

Plan Melbourne

May 2014

1. Background

Plan Melbourne is the Naphthine Government's overarching planning document and sets out the government's aspirations for how the growth of Melbourne and Victoria will be managed over the coming decades.

Health and community development feature strongly in the document, mainly from a long-term planning perspective. The government is supporting the continued development of 'National Employment Clusters', many of which feature co-located health and education precincts.

Other health-related planning changes are included in the document, including a prominent role for local governments' Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans, and a relaxation of regulations currently governing not-for-profit agencies and their development.

The strategy can be accessed in full [here](#).

2. Sub-regions of Local Government

Plan Melbourne establishes five metropolitan sub-regional planning groups of local governments that will work with the Metropolitan Planning Authority to collectively plan for jobs, housing and investment in infrastructure and services.

The Metropolitan Planning Authority will chair the sub-regional planning groups, which will comprise local government CEOs and senior officers of the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.

The new sub-regions are aligned to the current Regional Management Forum regions, but aim to focus on particular planning and infrastructure delivery needs.

There is a roughly accurate alignment with the Department of Health's metropolitan regions, with the North and West Metropolitan Region (DH) being split into two, and area included on the northern borders of each planning sub-region. See attached maps for details.

3. Employment clusters and health & education precincts

3.1. National Employment Clusters

National employment clusters (NECs) are designated geographic concentrations of interconnected businesses and institutions that make or will make a recognised contribution to Melbourne's economic growth and performance.

Each NEC is anchored by a specialised activity (e.g. a university, research facility, medical facility or manufacturing enterprise) that has 'seeded' its growth, but which over time will develop a unique profile and build on its competitive strengths.

In some cases, NECs have the potential to broaden their range of uses by virtue of being an attractive location for business to invest in. In other cases (e.g. Dandenong South), the focus will be on enhancing manufacturing productivity. Other NECs (e.g. Monash and Parkville) are firmly established and have potential to further grow and diversify.

There are six NECs:

- The **existing Monash cluster**
 - Includes Monash University, CSIRO, the Australian Synchrotron, Monash Medical Centre and hospitals, other research-based activities and manufacturing. Currently provides approximately 58,500 jobs.
- The **existing Parkville cluster**
 - Includes the Parkville bioscience and healthcare area, the University of Melbourne, RMIT University and other research institutions. The cluster has established strengths in education, research and healthcare, and significant parkland. Currently provides approximately 32,700 jobs.
- The **existing Dandenong South cluster**
 - Includes advanced manufacturing, health and education enterprises, is linked to Chisholm TAFE and Dandenong Hospital. Currently provides approximately 55,000 jobs.
- The **emerging East Werribee cluster**
 - Includes the University of Melbourne Veterinary Science School, Victoria University, and a range of health facilities including Werribee Mercy Hospital.
- The **emerging Sunshine cluster**
 - Includes the Sunshine Metropolitan Activity Centre, Victoria University (Sunshine and St Albans campuses), Sunshine Health Precinct and Western Centre for Health Research and Education.
- The **emerging La Trobe cluster**
 - Includes La Trobe University, Austin Biomedical Alliance Precinct and other health and medical facilities, as well as activity centres at Northland and Heidelberg

The strategies used to develop each of NEC will vary according to the existing strengths, profiles and timing of development in relation to community need. See attached maps for details.

3.2. Metropolitan Activity Centres

Metropolitan Activity Centres (MACs) sit within designated sub-regional catchments and play a strategically important role by providing the community with access to a range of retail, community, government, entertainment, cultural and transport services.

The designated MACs are located on public transport hubs and will continue to attract a broad range of investment in education, health and other services.

Designated MACs include (those with existing and future health focus are extrapolated upon):

- **Broadmeadows**
- **Epping**
 - Northern Hospital (Northern Health), North Melbourne Institute of Technology, City of Whittlesea offices
- **Lockerbie (future)**
- **Sunshine**
 - Sunshine Hospital (Western Health), Victoria University
- **Toolern (future)**

- **Footscray**
 - Victoria University, Maribyrnong City Council offices, Western Hospital
- **Box Hill**
 - Box Hill Institute, Box Hill Hospital (Eastern Health) and Epworth Hospital
- **Ringwood**
- **Dandenong**
 - Dandenong Hospital, City of Greater Dandenong offices
- **Frankston**
 - Monash University, Chisholm TAFE, Frankston Hospital
- **Fountain Gate/Narre Warren**
 - Casey Hospital, City of Casey offices

3.3. Health and Education Precincts

Background

Health and education precincts offer improved access to health and/ or education, and improved employment opportunities within these fields. Precincts may have a role in anchoring further development in NECs, particularly in growth areas where activity centres will be a priority location for these facilities.

A focus for the development of health precincts is facilitating the co-location of general practice and a range of private, public and not-for-profit medical and community-based services. Precincts will be located close to public transport and other existing community and private infrastructure.

Locations

Health precincts are designated in the six NECs at Parkville, Monash, Dandenong South, La Trobe, East Werribee and Sunshine. Other existing health precincts include Alfred Medical Research and Education Precinct (Pahran), Monash University and Casey Hospital (Berwick), Epworth Richmond, Knox Private Hospital, Craigieburn Health Service, Melton Health and Western Hospital Footscray.

Other health precincts will be designated around existing and future facilities (public or private) in metropolitan Melbourne and larger regional centres.

Policy Action

Existing *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines* will be amended to include planning for health precincts located in, or close to, town centres in new growth-area suburbs. This will be accompanied by the identification of other opportunities to develop precincts in existing suburbs as part of future urban-renewal processes.

The State Planning Policy Framework will be updated to reflect a strengthened policy approach to planning health and education precincts, including within the new policy on urban renewal and growth areas.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure will partner with government agencies and the private sector to identify potential locations and impediments to the development of health and education precincts.

Planning provisions will be prepared and implemented to support the establishment of health services and the clustering of public, private and not-for-profit health services, including possible streamlined planning processes within health precincts.



A greater streamlining of decision making on applications for major private hospitals and health providers in identified health precincts.

Precinct structure plans will be prepared for priority health and education precincts for greater future private and public investment in health, education and related services.

4. Other health-related planning provisions

4.1. Planning impediments for not-for-profit community services

The document recognises the benefits of the not-for-profit sector and aims to aide in their ongoing development. It acknowledges that the NFP sector is constrained by a lack of available space in both established and emerging suburbs, by building costs and also by planning impediments.

There will be a review of the *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines* by the Metropolitan Planning Authority to consider various options for creating space for NFP organisations in activity centres, and shared space in community centres. Accompanying this review, the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure will provide guidance and update the planning provisions, where appropriate, to support NFP activities.

4.2. Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning

Currently local governments are required to develop council plans, Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans (MPHWPs) and municipal strategic statements (MSS). The local government's MPHWP, prepared every four years, must:

- Be consistent with its council plan and the land-use plan required by its MSS
- Have regard to the current Victorian public health and wellbeing plan
- Be reviewed annually.

Currently MPHWP's must show how they align with a MSS, however there is no requirement for a MSS to align with MPHWP's.

The Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure will investigate which mechanisms can be used to give MPHWP's more prominence within council planning processes.

5. VHA Positions

VHA submissions to Plan Melbourne advocated strongly for the formation of health precincts, and to ensure a health focus was integrated within local planning frameworks. These measures are the centerpieces of the health elements of Plan Melbourne and are largely in-line with our suggestions.

As expected, the measures included do not represent any firm investments into health; however the location of the emerging NECs may provide an indication of future health investment. La Trobe (Bundoora), Werribee and Sunshine are the three NECs with the least existing health and education infrastructure, and the assumption that they would be the sites of future health investment is a fair one to make