Herald Sun

What does the future hold for Melbourne?

Future Melbourne

What movers and shakers think of Melbourne

What Melbourne's movers and shakers think about Melbourne now ... and in 2050, Herald Sun
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WE asked prominent Melburnians what they think of Melbourne today and what the future holds for our city.

Here's what they said.

Lord Mayor Robert Doyle

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

Melbourne's people: friendly, sports mad, lovers of culture, creative and compassionate. We also know how to have a good time.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

Public safety: although we have made great strides in recent years we have to keep working on keeping people safe when they work in, live in or visit the city.

Housing in all its forms: student accommodation, quality apartments with excellent design, affordable housing and social housing to cope with homelessness.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

No three word slogan will answer this. Managing the city's growth and economy, political leadership, partnerships between levels of government and with important organisations such as Victoria Police, a focus on the knowledge economy and job growth and constant attention to sustainability in both the built and natural environments.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

Robert Doyle. Picture: Hamish Blair

It looks and feels like present day Melbourne but it's bigger; busier. The city skeleton which has made us great remains: parks and gardens, broad streets, architectural heritage but the infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure, is first class. There are fewer cars and more people living, visiting and working in the centre. Robert Doyle is still Lord Mayor and Geelong has won 17 of the past 34 premierships. I'll be working closely with Prime Minister Bindi Irwin and with Henry, my son, Victoria's youngest premier ever.

Planning Minister Richard Wynne

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

It's epitomised in my electorate which reflects the broad cross-section of what's great about the city. My area has been home to successive waves of migrants who've built their lives here. Diversity of entertainment, restaurants and bars, it's a really vibrant part of the world.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

Housing affordability and provision of schools. We're investing $1.8 billion in schools and that's a catch up. Schools are not just about provision of education but about the opportunity that's provided through education.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

It's about addressing the challenge of population and how we manage it. We have to deal with population in a mature way and be able to point to people and say 'Here is how we are going to manage this going forward.' It should not be seen as a threat, it should be seen as an opportunity.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

When I was lord mayor in the early 1990s no one lived in the city. I think Melbourne in 2050 is going to be an incredibly vibrant international city that will continue to win the world's most liveable city if we plan it right.

Opposition leader Matthew Guy

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

The people who live here! Melburnians are pretty easy going. We live in a big city, but not a lot phases us. And we know how to have fun in or out doors, the weather is never a barrier to enjoying yourself in Melbourne.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

No state plan for the decentralisation of population. Our city is getting way too big, too fast, we need to grow the whole state, not just Melbourne.

Playing politics with infrastructure. Melbourne Metro is a good project but it should have been complemented by the East West Link. To scrap that project paying $1.2 billion is a criminal waste of

money.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

We need to take the pressure off Melbourne's growth through a detailed population policy of decentralisation. A new inner city rail tunnel and a new freeway will do very little to ease unmanaged population growth.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

A modern, international city, with a busy downtown, activities areas across the suburbs and quiet neighbourhoods in-between.

Matthew Guy.

Former premier Jeff Kennett

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

The welcoming nature, and hospitality offered by its community.

2. Name two issues/problems which might seriously affect tare seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

1. Access to and movement within the city. 2. The building of architecturally nondescript buildings.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

A continuing priority commitment to the needs of individuals who live and use any of the cities many offerings. Secondly, a continual investment in the manifestation of creative spirits that produces Melbourne's creative heart.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

A city which is cosmopolitan, multicultural and where the arts, education and research provide a strong reputation for its residential and commercial being. And where its parks and gardens, being assets of great repute, are constantly nurtured and developed.

Jeff Kennett.

📷 Professor Glyn Davis.

University of Melbourne vice-chancellor Prof Glyn Davis

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

In my experience one of the best things about Melbourne is that it's a city that's willing to embrace change. It's also a city that drives a real sense of purpose and ambition in its people and institutions, because behind this sits a deep appreciation of what attracts so many people to live here.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

As you perhaps could expect, I'm drawn to how Melbourne will continue to develop itself as a knowledge city in the face of strong challenges from other parts of Australia and Asia. Can we continue to attract the best and brightest minds to study and work here? If we don't, our place as an international destination for highly skilled workers and students, and our growth as an innovation hub, could be under threat.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

There's no shortage of ideas for the city, and you only have to look at the almost 1000 responses to the City of Melbourne's recent Future Melbourne planning process. The challenge will be to ensure we 'work with a compass' as architect Rob McGauran said as part of this process, to have the right feedback mechanisms in place to see how we're faring on the attributes of the city that Melburnians care most about.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

My recent involvement in the Future Melbourne 2026 Ambassadors program has taught me that trying to predict the future course of a city is a complex and daunting prospect! However I believe in what my fellow ambassador Maria Kastonis said at the start of the process: cities have to be responsive, and reflect the time they exist in. I would expect that within the next 30-plus years our city will only become more responsive to the world around it, and I am incredibly optimistic that Melbourne will have taken great strides forward in its approach to innovation, sustainability and inclusiveness.

Committee for Melbourne CEO Martine Letts

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

Melbourne is the full package: It has a wonderful blend of urban cool and community; accessible arts, culture and sport for every taste, a vibrant CBD with a great choice of bars and cafes.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

As a consequence of growth, Melbourne's transport and housing infrastructure is under a lot of strain with negative potential for social cohesion

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

Intelligent urban densification in greater metropolitan Melbourne through mixed zone housing (rental and for ownership)

Technology-enabled solutions for greater amenity and reduced traffic pressure

An app for everything about Melbourne

An iconic arts building to seal Melbourne's reputation as a global destination for arts, culture and design

More green spaces, including on rooftops

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

Melbourne is the Asian HQ for the next generation Google, Uber, Alibaba etc

The "Melbourne Arts and Ideas Exchange" draws the world to Melbourne every year

Melbourne is still the world's most liveable city: diverse and accessible for all citizens, including the most vulnerable

📷 Martine Letts.

Melbourne is a destination of choice for global talent from all over the world

Melbourne is a global centre for R & D in medicine, health, digital applications

Melbourne is a global destination for, arts, architecture, design and culture

Melbourne is the undisputed digital innovation capital of the southern hemisphere.

City of Melbourne City Design Director Prof Rob Adams

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

That it does not need to rely upon icons like the Sydney Opera House, Eiffel Tower, Statue of Liberty for its identity. Melbourne and its love of urbanity is its own icon.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

Its outward expansion and low density development.

Its love affair with roads as the primary form of transport.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

The single most important act would be to freeze any further expansion of the Metro boundaries and to accommodate our future populations along our existing public transport corridors

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

If we follow the above actions Melbourne in 2050 will look and feel much as it does today. 92.5% of the metro area will still be low density suburban with more trees and solar power while 7.5% along our public transport corridors will be vibrant high streets and multiple smaller CBD's serving their local population in a federation of urban centres within walking or cycling distance from home. The bus network will have expanded with driverless green buses of different sizes to suit local densities and will connect seamlessly with the other forms of public transport. There will be adequate schooling taking place in two sittings a day, work hours will be more flexible to fit a pattern where our existing infrastructure is used 24/7. The savings on infrastructure over this last 30 years is close to $440 billion as the more compact city builds back on itself and becomes more financially viable, socially cohesive and environmentally sustainable. All of this is typified the QVM Market which in 2017 commenced a renewal that built on its strengths while achieving greater utilisation of this valuable 19th century asset. Melbourne is typified by a process of continuity and change.

Property Council of Australia Victorian executive director Sally Capp

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

A well designed city with a high standard of living. Melbourne has proximate access to a bit of everything you need to make you happy: clean air, open space, leading medical services for physical needs; universities, Wheeler Centre, Grattan Institute and a healthy environment for debates for intellectual stimulation; arts, sport, festivals, exhibitions for cultural fulfilment; jobs and transport for economic outcomes.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

We need a bigger list of infrastructure commitments. Say Yes to everything in the Infrastructure Victoria strategy and we can focus our combined energies and intellect into How and When so that we can secure Victoria's future.

We need to address massive population growth. People are flocking to Melbourne for two main reasons: jobs and affordability of housing. In Melbourne's CBD, this is at risk with the current proposed changes to the planning regulations that will severely impact the ability to build commercial spaces. If the space available for people to work in the city declines so will the vibrancy of our city. We can't let this happen.

⌾ Sally Capp

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

Melbourne needs to accommodate four million more people. This means reimaging Melbourne as a bigger city. Create incentives for Baby Boomers to downsize, create liquidity for first-home buyers and accelerate medium density development for a diversity of housing in the middle ring suburbs.

Green space across Flinders Street Station and over to Southern Cross Station to provide amenity for those living, working and visiting Melbourne. This would provide a connection to the Botanic Gardens and could become an iconic feature similar to park attractions in other leading cities around the world.

Make Fishermans Bend a winning project that showcases the best of thinking, planning and development to attract employers, talent and opportunity. Learn from Southbank, St Kilda Road and the Docklands. Dare to be different!

Create jobs in the regions. Melbourne needs strong regional cities and our regional cities support a strong Melbourne. We don't have the balance right and we need to redress this by building economic capacity in our regions.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

2050: a world-leading, well-planned, economically and culturally vibrant city that can happily accommodate eight million people. The physical aspects of Melbourne will reflect a community of open minds that are excited about future challenges and confident that we can access the experience and ingenuity necessary to adapt to and leverage challenges into good outcomes. In the future, our city will look and feel like an optimistic, ambitious city that welcomes all comers.

📷 Brian Negus. Picture: Brendan Francis

RACV public policy general manager Brian Negus

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

Melbourne has now won the World's Most Liveability City title the last six years in a row. This acknowledges that we are a safe city, have great parks and open spaces, wonderful galleries and theatres exhibiting a wide range of the arts, superb restaurants, and we have a strong economy which provides the opportunity for all of us to secure a good future and great lifestyle. We are a diverse society with one of the most cosmopolitan communities which contributes to our exciting and rich lifestyle. Relative to many places around the world and indeed in Australia, we have a good transport system, although action is needed to further improve our roads and public transport, and we are the sporting capital of the nation.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

Greater Melbourne is the fastest growing capital city in Australia and we are predicted to reach eight million people by 2050. We already have a number of congestion hot spots on our roads and public transport networks and these will get worse if the State and Federal Governments don't act to put in place a pipeline of improvements.

We have a number of groups in the community who are resistant to change and also while diversity is one of our strengths, we are also seeing more community violence in sectors of Melbourne and violence against women continues to be a serious issue for us.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's livability?

There needs to a comprehensive and integrated population strategy and transport plan adopted for greater Melbourne and Victoria. This needs to set out the locations for population growth, including higher density in inner areas, strategies for the outer metropolitan centres, like Sunshine, Broadmeadows, Ringwood, Frankston and Dandenong, and a decentralisation strategy for the main regional cities. Incentives to attract jobs to these centres are also needed.

📷 Melbourne from a hot air balloon. Picture: Jake Nowakowski

The transport plan needs to cover an overall strategy for the next 30 years with a clear statement on what will be delivered over the next ten years. It is noted that the State Government has committed to the program to remove level crossings, the Western Distributor and the Metro Rail Tunnel. The key projects which are not yet committed and are critical to Victoria, include:

•The missing North East Link in the Metropolitan Ring Road from Greensborough to Eastern Freeway/EastLink. Planning needs to start now.

•A significant ramp in bus services for the Smart Bus routes to the north east of Melbourne with bus lanes and 24/7 clearways on both sides of Hoddle Street and Victoria Parade.

•A Melbourne Airport Fast Rail route.

•A rail service to the Monash University and growth area.

•A link from the western end of the Eastern Freeway to Tullamarine Freeway/CityLink.

•An ongoing program to improve roads and public transport in the outer Metropolitan growth areas and in the ten largest regional cities in Victoria.

•An ongoing and increased program to improve the safety and maintenance on the key regional Highways in Victoria.

There needs to be a well-structured and fast tracked program of community engagement on these initiatives to secure our future growth and livability.

There also needs to be an innovative approach and strong leadership by governments to shape the influence that major technological change will have in the next two decades. The shared economy, shared transport and major disruptive technologies will have a massive effect in shaping Melbourne in 2050. Governments need to set the legal, regulatory and ethical approach needed, but ensure a performance based system is adopted which fosters innovation by the private sector. Mobile technologies, automated vehicles and "Mobility as a Service" with smart card access and payment systems on a seamless transport system that includes all modes will massively influence how we get around.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

As long as we get the innovative leadership needed to drive the agenda I have set out, we will preserve the great livability we now enjoy.

Victorian Human rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner Kristen Hilton

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

Melbourne has a progressive, multicultural heart. It's a welcoming and creative city. It's a diverse city. It's a city that has a love affair with good food and a city with a soul and an intellect and tremendous

vibrancy. There's a sense of energy as there's always something going on whether it is a festival, concert or sporting match.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

The most pressing issue is homelessness. I am saddened and angered by this every time I go into the CBD and increasingly other parts of Melbourne. Homelessness is not an inevitably and it is rarely a choice. For the thousands of Melburnians who live in precarious housing — this is not a particularly liveable city.

The explosion of apartment living in the city and inner suburbs is another issue we need to keep an eye on. There will be debates about whether or not they are ugly or too small or too expensive but my main concern is that we ensure that those living in Melbourne's apartments have access to the local kindlers, schools and doctors and access to outdoor areas such as parks, playgrounds and gardens.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's livability?

We need to unite as a community to tackle the causes of homelessness. It is everyone's right to have somewhere safe, sustainable and healthy to live and we must think creatively and invest right now in more quality affordable housing.

Kristen Hilton. Picture: David Caird

Our city should be 'liveable' for people from all backgrounds. Affordable, well connected public transport is especially important not only to relieve traffic congestion but to ensure people of different abilities can make their way around our city safely. I would love to see our city embrace our indigenous cultural heritage in the fullest way — the Koori Cultural Centre at Fed Square and Birrarung Marr are great examples of this.

Our green spaces are so important, as community gathering places, places of rest and imagination. As the population continues to increase, parkland and gardens will become more important than ever not only to the environmental health of the city but also the physical and mental wellbeing of all of us who live here.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

By 2050 Melbourne will be a truly international city and a world leader in culture, science and industry. I hope that we are also a world leader in creating a truly diverse community that is equally 'liveable' for all of its people.

Victorian chief executive of the Urban Development Institute of Australia Danni Addison

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

Melbourne is a creative, multicultural city with endless character, world-class education, and the provision of great jobs and career opportunities.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

1. According to the latest findings of the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) study, Victoria has experienced the biggest drop in home ownership across the country. In 2001, we were the home ownership capital of Australia. Today, our rates are at a record low. We are clearly in the midst of a housing affordability crisis. To achieve a more liveable city, policy initiatives need to focus on driving greater housing supply, which will work to put downward pressure on prices.

2. Melbourne is currently playing a game of catch-up in terms of housing and infrastructure, because government previously underestimated imminent population growth. This is an issue in itself. What exacerbates the issue is that the residential development industry has been hit with a number of regressive policy decisions that restrict its ability to cater for Melbourne's current and future communities.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

Victoria's population is growing, and from a policy perspective, planning for this population growth needs to be front of mind. We need to keep policy ahead of innovation instead of it being a barrier to innovation."

The solution to our current housing affordability crisis is to make significant changes that enable growth in the housing sector rather than those that hinder its success.

To help with housing affordability, we need more homes. This is especially true in Victoria, which is the fastest growing state in the nation. According to figures released by the Victorian government, our population is expected to rise to over 10 million within the next 35 years due to migration, birthrates and life expectancy. We need an extra 2.2 million dwellings in order to accommodate this growth, which equates to almost 63,000 new homes per year until 2051. If we are to help with the housing affordability crisis and create new homes for the growing population, then we must maintain a long-term supply of housing. The logical next steps are to create more homes and the infrastructure to support them.

◯ Danni Addison.

From our governments and regulators, we need policy leadership that promotes and facilitates a healthy residential development industry. This means taking note of how policy translates into tangible outcomes at the coalface, and if necessary, reassessing policy and regulatory controls to ensure our economy is both protected and managed responsibly, with potential to grow.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

We know that Melbourne's population is growing at an exponential rate, and from a policy perspective, planning for this population growth needs to be front of mind. If managing that growth is the anchor for all policy discussion and planning moving forwards, then Melbourne in 2050 will likely remain the world's most liveable city.

There's real potential to foster smart, inclusive, engaged cities and communities, and the Urban Development Institute is working hard to see that potential realised by 2050.

However, if politicians don't start thinking long-term, Melbourne in 2050 will be playing a very difficult catch-up game in terms of housing and infrastructure.

Places Victoria CEO Gregory Anderson

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

I like how inviting it is to move around, particularly through the laneways and ribbons of green space that run through our city.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

The affordability of housing is limiting for many Melburnians. This can impact access to key services such as employment and education.

3. What solution/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

We are a city that has urban regeneration opportunities on a scale that most cities would envy. It is these opportunities that will enable us to address the challenges of today to nurture the city of tomorrow.

For example, adjoining the western edge of the CBD there is about 600 hectares of land running from Fisherman's Bend, through Docklands to Arden-Macaulay that present unique opportunities for urban renewal to responsibly meet population growth and strategically shape the city so Melburnians can enjoy more of what makes our city great.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

Melbourne is recognised as the healthiest city on the planet. We are celebrating our fortieth consecutive "world's most liveable city" award and are renowned for our great food, freshwater and air quality. We

enjoy an urban environment, a level of sustainability and a lifestyle that has improved in parallel with population growth

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter

1. What do you most like about Melbourne?

There's so much to love about Melbourne. We have great infrastructure, thriving small business, an incredible arts, food and culture scene and such diversity. I also love that Melbourne is the sporting and arts capital of Australia. Melburnians are so passionate about sport and the fact that we play host to some of the biggest sporting matches is just so exciting. Our arts venues, organisations and companies are also recognised nationally and internationally.

I am excited by the different pockets around Melbourne and that you can experience our city in so many different ways depending on where you are. Whether it's the buzz of the bustling CBD, the vibrancy of Sydney Rd in Brunswick, or the fantastic diversity of places like Footscray in the West, there are so many different ways to soak up Melbourne.

2. Name two issues/problems which are seriously affecting Melbourne's liveability?

Health inequity. Melbourne has rightly been named as one of the most liveable cities in the world but to become a truly global city we need to address the underlying health inequities impacting a number of groups in our community. Sadly, there are some people experiencing deep inequity including culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTI people, those living in low socio-economic areas, women and Aboriginal people.

People experiencing physical, economic or geographic disadvantage may experience increased rates of disease and are more likely to die early from preventable illnesses such as heart disease, some cancers, stroke and diabetes.

Our population continues to grow at a rapid rate and we need to plan correctly to ensure inequities improve, not deepen, so that all of us, no matter our age, gender, postcode, culture, race or sexual orientation, can enjoy a life free of discrimination and with equal opportunity to enjoy good health and wellbeing.

Jerril Rechter.

The health and wellbeing of our young people

Young people are our future and research shows they will face a number of challenges in our increasingly digital, diverse and competitive world.

Almost 75 per cent of mental illness begins before 25 years of age so it's crucial we take a preventive focus and proactively work to build resilience and social connection to support the wellbeing of the next generation so they're better equipped to deal with life's challenges.

3. What solutions/ideas would you propose to maintain/improve the city's liveability?

People with strong social and support networks are less vulnerable to depression and better able to cope with the ups and downs of life so we need to connect communities and build resilience and social cohesion. Thinking innovatively about how we engage with citizens of our wonderful city to help them find their voice will be crucial to improving Melbourne's liveability.

Additionally, we need to address health inequities that are leading to poorer health outcomes for disadvantaged groups in the community. We need to provide the social conditions that enable people to flourish and make healthy choices by increasing access to employment, secure housing, quality early childhood development, strong social connections and access to health care.

4. What does Melbourne in 2050 look and feel like?

I hope for a city that is thriving, not just surviving, where differences and diversity are embraced by all. By 2050 I want to see our best female athletes playing at sold out sporting matches at the MCG, I want to see same-sex couples getting married in the Botanic Gardens and I want to see more co-designed spaces like Federation Square that celebrate our cultural diversity and can help grow social cohesion across Melbourne.

I envisage a Melbourne where everyone has access to public spaces, greenery and outstanding public transport options so making the healthy choice is the easy choice for everyone.

I hope for an inclusive city that is vibrant, flourishing and where health and wellbeing is at the very forefront of everyone's lives.