

– OFFICE OF THE MAYOR –



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To whom it may concern,

RE: HUME CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE – NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

Hume City Council welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the National Urban Policy and is supportive of its high-level goals, objectives and principles.

Hume City Council welcomes the interest of the Australian Government in urban affairs, and as an outer suburban council with significant growth areas was pleased the Urban Policy Forum included the National Growth Areas Alliance (NGAA) to provide strategic input.

We are also pleased the policy acknowledges the pivotal role of local government in delivering key services to growing communities in addition to our regulatory responsibilities around planning and building.

Hume City Council has a proud history of providing affordable housing options for working people in Broadmeadows during the manufacturing boom of the 1950s and 1960s, through to recent waves of migration that have seen a welcome influx of migrants from across the world.

Hume is one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Estimated Resident Population (ERP), between 2018 and 2022 Hume had the third highest population growth in Victoria behind the other growth area councils of Wyndham and Casey.

We deliver much needed homes for current and future Victorians. In the past year alone, we have approved over 3,000 new homes to be built in Hume with the majority of these in our northern and Sunbury growth corridors.

Our municipality is unique in that we have two distinct growth corridors with different challenges and established suburbs that are rich in history but in need of renewal, new suburbs which require new infrastructure and services, green wedge and rural land with important tourism and environmental values and significant industrial areas along the Hume Highway, which along with the Melbourne Airport are key economic generators for our community.

We also have a very diverse community with 40% of our residents being born overseas and almost half speaking a language other than English at home. Because of this, we believe are uniquely placed to provide important feedback and suggestions on the objectives of the new policy.

On 24 June 2024, Hume City Council adopted the National Urban Policy submission. Enclosed is a copy of the council meeting minutes for your reference.

Our submission addresses each of the objectives with some local context and response to the possible actions. It will contain observations that reflect the lived experience of our communities after more than a decade of sustained population growth and change.

We understand this will feed into work with states and territories to develop initiatives that will deliver on the shared vision and help address challenges facing all our cities and suburbs around housing affordability and choice, social cohesion and climate change.

We all have a part to play in meeting these challenges. At Hume City we are committed to a genuine state-local-federal government partnership to help manage growth to ensure we deliver thriving and liveable neighbourhoods and communities into the future.

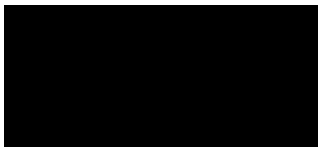
We have provided three case studies that relate to the objectives of the policy and would be very keen to further discuss and partner with the Australian Government around their implementation.

These relate to a possible infrastructure coordination trial in Cloverton with two of our neighbouring councils and two other significant precincts and places in Hume City – the first being a future town square in Broadmeadows and the second being a Sunbury Community, Arts and Cultural Precinct.

We would also welcome the opportunity to work with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts and others to turn the goals and objectives of the Policy into actions that will have a positive impact on our community.

If you would like any more information please contact Sheena Frost, CEO Hume City Council via SheenaF@hume.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



**CR NAIM KURT
MAYOR
HUME CITY COUNCIL**

*Attachment 1: Response to National Urban Policy Objectives
Attachment 2: Council Meeting Minutes Extract – Monday 24 June 2024*

RESPONSE TO NATIONAL URBAN POLICY OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: No-one and no place left behind

Hume City supports and welcomes the commitment to ensuring equitable access to infrastructure, education, jobs and cultural activities in all our cities and suburbs. As an area with many older growth areas with legacy needs ensuring 'no one is left behind' is a sentiment we strongly support.

Council strongly supports all possible actions listed in this objective as crucial to seeing the delivery of connected and complete communities. In particular the focus on greater infrastructure coordination and investment and enabling a more data driven approach to growth are welcomed.

Many in our community have been affected by the significant lags in the rollout of key infrastructure such as roads and public transport, leading to road congestion, disconnection from jobs and harmful impacts on health, wellbeing and local amenity.

We seek a commitment to all levels of government to work together on our shared infrastructure challenges. This includes applying the funding mechanisms available to all levels of government to pay for infrastructure when it is needed in growing communities such as Hume City. Currently growth area councils face a significant funding gap in meeting legacy growth needs in addition to those of future communities. The current economic climate of high rates of inflation increased construction costs and labour shortages make providing infrastructure, open space and services an enormous challenge.

In recognition of the burden placed on growth areas in meeting the challenges of rapid growth, it is suggested consideration be given to a percentage of GDP being made available for council areas shouldering the majority of outer suburban growth across the country to fund infrastructure.

There is also a need for better coordination in the delivery of infrastructure and services across all three tiers of government.

We have a very live example in the northern corridor of Melbourne where there is a new city being built at Cloverton that will service a wide regional catchment covering the three Local Government Areas of Hume, Mitchell and Whittlesea. This new city will be the primary employment and service centre for the growing suburbs of Mickleham, Kalkallo, Donnybrook, Beveridge and Wallan - estimated at 380,000 residents and 50,000 jobs at full build out.

Cloverton will be a new city close to the size of Canberra and needs to provide a diversity of housing options with access to jobs and integrated, high-quality services.

In order to meet this challenge and seize the opportunity, our three councils have forged a Regional Partnership to coordinate the planning and delivery of Cloverton city centre.

We are now keen to extend that partnership to state and national governments as a once in a generation opportunity to develop a new city with place at its heart and partnership at its core. The vision is to create a well-designed, integrated, vertical, sustainable mixed-use place - not seen in a greenfield setting before.

For more information see [Appendix 1](#) for an example of a potential coordination pilot.

The draft Policy notes that our retail centres play an important role in the vibrancy of our places and our economies, yet the small number of major players in this space leads to a lack of competition, delays in delivery and poor urban design outcomes. Retail centres, large and small, play many roles for our communities, they provide goods and services our communities

need, can be gathering places and are also a source of employment opportunities. A focus on how to encourage unique well-designed centres when and where our community needs them would be welcomed.

A national approach to creating ways to deliver greater support for social and affordable housing and homelessness services would also be strongly supported in an area of need such as Hume City.

Objective 2: All people belong and are welcome

Consistent with this objective Hume City strives to support equitable access to sports, arts, culture, and community life. Our rapid growth has meant this has not always been achieved in as smooth and sequenced way as desired.

While developer funding helps support infrastructure in newer growth areas, there are gaps in funding and timing of delivery is not always as it should be. However, this assistance is not as readily available in the established areas of the municipality and risks creating a two-tiered community.

Council has funded projects to bridge this gap, but it remains a concern for our growing community as we strive to provide equitable services and amenity for all our residents.

The possible actions are supported especially around better supporting and promoting the creative sector, tourism, heritage and sport infrastructure.

To this end Hume City will be seeking Australian Government support for two key place-based projects through the Urban Precincts and Partnerships Program.

At [Appendix 2](#) we explain the community strengthening aspects of the around the Sunbury Community, Arts and Cultural Precinct and a new town square in Broadmeadows in the program known as Hume Central. We believe both these projects could assist in delivering on this objective of providing equitable access to arts and cultural life in different parts of our community.

Both these projects will ensure greater access to the arts and community to all residents including those with a First Nations or multicultural background and foster greater social cohesion and economic vibrancy.

Council also has a focus supporting our visitor economy, and we are home to over 80 sporting clubs that are the lifeblood of the diverse communities across Hume City.

Objective 3: Our urban areas are safe

Hume City supports the objective of all feeling safe and welcome in our communities and understand the key role of public spaces and the public realm in this. Ensuring we have vibrant public spaces that are well designed and welcoming to all people is a priority of council whether it be new public spaces or our extensive networks of parks and open space.

Our planning takes into consideration measures to ensure greater community safety consistent with the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Principles.

We support all the possible actions especially around placemaking, preparation for disaster and climate risk and underpinning this with research and reporting on national urban safety priorities.

Objective 4: Our urban areas are sustainable

Hume City supports the objective of making urban areas more sustainable. Council has adopted a [Climate Change Action Plan](#) that focuses on changes we can make to adapt and mitigate in our council operations, across Hume City itself and the broader advocacy we can take through regional partnerships. Plan actions relate to reducing greenhouse emissions, adaptation to climate impacts and lobbying others for further climate change action.

Further to this council is leading an ambitious agenda promoting the circular economy in Hume through the [Hume Circular Business Network](#).

The circular economy is seen as both an opportunity to reduce our carbon footprint and establish a new innovative industry. Back in 2018, Hume set a new benchmark in sustainability and innovation by constructing of Australia's first road using a combination of soft plastics and glass. The product, called Reconophalt, uses soft plastics and glass in asphalt for road construction to create a sustainable, cost-effective solution that has improved performance and longevity of more than 100 roads in Hume City.

The possible actions outlined in this objective are supported. In particular we recognise the important role of compact mixed-use neighbourhoods in delivering more walkable communities, and increased greening to offset the heat island affects experienced in council areas with low canopy cover.

Many of the actions are consistent with Council's [draft open space strategy](#), as well as supporting our communities in transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

Objective 5: Our urban environments and communities promote health and wellbeing

The issues discussed in this objective resonate with Hume City – especially around the focus on health and well-being of our residents and drive to provide better access to good quality open spaces, sporting facilities and active transport links to encourage more physical activity. The possible actions are supported and reflect a commitment to place-based land use planning, that ensures an emphasis on place and promoting health and well-being. This is reflected in Council's [Health and Wellbeing Plan](#).

Council's current [draft Transport strategy](#) places a strong emphasis on active transport and micromobility to encourage economic and social inclusion and promote wellbeing and physical exercise. Community infrastructure is a key part of the fabric of new communities and any actions the Australian government can take to support well located infrastructure through co-location are strongly supported.

Community infrastructure should be considered not just in the context of what governments provide, but also the facilities and services that other organisations deliver that can enhance the wellbeing of our communities, including places of worship.

Objective 6: Our urban areas promote productivity

As a council home to many migrants that is also located close to freight networks, council supports a focus on promoting productivity and the benefits that may flow for local businesses, industry and residents.

In particular we are committed to residents in growth areas having full access to digital networks and infrastructure. This includes how infrastructure spending may be focused to

reduce barriers for workers and freight, especially around our transport networks and arterial roads where under investment directly impacts on local productivity.

Much of the current public conversation centres on the provision of housing for our communities, which we acknowledge is a vital need, however we must not forget the equal need to enable and facilitate employment opportunities close to where people live. Productivity, sustainability, health and wellbeing are all negatively impacted when people are forced to travel long distances for work.

We are also supportive of the possible actions that focus on exploring and adopting emerging technologies such as connected and automated vehicles, intelligent transport systems, and mobility as a service, such as buses, trains and ride share options can enhance efficiency, safety and sustainability in urban areas.

These technological changes have the capacity to improve the lives of current and future generations.

APPENDIX 1

CLOVERTON MAC - PILOTING A NEW PLACE BASED APPROACH

The Cloverton Regional Partnership has been established to drive this once in a generation opportunity to plan for a new city to service the thousands of current and future residents that call the growing northern corridor home.

The scale of growth in Cloverton, its strategic location and the presence of three united councils and a mature landowner make it an appropriate place to trial a new operating model based on a level of state and local collaboration never seen before.

This collaboration will have place at its heart and partnership at its core. Given that full build out won't be achieved for up to 20 years there is an opportunity to trial a new approach to land use and infrastructure planning, enabling investment to be planned and sequenced.

Suggested key next steps:

Appoint a lead group/agency from State Government to establish governance around a new Cloverton -National -State-Local Taskforce with a clear remit to trial coordination and cooperation in a manner never contemplated before in a precinct.

Taskforce to have senior representatives from Australian Government and all relevant state government departments and agencies, Infrastructure Victoria, the Victorian Government Architect, and include the CEOs of the three councils from the Regional Partnership as equal partners.

This could become a designated trial included in both the new Plan for Victoria and as an output of the National Urban Policy given Cloverton (Lockerbie) is a designated Metropolitan Activity Centre (MAC) and will service a population of up to 380,000 people.

Role of Cloverton National-State-Local Taskforce:

- Establish guiding principles including what success looks like in the MAC.
- Confirm a single source of data, including current and future local, state, and regional infrastructure need.
- Taskforce to recommend regional infrastructure needs and options for co-location, coordination, funding, and innovation.
- Taskforce to explore innovative models, including co-location and integration of housing, regional infrastructure and environmental outcomes that deliver a safe, walkable, climate-resilient city in the north, home to thousands of jobs.
- Taskforce to provide input to the Cloverton masterplan that will be developed with Stockland as the sole landowner in the MAC.
- A governance pathway for Taskforce options to relevant state cabinet committees and budget considerations for future decisions would need to be established.
- Support and coordination assistance from the Australian Government.

APPENDIX 2

SUNBURY COMMUNITY, ARTS AND CULTURAL PRECINCT

The Sunbury Community, Arts and Cultural Precinct is a visionary project designed to celebrate and preserve Sunbury's rich cultural heritage, while fostering a thriving hub for arts, community, and social engagement. This site is located on the former Sunbury asylum site built in 1879 and has a long-standing connection to the Sunbury arts community. Developed through extensive community consultation, the precinct will evolve into a dynamic destination, accommodating a range of activities including dance, performing arts, and incubator spaces for small businesses and artists.

Additionally, the precinct will feature food and beverage options to complement its role as a tourism and commercial hub. This development is not just about physical infrastructure, but about creating a space that embodies Sunbury's unique cultural identity, supports local talent, and provides a vibrant, welcoming environment for Sunbury's growing community.

Project outcome: State-of-the-art facilities for dance and performing arts, innovative incubator spaces for entrepreneurs and artists, and diverse culinary offerings, enriching the tourism and commercial appeal of the area.

HUME CENTRAL

This is a Council-led initiative to transform Broadmeadows utilising Hume City Council's land around the Broadmeadows Town Hall, Global Learning Centre and Council offices. Hume City Council's vision aligns with Broadmeadow's designation as one of the Victorian State Government's Metropolitan Activity Centres and activity centre of focus for increased housing supply.

Two significant investment opportunities exist for the Federal Government to partner with Hume City Council on the transformative project that is Hume Central.

BROADMEADOWS TOWN SQUARE

Hume Central's town square aligns with the Australian Government's focus on supporting the delivery of best-practice investment in urban infrastructure, connecting people and communities to services and opportunities that improve liveability and inclusion.

The Square aligns with the Australian Government's focus on enhancing affordable housing in designated activity areas, promising a synergy of residential growth and vibrant community life. Council has allocated over \$6 million to its four-year capital program. It is seeking a similar contribution from the Federal Government to deliver this project. This town square will be a cornerstone for social cohesion in an economically challenged area, offering place-making activations and substantial employment opportunities. Its development is not just an investment in infrastructure but also in the community's spirit, supporting social interaction and cultural celebration in a safe, accessible, and lively environment.

Project outcome: Construction of Hume Central's town square, a key element in transforming Broadmeadows into a bustling, multicultural activity centre. The project promises significant job creation during construction and ongoing community events.

BROADMEADOWS CAR PARK

The proposed phased development of a new Broadmeadows Car Park addresses the growing need for accessible infrastructure to support the revitalised town square and community spaces. The initial phase involves constructing a ground-level car park, with plans to expand vertically as demand increases. This pragmatic approach balances immediate needs with future scalability. Situated near the Broadmeadows train station, a major transport hub, the car park's design will adhere to sustainable principles, ensuring an eco-friendly and efficient solution for increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Development of this car park is key to ensuring Hume Central's accessibility, functionality, and overall success.

Project outcome: Delivery of this car park is essential to the accessibility and functionality of the surrounding community spaces, contributing significantly to the overall success of the Hume Central precinct.

[REDACTED]

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Report No.	Report	Page in Agenda
8.11	National Urban Policy Submission	491

Moved Cr Karen Sherry, Seconded Cr Jarrod Bell

2.1 That Council approves the response (Attachment 2) to the draft National Urban Policy for consideration by the Federal Department of Infrastructure.

Councillor Sam Misho left the meeting during item 8.11 National Urban Policy Submission, the time being 9:05 pm.

Councillor Carly Moore left the meeting during item 8.11 National Urban Policy Submission,, the time being 9:06pm.

Councillor Sam Misho returned to the meeting during item 8.11 National Urban Policy Submission, the time being 9:07pm.

Councillor Carly Moore returned to the meeting during item 8.11 National Urban Policy Submission and did not vote, the time being 9:11pm.

CARRIED

[REDACTED]