

Milton House
Level 2
25 Flinders Lane
Melbourne Victoria 3000

Tel: (61 3) 9650-8800
Fax: (61 3) 9650-6066
Web: www.melbourne.org.au
Email: cfm@melbourne.org.au

29 February 2016



Treasurer of Victoria
1 Treasury Place
GPO Box 4379
Melbourne Victoria 3001

Dear Treasurer

It is our pleasure to provide a submission as part of the public consultation for the 2016-17 State Budget priorities.

The Committee for Melbourne (Committee) has long held the remit to enhance the future prospects of Melbourne. Founded over 30 years ago, the Committee is an apolitical, not-for-profit member network that unites a cross-section of our city's leaders and organisations to work together to enhance Melbourne's economic, social and environmental future.

Our members represent over 120 organisations drawn from the city's major companies, academic institutions and civic organisations across a broad range of industries. We represent no single interest and seek to challenge conventional thinking and develop innovative policy that continues to enhance the 'World's Most Liveable City.'

We are well aware of the government's state-wide mandate and responsibilities, however the Committee for Melbourne's remit calls for an appropriate appreciation of the city's significance to the State of Victoria. With its 4.4 million residents, Melbourne houses more than 75 per cent of the State's population, while accounting for over 80 per cent of its economy – Melbourne is indispensable for a thriving Victoria.

Our city has been a great success story over the past three decades; it has successfully transitioned from an economy heavily dependent on a declining manufacturing sector to a diversified economy with significant growth in the services industries, while in the process attaining a globally recognised 'liveability' mantle. However, this accomplishment did not happen by chance; it was only made possible by robust and well-considered long-term investment decisions that were made prior and during this period.

Therefore, as we attempt to come to terms with our rapid population growth, emphasis must be placed on jobs growth, housing affordability, improved infrastructure planning, and

strengthening our position as a centre of global business significance, while at the same time maintaining our highly-prized 'Most Liveable City' mantle.

In this context, the Committee has developed a vision based on four key policy platforms to enable Melbourne's continued prosperity and liveability.

1. A strong and globally competitive economy

A strong and globally competitive economy is indispensable to Melbourne's ongoing growth. It is imperative that we recognise a number of key trends – such as the continued decline of the manufacturing industry and rise in professional services, the domestic and international war for talent, digital disruption and technological innovation – that will continue to impact our future. Therefore, we must aim to be a productive city with globally significant competitive industries that capitalise on their innovative capacity, while harnessing the full human capital potential of its quality workforce.

2. World-class infrastructure

To ensure a prosperous future economy, Melbourne will need to be a capable city underpinned by world-class infrastructure that enables our productive capacity, enhances our liveability and supports innovation. This requires better planning and delivery of infrastructure projects that enable more efficient and effective movement of people and freight, while ensuring that the provision of utilities – in the form of water, energy and ICT – continues to meet the needs of our growing population.

3. Urban optimisation

As Melbourne's population continues to grow at the fastest rate of any Australian city, planning for the future is essential. To ensure Melbourne continues to be a great place to live as we continue to grow, we must ensure we have an appropriate blend of housing options that are well connected to jobs and other essential services. Urban infill versus urban sprawl, housing affordability, connectivity and the provision of support services will need to be primary issues of consideration.

4. Liveability

In 2015, and for the fifth year running, Melbourne was ranked the 'World's Most Liveable City' by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Our city's liveability plays a very important role in promoting the Melbourne brand. Maintaining our mantle as the most liveable city is important and we must strive to continue to provide exceptional healthcare and educational services, strong sport and recreation, as well as arts and cultural sectors that provide access and opportunity for all residents in a safe and welcoming city.

The Committee is convinced that, taken together, these policy platforms will need to form the basis of our city's business and community leaders' efforts in order to ensure our continued prosperity and liveability.

In conclusion

Governing is not easy; it involves careful and coherent considerations as well as prioritising limited levers and resources. These considerations are to a large extent crystallised in a government's Budget priorities.

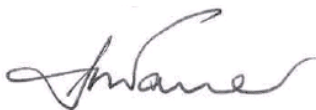
As our city continues to grow, the Committee believes that the four key policy platforms outlined in this submission provide the appropriate context for the 2016-17 State Budget considerations. Government has a central role to play in Melbourne's future direction and we hope that these policy platforms will guide the government's priorities in its Budget in order to ensure our continued prosperity and liveability.

The Committee is encouraged by the Victorian Government's efforts to date and the positive signal that the call for contributions to help shape our State's Budget sends to the community. Engaging the community in the wider debate about Melbourne's future direction is of vital importance. The Committee for Melbourne will continue to be at the forefront of this debate and is eager to work with government and our community leaders to safeguard Melbourne's bright future.

We hope that this submission assists the Victorian Government with its continued efforts in this direction.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee to expand on any of the points touched on in this submission.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Tanner', written in a cursive style.

Scott Tanner
Chair
Committee for Melbourne