

## City of Vincent – Administration Comments

# A National Urban Policy for Australia

### **Local Planning Framework:**

- The City of Vincent's Local Planning Strategy aims to shape the future of urban development and community growth over the next 10 to 15 years. This document outlines a comprehensive vision to balance growth, sustainability and community needs reflecting the City's commitment to the principles of orderly and proper planning.
- The core of the strategy speaks to a vision for a vibrant, inclusive and sustainable city. One that recognises the great benefit that comes from consolidated and active activity centres and precincts, which minimises urban sprawl and conserves green spaces. The strategy emphasises creating diverse, connected communities with access to quality amenities and services.
- The framework for development and growth within the city, as recognised within the Strategy, is based on the state planning frameworks Activity Centres and corridors for development, focusing housing and employment opportunities around pre-existing active transport infrastructure. By directing increased building height to these centres and corridors, it reduces the development pressure on existing low scale character and heritage precincts.
- A more compact city also allows greater investment in community facilities and services, as well as parks and public open spaces.
- While the City is currently reviewing the existing Strategy, these key themes are expected to carry over for the years to come.

### **Elaboration on comments made in online submission:**

#### **18. What do you think would most improve the liveability of Australian cities?**

Improving the liveability of Australian cities can be achieved through better urban design that promotes walkability and rideability, especially for older people and people living with disabilities. This includes ensuring safe, accessible, and well-maintained active travel infrastructure, as well as enhancing urban amenities such as lighting, landscaping, and shade. Additionally, integrating green and blue spaces equitably can improve biodiversity and climate resilience making for more sustainable urban environments.

#### **19. What do you think would most improve equity in Australian cities?**

To enhance equity in Australian cities, it is crucial to ensure equal access to affordable housing, quality education, efficient public transport, and urban amenities. Addressing income inequality and removing systemic barriers that hinder workforce participation for marginalized groups, including single-parent families, people living with disabilities, and First Nations people, is vital. Additionally, providing inclusive education, access to amenities and attracting skilled workers through a supportive

migration system are essential steps in balancing the socio-economic disparities within the population.

### **20. What do you think would most improve productivity in Australian cities?**

Productivity in Australian cities can be enhanced by addressing challenges related to labour mobility, skills shortages, and digital connectivity. Ensuring efficient transport networks to connect people and goods, and prioritising public and active transport options over private vehicle use, can relieve congestion and improve productivity. Furthermore, investing in emerging transport technologies and digital infrastructure can support efficient urban function.

### **21. What do you think would most improve Sustainability in Australian cities?**

Improving sustainability in Australian cities involves transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050. This can be supported by: reducing transport emissions through increased usage of active travel, public transport, and electric vehicles; enhancing building design and construction practices to improve energy performance and using sustainable materials; promoting a circular economy to reduce waste and repurpose materials; and ensuring equitable access to green and blue spaces.

### **22. What do you think would most improve the resilience of Australian cities?**

Enhancing the resilience of Australian cities requires climate-resilient buildings, infrastructure and planning frameworks, along with a circular economy approach to managing supply chains. Ensuring diverse ecosystems and appropriate land-use policies can mitigate climate-related hazards. Digital connectivity and infrastructure are vital for resilience in the face of various urban challenges. Incorporating First Nations communities' knowledge into resilience strategies can further strengthen these efforts.

### **31. Would you like to elaborate?**

**Mental/Physical Health and Wellbeing:** Although health and wellbeing are covered, a more focused approach on mental health services and designing cities that promote mental wellness through accessible green spaces, social infrastructure, and community programs could be beneficial. Physical well-being is also important, which should focus more on active movement and maintaining good physical health.

**Ageing Population:** As Australia's population ages, urban planning needs to accommodate the specific needs of older adults, such as age-friendly housing, accessible transportation, and healthcare facilities.

**Urban Heat Islands:** While sustainability and climate resilience are mentioned, the specific issue of urban heat islands and their impact on public health and energy consumption could be more explicitly addressed. This includes strategies for increasing urban greenery, reflective surfaces, and heat-resistant infrastructure.

**Water Management:** With increasing climate variability, comprehensive urban water management strategies, including water conservation, stormwater management, and the use of recycled water, are critical for urban sustainability.

**Inclusive Economic Development:** While productivity is discussed, there could be more emphasis on supporting local economies, small businesses, and innovative start-ups, particularly in under-served urban areas.

**32. Each objective in the draft National Urban Policy includes potential actions. What other actions would you like to see included?**

- Increase investment in affordable housing to ensure diverse and inclusive communities.
- Coordinate and implement widespread renewable energy projects within urban areas, including solar panels on public buildings and community solar gardens.
- Develop a national strategy for waste management and reduction, including incentives for recycling and composting.
- Promote biodiversity in urban areas through the creation of urban wildlife corridors and the protection of existing natural habitats.
- Enhance mental health support services and community wellness programs in urban settings to improve overall public health.