

Jeff backs Crown bid

KIERAN ROONEY

FORMER premier Jeff Kennett has backed a proposed \$8.9bn takeover of Crown Resorts by US private equity giant Blackstone, saying "Australian ownership hasn't been too good"

Crown Resorts announced on Monday a bid to buy it outright was endorsed by the casino operator's board.

Mr Kennett, who spearheaded the opening of Crown in the 1990s, said he supported a change in ownership.

"It may still be months before ownership actually transfers," he said.

"I welcome the bid and hone it is successful

FULL REPORT, PAGE 2

EXCLUSIVE Lack of services, attractions in outer suburbs holding city back, landmark report shows

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE is on the cusp of becoming one of the world's great cities, but is being held back because its prized services and attractions are not adequately spread to the outer suburbs.

A landmark report, Benchmarking Melbourne, has identified "a tale of two cities" in which the central area provides "walkable cultural and dining options, REPORTS, PAGES 6-7

easy access to sporting events ... plenty of public transport and reliable internet".

"But a significant number of people do not enjoy these benefits of Melbourne's liveability," it says.

Commissioned by advocacy group the Committee for Melbourne and commercial real estate firm JLL, the report shows how Melbourne stacks up against 20 peer cities, including Sydney



VIEW FROM DOREEN

"We need safer roads.

FLAWED CITY ON CUSPOF GREATNESS

Study urges broader strategy

EXCLUSIVE

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE is on the cusp rest on its laurels". of becoming one of the world's great cities, but is being held back because its prized services and attractions are not adequately spread to the outer 350 cities for walkability. suburbs, a landmark report

bourne report identified "a tale compared with 51 per cent in more widely, and the Suburban of two cities" in which the cen- Berlin, 40 per cent in Toronto tral area provided "walkable" and 38 per cent in Milan. cultural and dining options, easy access to sporting events least affordable English-speak-... plenty of public transport ing city for buying a home. and reliable internet".

ty," it said.

nent advocacy group the Com- interdependent on the labour mittee for Melbourne and market, housing market, commercial real estate firm mobility systems and environ-JLL, the report shows how mental resilience of the wider Melbourne stacks up against region," the report said. 20 peer cities, including Sydney, Brisbane, London, Berlin, chief Martine Letts said Mel-San Francisco, Toronto, Kuala bourne was on the cusp of be- while household disposable

Lumpur and Singapore. also ranked Melbourne among many other cities after reviewing more than 100 global benchmark studies.

It found Melbourne was: the number of train station and tram stops in the central city; **SECOND** among 14 peers for

climate policy actions; **THIRD** out of 75 cities for cultural vibrancy and variety; and **THIRD** among 20 peers for more at home because some of providing exceptional sporting and cultural events.

The report said some key Melbourne strengths were hit western growth suburb of Tar- OPINION, P43

hard by the pandemic, and neit, said it was a good place for while the city was expected to cheap houses. bounce back, "Melbourne can't

ninth-most congested city a lowly 295th out of more than

Just over 20 per cent of Melburnians live within 500m The Benchmarking Mel- of regular transport services,

And Melbourne is the sixth-"In effect, the Melbourne

"But a significant number of metropolis may become a port connectivity, it's about people do not enjoy these ben- competitive disadvantage for affordable housing," she said. efits of Melbourne's liveabilithe assets and capabilities concentrated in the inner city - bourne was lagging on pro-Commissioned by promi- which are all increasingly

Committee for Melbourne coming one of the world's income has also fallen relative Done by consultant The great cities if the delivery of to others," it said. Business of Cities, the report prosperity and affordable live- JLL managing director and ability was well planned.

"There's got to be better connection between the inner suburbs and outer suburbs and there are exciting projects **FIRST** out of 48 top cities for in train like Suburban Rail Loop and Melbourne Airport Rail Link." she said.

> "Not only do we want it to be easier for Melburnians to travel to their places of work. but also to be able to work the work will come to them

through better connectivity." Padam Katai, 39, of the

"But there is still a lot of difference compared to the inner Melbourne was rated the suburbs when it comes to transport and infrastructure," among its 20 peers, and ranked he said. "Most people have to travel for their job, so we need more public transport."

> Ms Letts said greater Manchester had shown the value of spreading economic benefits Rail Loop could play a key role here. "It could decentralise some of that knowledge work and the modern economy that we clearly have some good fundamentals for; it's about trans-

The report found Melductivity relative to its high education standards and performance, which was also an Australia-wide problem.

"GDP (gross domestic product) per capita in Melbourne is now 20 per cent below its peer group average,

Committee for Melbourne board member Craig Shute said the city remained highly attractive for local and international students.

"There is an opportunity to convert students to long-term residents, locking in a skilled and educated future workforce to deliver the innovative-techled businesses of tomorrow."

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melbourne.org.au

"I've been a bit disappointed with the state of the parks. I've noticed the grass isn't getting cut often enough, lot of snake sightings lately."



VIEW FROM TARNEIT

"I just feel they should be doing a lot more planning before they get things up and running." Brooke Brickie, Tai

green spaces. There need to be more iced to be illuic parks and community centres." ADI KHADKA, TARNEIT

It is not easy to

get around and

there aren't many

STUDY BENCHMARKS US AGAINST SIMILAR HUBS

Tel Aviv

O Abu Dhabi

Kuala Lumpur 🔷 Singapore

HOW MELBOURNE STACKS UP AGAINST ITS PEERS

MELBOURNE O Sydney

Future Economy

SKILLS AND TALENT

Strengths: Rates well for the international diversity and skills of its workers, and its highranking universities

Weaknesses: Has a relatively low proportion of its population with jobs in hi-tech industries

GLOBAL REACH AND RESILIENCE

Strengths: Recognised as a reliable base for global business and investment, ranks reasonably well for long-term economic growth prospects

Weaknesses: Efficiency and reliability of logistics infrastructure needs improvement, and Port of Melbourne ranked in the bottom 15 per cent globally for efficiency

LEADING EDGE INNOVATION

"ecosystem" which is catching up to peers, and big potential for start-up development industry.

Strengths: Boasts fast-growing innovation **Weaknesses:** Lags in attracting capital to scale up start-ups and growing the biotech

Infrastructure and Sustainability

WHOLE CITY CONNECTIVITY

Strengths: Performs well on inner city access to diverse public transport services and bike lanes, and boasts world's biggest tram network

Weaknesses: Ranks last among eight peers for sustainable commuting, with only 27 per cent of trips to work done on public transport, bike or

TECHNOLOGY AND EFFICIENCY



Strengths: Rates highly for the proportion of residents who regularly make electronic payments, and also for ability to leverage smart technologies to aid liveability

Weaknesses: Among 13 peers, city is 10th for government willingness to adopt new technologies and all-round digitisation

ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES

Strengths: Ranks 20th in global survey of more than 1000 cities for its all-round progress in implementing UN climate change action goals

Weaknesses: Needs to do more to transition to lower carbon-intensive economy, and very low proportion of office stock has high energy efficiency rating

Liveability and Urban Optimisation

EXPERIENCE ECONOMY

Strengths: Has been rated as the number one global city to be a sports fan in English-speaking world, and ranks highly for the number of gaming and streaming expos

Weaknesses: Needs to engage more Greater Melbourne residents in the city's culture, and ranks outside top 30 global cities for popularity as night-time destination

INCLUSIVITY AND WELLBEING



Strengths: Among top cities for quality and accessibility of its healthcare, and boasts low mortality rates

Strengths: Has enviable reputation as a great

place to study and get work, and has high global

media visibility as a good post-Covid destination

Weaknesses: One of the most unaffordable markets in English-speaking world for housing, and has high congestion levels compared to many of its peers

IMAGE AND INFLUENCE



Weaknesses: Sits outside top 12 cities that global investors identify as most attractive places to invest and start a business Source: Benchmarking Melbourne report.



14th of 18

Peers for metro mobile broadband speeds

Partnerships vital to be more than a bit player in tech

JOHN MASANAUSKAS

MELBOURNE'S perception as a world-leading technology and innovation hub has taken a hit in a key report comparing global cities.

The Benchmarking Melbourne study said while the city had excellent university cities had tended to outpertech ventures.

"Melbourne has yet to gain by 1600 per cent since 2017. many world-class specialisms among similar-sized cities for in the bottom 40 per cent said.

companies in science and engineering industries are still thinner on the ground than in the innovation hub cities Melbourne compares itself to."

Commissioned by the Committee for Melbourne and commercial realtor JLL, the report found Melbourne was secnovation ecosystem", growing

international recognition for Melbourne placed fourth of start-up venture capital, and

and commercialised products, "In general, capital raising

form Melbourne in luring risk ond to Israeli city Tel Aviv for value start-ups – a major incapital for things such as biothe combined value of its "increase since 2015.

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> the number of high-ranked unis for computer science and engineering, and was ranked eighth for the international diversity and skills of its workers.

The report said Melbourne

had 14 unicorns – or very high-But it was ranked 42nd out of 75 cities for the availability

among 87 top cities for the number of tech company headquarters relative to its population size.

Committee for Melbourne chief Martine Letts said in many ways, Melbourne was Australia's leading city for innovation and research, particularly in biotech.

"We've got really good researchers and thinkers, and what we've managed to do in ernment's proposed develop- bourne report will be discussed terms of contributing to solu- ment of the Cremorne Digital at the online Future Meltions on Covid vaccines and Hub was promising, and urban bourne summit held by the cancer, and all the other areas renewal precincts such as Fish- Committee for Melbourne on that we're really good at," she

"What we haven't managed as well as we could, and that requires reform in the way uniwe attract more investment.

"How do we commercialise better what we've got – those that's the key to success," she are policy settings that require said. deep collaboration within government, and the research sector and universities."

Ms Letts said the state govermans Bend had a lot of po- Tuesday. tential to bolster innovation.

"This report demonstrates that when you see government and industry, and the knowversities do business, is how do ledge sector working together with common purpose in planning, delivery and investment "We've got all those ele-

ments in Melbourne, we've just

got to pull it all together." The Benchmarking Mel-

melbourne.org.au

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1st out of 48 Top cities for number of inner city train stations

and tram stops

3rd out of 48 Cities for hosting highcapacity sports and



3rd out of 75 Cities for vibrancy and cultural variety

4th among 50

Similar size cities for high-ranked computer and engineering unis

4th

Most committed to climate action out of 48 cities

6th

Most unaffordable English-speaking city for home buying

7th Least resilient rental market among 27 top

cities





10th

Friendliest city in the