Visionary 50 Year Plan

Melbourne can get better as it gets bigger, but only if planned well.

Committee for Melbourne advocates for a strategic long-term plan to address the opportunities and challenges that face Melbourne as its population increases.

The Committee believes deep community consultation is necessary to develop a visionary 50 year plan for Melbourne.

A new governance structure should be established to coordinate and integrate land use planning, infrastructure, economic and community development.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) forecasts Melbourne’s population to grow between 6.1 - 7.97 million people by 2056.¹

Committee for Melbourne believes in order to harness the benefits of population growth, government and community must collaboratively create a long-term visionary plan for Melbourne.

This plan should cover a 50 year time frame, with the overall goal to make Melbourne more liveable with eight million people than it currently is with four million.

The vision for this plan must be long-term and sustainable. It also should also address Melbourne’s planning, infrastructure and community development issues.

The plan must consider the following key elements:

- Land size and physical metropolitan shape;
- Optimal population densities for city central and suburban residential areas;
- Physical and community infrastructure development;
- The location and character of central activities districts beyond the CBD; and
- Melbourne’s role compared with neighbouring and regional cities.

To implement a cohesive set of metropolitan objectives – from affordable and diverse housing, to effective infrastructure, among others; various levels of government, private sector and community must unite to set the direction.

Committee for Melbourne believes that in order to create a successful metropolitan strategy, the interfaces and interrelatedness between city systems and their impact on metropolitan functionality requires a cross-disciplinary approach and engagement of multiple viewpoints.

Recently the Victorian Government announced it would develop a new Metropolitan Planning Strategy that will guide Melbourne’s growth over the next 30-40 years. Set to be released in 2013, the strategy is designed to give communities, businesses and local government confidence, flexibility and certainty to make informed decisions about their future.

The Committee looks forward to the implementation of this government policy.

Historical and projected population, Melbourne, 2007-2056²

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual 2007</td>
<td>3.81 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual 2010</td>
<td>4.08 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected 2027</td>
<td>5.27 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected 2036</td>
<td>7.97 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ ABS, Population Projections Australia, September 2008
² ABS, Population Projections Australia, September 2008