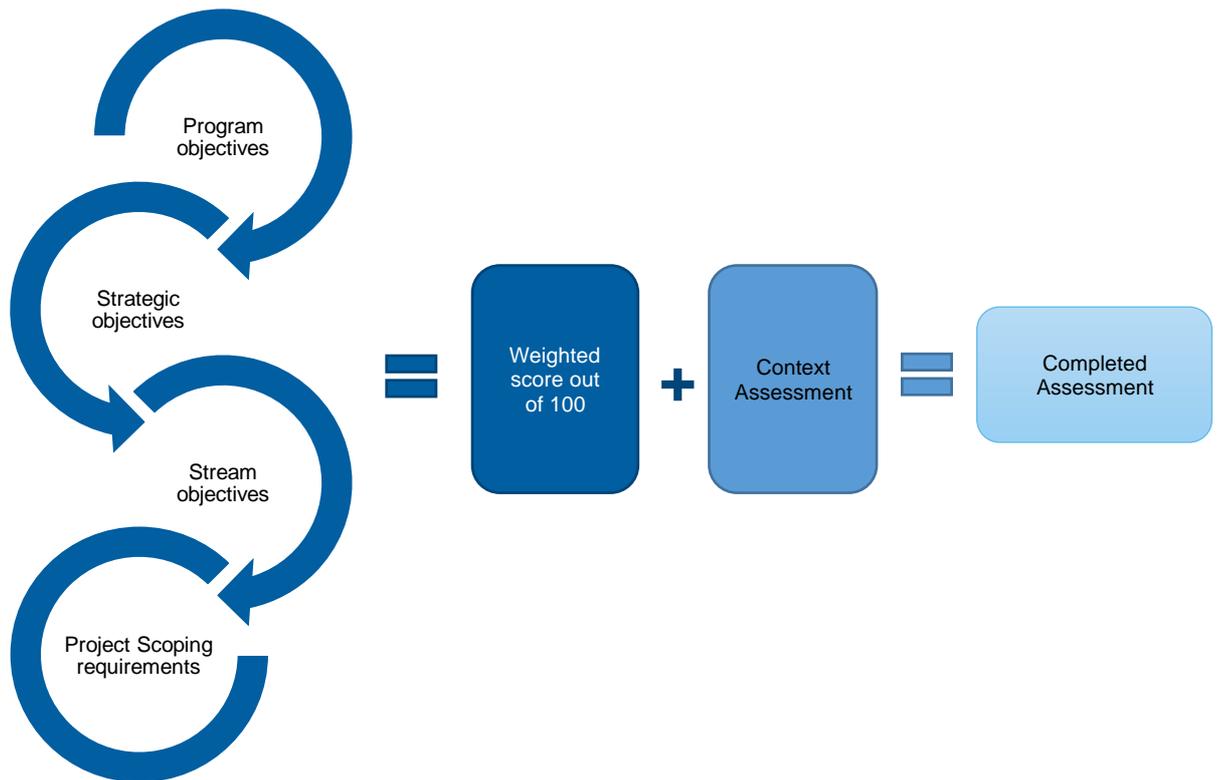# SFG PROGRAM COUNCIL GRANTS APPLICATION ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND CRITERIA

Assessment Framework

Overarching Criteria

Program Objectives

Deliver, unblock or accelerate strategic planning, statutory planning, infrastructure coordination and related projects that:

a) Support economic and employment growth, with priority to post-pandemic stimulus and recovery

b) Accelerate the delivery of zoned (permit-ready) employment and residential land, particularly in locations experiencing COVID-induced (or other) growth pressures

c) Increase housing supply, choice and affordability

d) Improve alignment of infrastructure delivery (particularly transport infrastructure) with land use and development

e) Promote efficiencies, coordination and leveraging opportunities across State and local governments and agencies for improved outcomes

f) Support innovative and replicable processes or outcomes

g) Build capability and capacity in local councils via delivering red tape reduction and ongoing and systemic improvements to performance and outputs

Strategic Objectives

Support projects that align with:

a) Priorities set by the Minister for Planning in the VPA's Statement of Expectations and Business Plan

b) Plan Melbourne and Regional Growth Plans

c) Melbourne Industrial and Commercial Land Use Plan

d) Homes for Victorians

e) Other relevant Government policies.

Stream Objectives

Metropolitan Melbourne

a) Unlock at scale zoned land supply and development in transport precincts, business precincts, activity centres, National Employment and Innovation Clusters (NEICs), along train and tram routes, and on arterial roads

b) Clear backlogs that help unlock precincts, areas and/or sites that support delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods

c) Realise opportunities for value capture or infrastructure charging to leverage private and / or public investment

Regional Victoria

a) Unlock at-scale zoned land supply and development in regional cities, peri-urban towns and other urban areas in Victoria's regions experiencing growth pressure

b) Prepare master plans to support development of strategic precincts, areas and/or sites

c) Support planning projects that assist in state and local bushfire recovery or other emergency response initiatives

d) Support planning projects that respond to COVID related housing and employment growth

Better Regulation and Streamlined Processes (Metropolitan and Regional Areas)

a) Simplify, streamline and accelerate post VPA strategic planning activities (including PSPs) approvals and infrastructure coordination processes.

b) Simplify, streamline and accelerate PSP and other strategic plan preparation processes for high growth areas

c) Deliver on action plans in the Growth Area Councils Permit Assessment Health Check

d) Promote leadership, best practice and cross sectoral information sharing to solve problems and improve efficiencies in the preparation of strategic plans and post-plan permit and infrastructure coordination processes

Operational and Contextual Criteria

Project Scoping Requirements

Applications must be appropriately scoped by demonstrating the following (where relevant as guided by the identified fields in the Submittable platform)

a) Clear (strategic) need for the project

b) Demonstrated capacity to manage and deliver the project

c) Justified estimates of population and jobs growth to be unlocked by the project

d) Sufficient identified level of background technical input

e) Completed breakdown of estimated costs

f) Grant value in the context of available funds

g) Achievable project timelines

h) Developed outline of required tasks to achieve project milestones

i) Demonstrated future commitment (timing and funding) to give effect to the project, including by changes to the relevant planning scheme(s) where appropriate to deliver and unlock population and jobs growth

j) Confirmation of previous project funding from Streamlining for Growth or other government grant program

k) Confirmation of current support provided by other grant programs (including from DELWP or RDV)

l) Sign off from a Council Senior Executive

Context Assessment

Application assessments will also consider:

a) Project impact

b) Geographic and equitable spread of projects per funding round

c) Previous SfG funding awarded

d) Eligibility for funding from other DELWP or RDV grant programs

Note

The SfG program focuses on projects that unlock and accelerate the delivery of at-scale, permit-ready employment and residential land in areas subject to population growth pressures and/or experiencing shortages of land for housing or jobs. It may also fund planning projects that are upstream or downstream development steps of these land supply rezonings. For example, settlement plans or framework plans needed to identify priorities for urban rezoning or post-plan codification or approvals streamlining initiatives that more quickly make zoned land "shovel ready" not just "permit ready".

There are multiple grant programs (as of 2021) that can support Regional Council planning projects. The SfG Program will not duplicate purposes of other grant programs. Specifically, the SfG Program does not fund permit assessments, overload work, planning scheme changes unrelated to specific strategic land use projects, or pre-strategic planning feasibility and due diligence assessments.

It is not possible to seek funding for the same project from multiple grant programs. It is possible that separate but complementary projects may be supported by different grant programs so long as the projects are clearly distinct and do not overlap or duplicate.