

The Victorian government's new strategy for 2050, **Plan Melbourne**, looks to focus on infrastructure for growth over the next 30-odd years, noting that it is the biggest infrastructure program in the history of the state.

In announcing the new plan, Premier Denis Napthine said that it included transport projects that are game changers, as well as urban renewal and activity precincts.

His focus is on new jobs, transport, and more homes and lifestyle opportunities across the city, while maintaining the liveability.

“The plan creates a clear picture of Melbourne's infrastructure-led growth to 2050 and a long term plan integrating Victoria's regions with metropolitan Melbourne,” Napthine said.

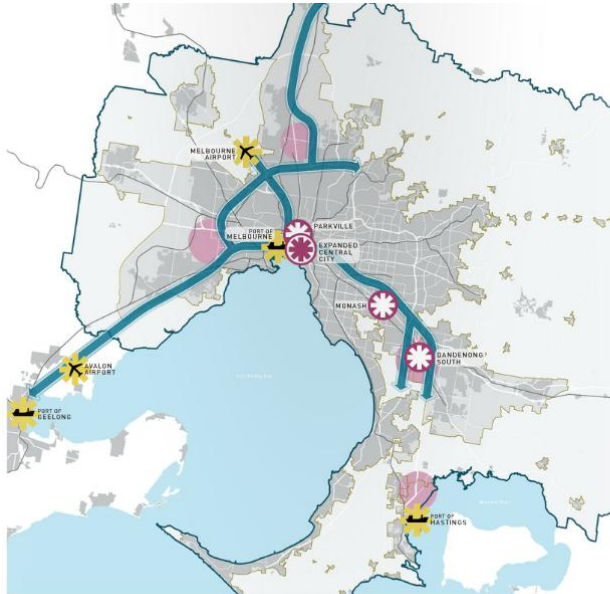
He noted that \$27 billion in the 2014/2015 state budget is being committed for economic infrastructure for the state, in what is the biggest program ever seen in Victoria for infrastructure.

Land within urban areas will be unlocked, explained Minister for Planning Matthew Guy.

“This is a comprehensive plan for Melbourne that caters for a projected population of 7.7 million people by 2051 and provides a solid foundation to meet these challenges,” Guy said.

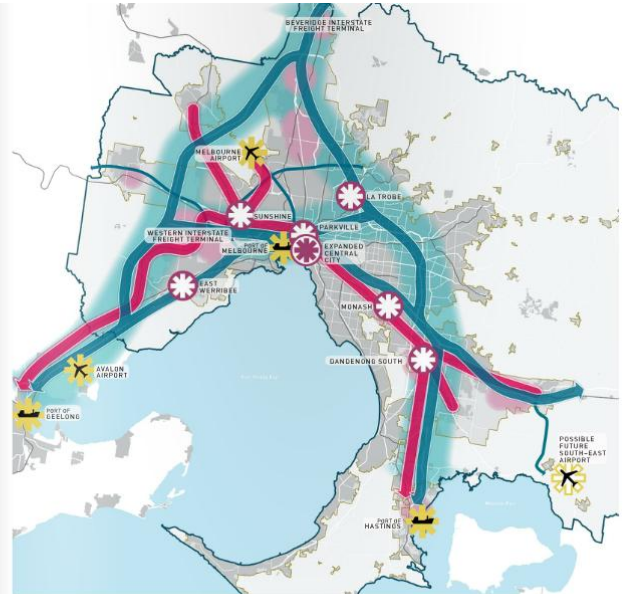
The new dedicated Metropolitan Planning Authority will implement the plan and will be given planning authority powers for the metro area of Melbourne, and will use this new authority in

urban renewal precincts, employment clusters, activity centres and health and education precincts.



MAP 1 - BUILDING BLOCKS FOR AN INTEGRATED ECONOMIC TRIANGLE - MELBOURNE TODAY
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, 2014

- Metropolitan region
- Metropolitan urban boundary
- Urban area
- Road network
- Rail network
- Expanded central city
- National employment cluster
- Transport gateway
- Key industrial precincts
- Key transport connection
- Freight airport
- Seaport



MAP 2 - DELIVERING AN INTEGRATED ECONOMIC TRIANGLE BY 2050
SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE, 2014

- Metropolitan region
- Metropolitan urban boundary
- Urban area
- Road network
- Rail network
- Expanded central city
- National employment cluster
- Transport gateway - existing
- Transport gateway - future
- Key industrial precincts
- Integrated economic Triangle
- Key transport connection - road
- Other major road connection
- Key transport connection - rail
- Freight airport
- Seaport

Specified Areas mentioned in the Melbourne 2050 Plan :

Major Urban Renewal Areas include : Fishermans Bend; E-Gate, Arden-Macaulay, Key Rail Corridors

National Employment clusters include : Monash, La Trobe, Sunshine, Dandenong South, East Werribee, Parkville

Key Activity and Job Centres include : Dandenong, Box Hill, Ringwood, Essendon Fields, Narre Warren, Broadmeadows, Epping, Footscray

Melbourne's mega-city needs new boundary, plan says

Shane Green and Beau Donnelly
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A permanent urban boundary to contain Melbourne's sprawl is part of the new blueprint to deal with the city's booming population, now forecast to hit almost eight million by 2051.

The government's new Plan Melbourne declares the need for a "clear statement" on the boundary. But the final line could be different to the existing limits, with the plan setting up a mechanism to determine it.

The views of councils, the city's physical features and boundaries formed by major infrastructure are among the factors that will be considered by the new Metropolitan Planning Authority, which will implement the new strategy.

The plan includes sweeping revisions to Melbourne's population, now at 4.3 million, with the city expected to hit 7.7 million people by 2051, up from 6.5 million forecast in the draft of the plan only seven months ago.

Beyond limiting urban sprawl, the plan also proposes a boost in growth in Victoria's regional centres to accommodate the extra numbers.

It also includes the Napthine government's big infrastructure projects, such as the East West Link and the Melbourne Rail Link, including the airport rail link.

Premier Denis Napthine said the state's population was growing at an annual rate of 2 per cent, compared with 1.8 per cent in the rest of the country. But he argued Melbourne could grow while at the same time protecting its treasured liveability.

Planning Minister Matthew Guy said the strategy provided a solid foundation to meet the challenges of a city of 7.7 million. "This is a document that will define the way not just Melbourne, but the entirety of Victoria, grows into the future," he said.

The planning strategy, which aims to establish a direction for the next 40 years, also:

- Expands the central city with the aim of becoming Australia's largest commercial and residential centre by 2040. This includes urban renewal projects at Fishermans Bend and E-Gate, and a bigger employment cluster at Parkville.
- Divides Melbourne into five metropolitan sub-regions: central, western, northern, southern and eastern.
- Proposes 20-minute neighborhoods - where facilities and jobs are only a 20-minute trip from home.

Planning expert Roz Hansen, who headed Mr Guy's advisory committee and resigned in protest over public service interference, described the plan as "very disappointing". She said there was very little change from the October draft, with the main inclusions being the recent announcements by the government, such as the big transport projects.

She said there were many lost opportunities, such as initiatives for housing affordability, planning neighborhoods for increased housing choice and more services. There was also a reluctance to improve metropolitan bus services in middle and outer suburbs.

Planning Institute of Australia state president Brett Davis was "cautiously optimistic" about the planning blueprint. He welcomed the airport rail link and expanding of an employment cluster at Parkville. But he raised concerns about prioritising the East West Link.

"There does seem to be some retrofitting of policy to match some of the announcements that have just come out," he said. "The East West link ... we wouldn't identify as a priority project."

This story was found at: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/melbournes-megacity-needs-new-boundary-plan-says-20140519-38k84.html>

FIGURE 7 – ATTRIBUTES OF METROPOLITAN ACTIVITY CENTRES

