

St Kilda Town Hall, 99a Carlisle Street, St Kilda, Victoria 3182
ASSIST Customer Service 03 9209 6777

proudly portphillip.vic.gov.au   



2 July 2024

Jo Hutchinson
A/Assistant Secretary
Cities and Suburbs Unit
Australian Government
GPO Box 594
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Jo

City of Port Phillip response to Australian Government's Draft National Urban Policy (May 2024)

City of Port Phillip writes to the Australian Government's Cities and Suburbs Unit on the draft National Urban Policy for Australia. As an inner-city municipality undergoing significant growth and renewal, Port Phillip welcomes the Australian Government's establishment of the Cities and Suburbs Unit and its preparation of a National Urban Policy. Active participation across all three levels of government is essential to ensure improved sustainability and livability outcomes are achieved in our highly urbanised nation.

Port Phillip is home to a diverse range of residential, commercial, and industrial precincts that are critical in supporting Victoria's contribution to the Australian economy. Along with City of Melbourne, Port Phillip is the home to Fishermans Bend – Australia's largest urban renewal area. The Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area (FBURA) is forecast to be home to 80,000 residents and 80,000 workers by 2050. This future growth is guided by the Victorian Government's Fishermans Bend Framework (2018), which identifies necessary infrastructure investment required to support its transformation into livable and sustainable precincts.

The Framework Plan directs state and local governments to work together to prepare a Development Contributions Plan (DCP) to support the funding and delivery of local and essential infrastructure. This work is currently underway, and City of Port Phillip's March 2024 submission to the Victorian Government has identified a local infrastructure funding gap of approximately \$600 million. This includes delivery of open spaces, minor streets and laneways, public realm improvements and other community facilities identified in the Framework Plan.

The DCP does not have the scope to leverage the necessary funding to support delivery of catalytic infrastructure identified by the Framework Plan. Fishermans Bend will rely on additional funding to support delivery of schools, health services, and high-capacity public transport (including Melbourne Metro 2 and the Fishermans Bend Tram Link) to achieve its goals.

While the Thriving Suburbs Program and Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program offer opportunities to transform places at a neighbourhood scale, their scope falls short of supporting the needs of place at the scale of FBURA. Additionally, the 10-year \$120 billion Infrastructure Investment Program (of which \$96.5 billion has been allocated), is developed in partnership with states and territories, without direct local strategic input.



The draft National Urban Policy appropriately identifies the challenges facing Australia's cities, and potential actions for the Commonwealth to consider in supporting state and local governments to meet these challenges, including through funding partnerships. The City of Port Phillip recommends the draft goals be strengthened through a programmatic partnership between all levels of government, the community, and private enterprise to support place-based outcomes. This would ensure that nationally significant urban challenges are addressed through evidence-based investment in catalytic transport, education, and health infrastructure that provides a return on investment at a national level.

The City of Port Phillip is committed to meeting the challenges of urban growth and renewal, and thanks the Australian Government's Cities and Suburbs Unit for the opportunity to provide comment on this exciting policy.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Lauren Bialkower.

[Lauren Bialkower \(Jul 2, 2024 12:17 GMT+10\)](#)

Lauren Bialkower
General Manager City Growth & Development