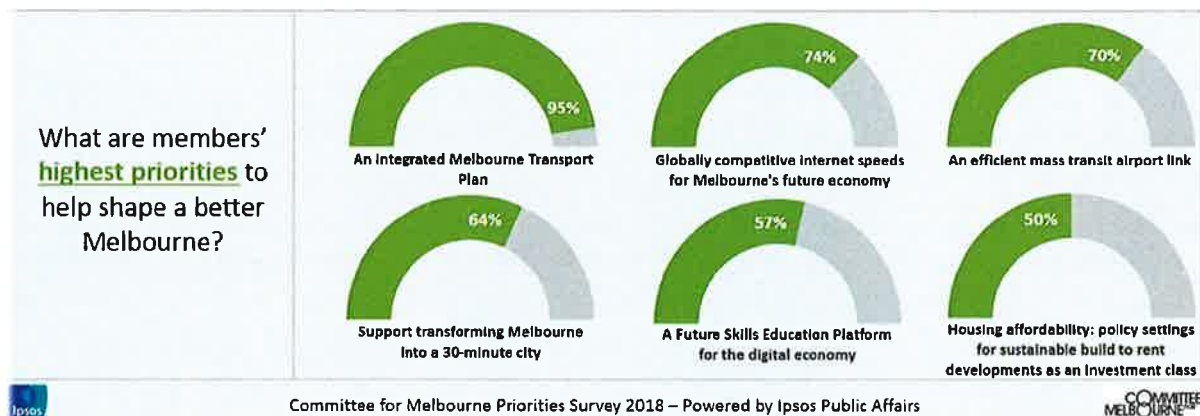
Committee for Melbourne calls on the next Federal Government to commit to bold, visionary policies to help sustain Australia's liveability, and ensure we remain a prominent location of choice for homegrown and international talent and capital.

Australia can be a successful 21st century country by riding the wave of accelerated technological change in a competitive, booming Asia-Pacific region, or we can become complacent and rest on our laurels, which will be detrimental to all of us.

How the next Federal government approaches the challenges and opportunities that the Fourth Industrial Revolution will present over the coming years will be pivotal in determining Melbourne, Victoria, and Australia's future prosperity and security.

In addition to proactively preparing for the impact and implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, there is a range of infrastructure and governance issues which the Committee hopes the Federal Government will take decisive action on.

Here is a snapshot of what our members think are priorities for Australia, specifically Melbourne:



Committee for Melbourne looks forward to working with the next Federal Government to shape Melbourne, and Australia's future, and submits the following ideas for how we can remain prosperous and secure.

The following policy priorities combine what is important for Greater Melbourne, Victoria, and Australia. Given the size and economic output of Greater Melbourne, what is needed for our city is of utmost importance to Australia more broadly.



Airport link

The Committee commends the Federal Government for committing \$5 billion towards the design and construction of a world-class Melbourne Airport Rail Link.

The Committee encourages the next government to continue the collaborative work already underway based on international best-practice, and ensure that a world-class service is provided.

The Committee urges all relevant parties to deliver this project by 2027, ensure that the service takes no longer than 20 minutes to transport passengers between Melbourne Airport and the CBD, and is constructed in a manner that delivers benefits for all Victorians.

The Committee encourages the next government to work with the state governments, and other key stakeholders, to develop a blueprint for an Australian East Coast Megaregion to help boost our economic and innovative capacity. Underpinning this development would be the construction of high-speed land transport, and the strategic decentralisation of our growing population.



Internet

In numerous surveys conducted, Australia continually ranks between 50 and 60 in global internet speed rankings. This is not good enough and without fixing will become a major issue for our economy and society. The next government should, as a matter of urgency:

- Appreciate Australia's slow internet speeds may impact the uptake of 4.0 technologies and limit individual's and businesses' ability to embrace and create innovative technologies, which will place Australia at a global disadvantage
- Boost internet speed, coverage, capacity and security for Greater Melbourne and Australia to ensure our country remains competitive and innovative



Digital capability

Developments in new technologies – particularly artificial intelligence (AI) – are driving productivity, growth, investment, and enabling scientific breakthroughs on a scale never experienced before. While beneficial in many respects, it will continue to cause great disruption to employment markets and society. Melbourne, and Australia, must be digitally capable to successfully navigate these significant challenges and opportunities.

The Committee encourages the next government to raise the level of public debate to create a better understanding of how to prepare for the impact of AI on our economy, and society.



Metropolitan collaboration

Melbourne is an attractive city where people want to live, visit, and conduct business. With the population passing five million in September 2018, our growth could be threatening our prosperity and liveability.

In recognition of the Federal Government's important role in shaping the development of our cities, the Committee encourages the next government to work with the Victorian Government and relevant stakeholders to:

- Above all, assist in instituting a Metropolitan Governance Framework, such as a council of councils, Greater Melbourne Commission or statutory agency, which can effectively deliver existing, and to be developed, long-term plans and unified visions for Greater Melbourne's development without undue influence from cyclical politics. This should be done in collaboration with the State and Local Governments
- Commit to a 10-year infrastructure program with bipartisan support, based on Infrastructure Victoria recommendations. The Governance framework would ensure this plan is executed.
- Ensure an equitable energy future for residents, business and industry, providing affordable, reliable, dispatchable and environmentally responsible power