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4 July 2024

**Via email:** [urbanpolicyinput@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:urbanpolicyinput@infrastructure.gov.au)

To whom it may concern,

**Re: National Urban Consultation Policy - Consultation Draft**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in response to the community consultation on the Frankston Fair Access Policy and Action Plan.

The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community-based advocacy group that works towards equality, social justice and advancing human rights for the Victorian LGBTIQ+ community. In 2020, we launched the Rainbow Local Government campaign to recruit and support LGBTIQ+ candidates and allies to increase diversity and champion change on LGBTIQ+ issues in local government.

The Consultation Draft lists 'safety for marginalised groups' as a key urban challenge, stating that:

*Certain groups, such as First Nations people, women and girls, people with disability, migrants and refugees, older people and LGBTIQ+ people, face higher risks to safety in public spaces. We need coordinated planning to address these risks.*

In order to address this, we recommend that the possible actions be amended to insert the underlined words as follows:

- "support research and reporting on national urban safety priorities, including indicators that measure access, safety and cohesion for marginalised groups in cities in a placemaking context"
- "consider disaster and climate risk in land use planning and how disaster and climate risk can have unique impacts on marginalised groups"<sup>1</sup>
- "Invest in place-based initiatives that seek to activate public spaces, especially for marginalised groups, whilst also improving community safety and addressing the underlying causes of crime"

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., Brigid Larkin, 'Pride and prejudice: LGBTIQ community responses to disaster events worldwide' (2019) 34(4) *Australian Journal of Emergency Management*.



The Consultation Draft also lists 'housing and homelessness' as a key urban challenge, stating that:

*These persistent challenges in urban areas are particularly affecting marginalised communities, including First Nations people, people with disability, and low-income households.*

We recommend that this be amended to insert 'LGBTIQA+ people', who also face higher rates of homelessness and housing insecurity.<sup>2</sup>

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you further, and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

**Sean Mulcahy, Jan Farrell and Chelsea Ayling**

Victorian Pride Lobby - Rainbow Local Government campaign

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<sup>2</sup> See, e.g., Victorian Government, 'Snapshot: LGBTIQ+ homelessness in Victoria' <<https://www.vic.gov.au/snapshot-lgbtqi-homelessness-victoria>>.