

Committee for Melbourne 2019 Federal Election Priorities

'Vote for the future'

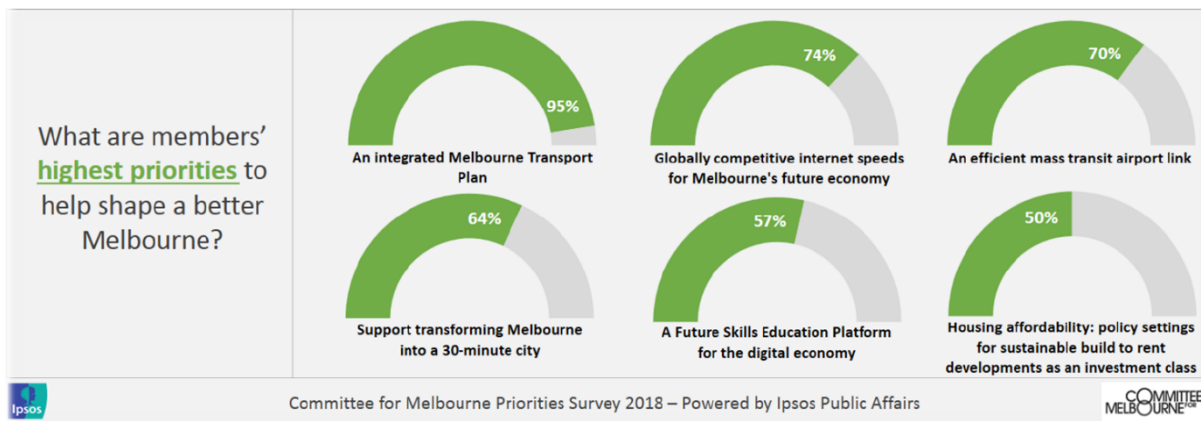
Committee for Melbourne calls on the next Federal Government to commit to bold, visionary policies to help sustain Australia's liveability, and ensure we remain a prominent location of choice for homegrown and international talent and capital.

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.



Skills

Technological advancements are rapidly changing the nature of work. To succeed in this new economy, we need a workforce with new skills and capabilities.

The Committee encourages the next Federal Government to develop and implement a new strategy to equip our current and future workforce with the enterprise skills to succeed in the new economy, starting with the primary and secondary school curriculum. Australia should formally recognise micro-credentials, via the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), and in consultation with employers, to ease transitions across the workforce, more rapidly fill skills gaps and promote lifelong learning.

In addition, the next Federal Government should ensure that we have a strategic immigration and population policy that attracts migrants with skills relevant to the new economy. Australia must remain an open and welcoming society if we are to continue to thrive.



Housing

Melbourne's key workers – including nurses, police officers and teachers – are particularly challenged in finding a place to live close to their work. Furthermore, expensive cities, particularly housing, make self-employment and entrepreneurship more difficult.

The Committee encourages the next government to work with the Victorian Government, and all stakeholders, to address the issue of affordable housing. We suggest the following considerations:

- Recognise social and affordable housing are two distinct categories and that housing affordability is not an umbrella term for either category. Two distinct plans for dealing with social and affordable housing provisions need to be created.
- Acknowledge that a range of levers to create affordable housing are required to be addressed simultaneously including, financing, taxation, planning, build-to-rent, the private rental sector and other such levers.
- Delivering affordable housing will require collaboration between the three tiers of government the Federal Government has the opportunity and resources to take the lead whilst earnestly engaging other tiers of Government.
- The private sector, non-for-profits and academia have important roles to play and Governments must work to collaborate with these groups and strengthen collaboration across the existing networks to deliver affordable housing
- The private sector is leading the development of new housing stock, therefore, is uniquely positioned to create a range of housing options. However, the Government must work with developers and other private sector organisations to create uniformity around expectations, such as planning and taxation, and incentivise the private sector to foster this important social infrastructure.



Eastern seaboard collaboration

Across the globe, integrated sets of cooperative cities – known as megaregions – are the central competitive units where economic activity and innovation thrive. Too often Australia's cities compete with one another, and often lack the scale to compete on the global stage. This is a major challenge in *the Asian Century*, with Australia located in the world's most competitive region.

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.



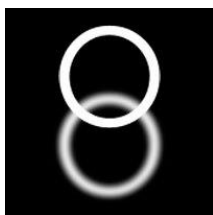
Metropolitan collaboration

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
- Develop a 50-year public transport blueprint that integrates transport with land use, economic planning and technology. Again, the Governance framework would ensure this plan is executed.

Who we are and what we do



Committee for Melbourne's 150 engaged membership represents all sectors of the Greater Melbourne community in business, education and research, arts and culture and service delivery.

We cover the full spectrum of policy related to Greater Melbourne's Future Economy, Liveability, Urban Optimisation and Infrastructure.

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