



Municipal Association of Victoria Planning Institute of Australia

Joint statement on Plan Victoria

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Victoria welcome the Victorian government's commitment to a state-wide plan for Victoria.

The new plan provides the opportunity to **establish a compelling long-term vision for settlement across the state**, which fully addresses the relationship between Melbourne as the dominant urban centre, peri-urban areas, and regional centres and rural areas. The plan should include aspirational targets for the split of population, housing and jobs growth between metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

A successful Plan Victoria will demonstrate how planning improves people's lives and enhances our environments. The best planning outcomes are those which **create intergenerational equity, preserve and enhance our natural environment and resources, and create thriving communities.**



PIAxMAV statement on Plan Victoria

Plan Victoria also has a critical role to play in our **transition to a climate resilient future**. In December 2022 the PIA, MAV and others called on the Victorian parliament to commit to a net-zero built environment and meaningful integration of climate change into our planning systems. Plan for Victoria is a key opportunity to articulate how this will be done.

We call on the State to **establish a Professional Reference Group** to provide technical advice as content for the plan is developed. Input from local government representatives, PIA, MAV, development industry representatives and relevant peak bodies and planning experts will strengthen the plan and help ensure it is both ambitious and achievable.

The state-wide plan must be supported by **regional plans to support and guide implementation**. Regional plans will ensure distinct metropolitan, regional and rural communities of interest, and their unique characteristics and needs, are recognised. A single plan runs the risk of insufficient detail covering the whole state – or too much detail trying to cover everything.

Implementation must be a priority. The system must support the strategy. It is widely agreed that the weakness of Plan Melbourne and Regional Growth Plans has been implementation, rather than content. Plan Victoria and accompanying regional plans must be supported by strong and effective regional governance and planning system arrangements to realise the plans' aims.

Measurable outcomes should be established in future plans to **increase accountability** and make the direction of change more tangible and easily communicated. These could include housing capacity targets, including social and affordable housing, as well as targets for increased public transport usage, open space and tree canopy (green infrastructure) and overall sustainability.

Implementation requires a **clear articulation of the responsibilities** of state and local government for delivering desired outcomes. The planning system and planning controls need to be geared to achieve desired outcomes. A much closer integration of land use and transport planning is also required.

Finally, it is essential that community engagement is genuine and supports delivery of the policy aims. Civic engagement is at the heart of planning in Victoria by lending democratic legitimacy to shaping our built and natural environments.



PIAxMAV statement on Plan Victoria

In summary, PIA and MAV call for:

1. **A Plan for Victoria state-wide planning framework, supported by a separate metropolitan plan and plans for the different regions in Victoria** - rather than just a single Plan for Victoria
2. **The establishment of a Professional Reference Group** to assist in reviewing the content developed for the plan(s)- including PIA, MAV, local government representatives, development industry representatives and relevant peak bodies and planning experts.
3. **A strong focus on and commitment to effective implementation of Plan Victoria including through governance, institutional, planning system, funding and investment reforms.**

We urge a particular focus on:

- Separate and explicit metro and regional governance arrangements (with both state and local government representation) to provide implementation oversight of the plans;
- A clear set of targets aligned to desired outcomes (metrics) to enhance accountability for delivery of the plans. Planning system reform is critical to enable the metropolitan and regional plans to be realised through development controls, the development assessment system and infrastructure funding mechanisms;
- New or reformed institutions to support delivery (such as a revamped Development Victoria);
- Public investment, including for transport, to be explicitly aligned with the plans.

The MAV and PIA look forward to working with the State Government on achieving this agenda.



MAV President Cr David Clark



PIA Victoria President Patrick Fensham

This statement draws on policy directions included in PIA Victoria's Better Places, Better Housing Position Paper and MAV's Local Government's Vision for Planning in Victoria and the Shaping Metropolitan Melbourne and Shaping Rural and Regional Victoria discussion papers.

