

VICTORIAN PLANNING AUTHORITY ACT 2017

Direction to the Victorian Planning Authority

I, Sonya Kilkenney MP, Minister for Planning, give the following direction to the Victorian Planning Authority (the Authority) under section 36(1) of the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017*.

The previous direction dated 10 April 2022 to the Authority under section 36(1) of the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017* is revoked.

Priorities

1. This Direction provides the strategic overview of the business activities and areas of focus that form the work program for the Authority until 30 June 2024.
2. By 31 May of 2024, the VPA will deliver for my approval a draft annual business plan that will articulate how the Authority will deliver the business activities and work program in the 2024-25 financial year.
3. The 2023-24 work program will include the following components:
 1. this Direction.
 2. projects and activities identified in the annual business plan to be undertaken in the 2023-24 financial year to deliver the Victorian Government's commitments, and priorities articulated within *Victoria's Housing Statement – the decade ahead 2024-2034* (Housing Statement) that will deliver opportunities to increase housing supply and improve affordability outcomes for Victorians. This includes, but is not limited to, preparation of Precinct Structure Plans for new housing and jobs in Melbourne and Regional Victoria with a particular focus on 21 priority locations to enable delivery of 60,000 new homes and 60,000 jobs:

Regional Victoria	Wonthaggi PSP Ballarat Infrastructure Growth Alignment Framework Shepparton South East PSP Coria Norlane Urban Renewal Bannockburn South East PSP East of Aberline PSP Ballarat North PSP
Industrial Land	Officer South (Employment) PSP Greater Avalon (Employment) PSP Casey Fields South (Employment) PSP Crosskell (Employment) PSP Merrifield North (due diligence) Mambourn East (due diligence) Werribee Junction (due diligence)
Established Melbourne	Braybrook Regeneration Project
Melbourne New Communities	Beveridge North West PSP Gunns Gully Road Interchange GAIC WIK Greenvale North (Part 2) PSP Devon Meadows PSP Melton East PSP Clyde South (due diligence)

3. provision of advice and technical services to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to deliver activity centre plans for the following initial 10 activity centres across Melbourne: Broadmeadows; Camberwell Junction; Chadstone; Epping; Frankston; Moorabbin; Niddrie (Keilor Road); North Essendon; Preston (High Street) and Ringwood.
 4. any major new project, or activity aligned with the Victorian Government's strategic plans and the Housing Statement, as directed and approved by me or my delegate during the financial year. On receipt of my Direction the VPA is to add any new project to its list of current projects on its website.
4. In addition, the Authority's delivery against its priority program areas, the key areas of focus are:
- a. **Accountability and Transparency**

The Authority's annual business plan and annual report are important documents, recognised in legislation and by the community. They are essential components of a focused narrative to inform community and stakeholders of government's agenda and planning for housing supply to meet the needs of a growing population. I expect framing of a clear and focused narrative in the annual business plan to articulate key priorities and deliverables and clear progress reporting aligned with the reporting framework included in section 7 of this Direction, and any additional specified reporting as may be required to acquit delivery of Housing Statement initiatives.

b. **Financial Sustainability and Demonstrating Outcomes**

The Authority will maintain strong governance, risk and financial management functions to ensure that programs and projects are appropriately delivered. The Authority should focus on:

- delivering the work program set out in its annual business plan on time and on budget.
- fulfilling its delivery and reporting obligations in relation to program and project funding and any grant funding that may be allocated to the VPA.

Any proposed departure from the approved annual business plan, including the inclusion of new activities, programs or projects will require my approval or that of my delegate. Also, I expect to be advised of any anticipated significant variations to delivery outcomes or timeframes promptly at each review period.

c. **Implementing government policy**

In reference to its legislated role the Authority will work with DTP, local councils, and other Government departments and agencies to deliver spatial strategic planning services and advice in line with Victorian Government policy and strategic plans, in particular the Housing Statement, and a new plan for Victoria. The Authority's contribution will be integral to the achievement of Government's target of 800,000 new homes in Victoria

Giving effect to these priorities

5. The Authority will prepare an annual business plan, pursuant to Section 44 of the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017*, that sets out a detailed work program to give effect to the priorities outlined in this Direction.
6. The Authority will develop rolling program proposals for future work in the areas identified in the annual business plan.
7. In addition to the requirements of section 44(1)(a-d) of the Act, the Authority will implement the following reporting framework to monitor, report and measure outputs and outcomes of the work program, provide transparency and accountability and meet with whole of government

governance standards. These requirements represent the minimum expected against statutory and initiative reporting requirements and may be amended or refined during the period covered by the Direction.

Report/Initiative	Key elements for reporting	Timing
<i>Annual Business Plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main business undertakings and activities. • Rolling work program proposals. • Outputs and performance indicators that are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely. • Major business risks (external and internal) that may affect the agency objectives. • Strategies for the management of those risks. 	Draft submitted by 31 May 2024.
<i>Annual Report</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress against strategic outcomes. • Progress against priority projects and programs. • Milestone status. 	Annually, in line with DTP advice.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Other funded programs</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status update • Key program risks • Mitigation strategy 	Monthly, in line with DTP advice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BP3 program</i> • <i>Work program delivery</i> 	Progress against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project and program milestone status. • Expenditure to date. • Variances to planned progress. • Risks to offtrack programs/ projects and mitigation measures proposed. 	Within 10 working days of the Authority's board approving the review of projects and budget, aligned with these review dates 31 March, 30 June, and 31 December.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Housing Statement Initiatives</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed project plan for each of the 21 priority projects with delivery milestones • Dashboard reporting on achievement of milestones • Exceptions report on any outlying matters 	Project plans by December 2024 Reporting in line with project plan timeframe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activity Centres</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to negotiation with DTP 	Subject to negotiation with DTP

8. On my approval of the annual business plan, the Authority will be conferred such statutory authorisations as may be required to empower its delivery of the range of activities within its work program. Authorisations will fall into one of the following roles, dependent upon the project and activity undertaken, unless otherwise stated:

ROLE	DESCRIPTION
PLANNING AUTHORITY	Where the Victorian Planning Authority is the appointed <i>Planning Authority</i> with the mandate to lead the project and deliver outcomes (including recommending a Planning Scheme amendment to the Minister) in partnership with the relevant local council(s) and government agencies.
PROVIDER	Where the local council or the Minister for Planning is the <i>Planning Authority</i> and the Victorian Planning Authority has the lead role to prepare a plan or other report, working in partnership with the relevant local council(s) and government agencies, which the Victorian Planning Authority then submits to the <i>Planning Authority</i> for progress through the statutory process.
ADVISOR	Provide advice, finance and technical advice and support in relation to a plan being prepared by a local council or government agency. The Victorian Planning Authority advises and influences but does not determine the content.
FACILITATOR	Victorian Planning Authority assists a local council or government agency with their work, providing a grant or general advice about how planning policies need to be considered. May involve participation in a steering committee or project group.

9. To maximise the Authority's impact in delivering on the Government's objectives, I expect that the majority of the Authority's work will be undertaken in the roles either as 'planning authority' or as 'provider' to a Minister or Government entity.
10. Notwithstanding, the requirement to submit an annual work program I have authorised the Authority to be the Planning Authority to prepare amendments pursuant to section 9 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* within growth areas and in other designated areas.
11. I have also authorised the Authority to be planning authority to prepare amendments in relation to projects areas so designated. The projects/ areas to which this authorisation applies is specified within the annual work program. This authorisation only operates in respect of amendments that implement a PSP, an Infrastructure Contributions Plan or a Development Contributions Plan, and in preparing the amendment the Authority must consult with:
- the Minister for Planning
 - the relevant local council
 - DTP
 - any other public sector body if the amendment is likely to significantly affect the functions of the public sector body.
12. I issued Ministerial Direction No. 18 (Victorian Planning Authority Advice on Planning Scheme Amendments) on 28 January 2018 to provide greater certainty about the Authority's role when it is not the planning authority but is providing advice and/or preparing documentation for local councils. This Direction is a strong reflection of the Authority's status as the Victorian Government's strategic spatial planning agency, and of the Authority's commitment to working with local councils across the state to drive spatial planning solutions.

13. I have approved the Authority to provide advice and assistance to local councils and public sector bodies under section 8(3) of the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017*.
14. I also approve, under section 33(1) and 33(5) of the *Victorian Planning Authority Act 2017*, that the Authority may request certain information from local councils and other authorities by written notice in relation to all projects designated within the Authority's annual business plan.
15. I have authorised the Authority to continue to act as the responsible authority, until such time as this is withdrawn in respect of:
 - Collection of section 173 funds in specified situations for land within the Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area



HON SONYA KILKENNY MP

Minister for Planning

Date: 25/11/2023