

About us

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) is a State Government statutory authority that acts under the direction of the Minister for Planning.

Victoria is growing, with a projected population of up to 10 million people by 2051. It is the VPA's task to help manage this growth, so that Melbourne and our regional towns and cities continue to be great places to live.

The VPA facilitates integrated land use and infrastructure planning. This requires vision and long-term planning, to ensure Victorians have equitable access to employment, public transport, attractive public space and affordable housing.

The Growth Areas Authority was founded in 2006 to plan Melbourne's new suburbs in the growth corridors, and later became the Metropolitan Planning Authority, to include planning in urban renewal areas. Recognising the need for a state-wide approach to planning, in August 2016 the Victorian Government established the VPA. The VPA undertakes planning for urban renewal in Melbourne's inner and middle suburbs, designs new suburbs in Melbourne's growth areas, and supports local governments with planning work in regional cities and towns.

The VPA works collaboratively with key partners, including local government and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), to implement initiatives articulated in the long-term planning blueprint for our capital city, Plan Melbourne, and Victoria's eight regional growth plans.

The VPA's program focuses on land use and infrastructure planning for strategically important precincts and sites in urban renewal areas, greenfield growth areas and regional areas.

Contact us

The VPA welcomes all inquiries.

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Urban renewal

Urban renewal involves unlocking under-utilised established areas for jobs, investment, and housing. It can involve improving local amenity through rezoning land, identifying transport and infrastructure requirements and creating access to new and improved open space.

As Melbourne grows, there is an opportunity to reimagine some existing areas as they evolve as 21st century suburbs. The VPA is working with local government and the community to plan for the urban renewal of key sites and precincts in the central city and established suburbs across Melbourne.



This includes Arden, a new jobs and innovation hub in North Melbourne that will enhance Victoria's international competitive advantage.

We are also planning for Melbourne's six National Employment Clusters, including the established clusters of Parkville, Monash and Dandenong South and the emerging clusters of La Trobe, Sunshine and East Werribee.

It is vital jobs continue to grow in our suburbs, to reduce congestion on our roads and public transport system, minimise our environmental footprint, and give people back precious leisure time.

At present, around 80% of Melbourne residents work outside of the CBD, and the Victorian Government has a vision for more of these workplaces to form clusters, in order to help businesses flourish.



Greenfields

Since 2006, VPA's predecessors have been working with local government to design new suburbs across greater Melbourne. When designing a suburb, our philosophy is that the area must have great amenity, including large open spaces, terrific facilities and bustling community centres.

To do this, we plan for 90% of houses to be located within 1km of a town centre, so residents can access vital services by foot.

Taking an integrated approach, the plans for new suburbs include land reserved for vital infrastructure – including schools, community centres, sports precincts and bus lanes – so future residents live in lively neighbourhoods.

Sustainability is an essential part of the VPA's approach to planning, including incorporating each area's unique topography into its design. We protect an area's cultural heritage by preserving environmental features that local traditional owners have identified as being significant, as well as key post-contact buildings and landmarks.

The VPA will continue to plan Melbourne's new suburbs into the future, to ensure land within the urban growth boundary offers a diverse range of affordable housing options.

Regional planning

Victoria has proven to be a very desirable place to live, with more and more people choosing to make our great state their home. The Victorian Government is committed to meeting the challenges of population growth and sharing the prosperity it generates right around Victoria.

Planning for sustainable growth in Victoria's regional areas has been progressed through the eight regional growth plans, which the VPA will play a key role – along with councils and Regional Development Victoria – in delivering.

To facilitate and manage growth in our regional cities and towns, the VPA works closely in priority areas with local councils to identify development and investment opportunities that will add value to the entire community. Our services include the provision of expert advice and assistance to councils about planning processes,

rezoning, planning applications, and community consultation, to ensure high-quality development can occur in a timely fashion.



In recent times, the VPA has had direct planning involvement in Warragul, Drouin, Wodonga, Shepparton, Bacchus Marsh and Torquay. With the right planning and investment initiatives, we are confident our regions will prosper.

