Regional Management Forum
A Local Government Perspective

Integrated Planning for Community Health and Wellbeing

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Contents

A Local Government perspective on:

- Overview of The Regional Management Forum
- Planning for Growth
- Integrated planning - how can we work together?
Regional Management Forum

- Established 2005 as a response to “A Fairer Victoria”
- Partnership between State Government and Councils

Objective of the Regional Management Forum (RMF)

- Identify critical social, economic and environmental issues
- Consider strategic priorities for the region
- Encourage cooperation between state government departments & local government
- Work with statutory authorities, businesses and local communities and agencies to set and deliver key priorities
Regional Management Forum

- Key priority areas for the North West Region RMF
  - Affordable living and secure housing tenure
  - Access to public transport and healthy walkable communities
  - Local employment - particularly for young people
  - Access to lifelong learning education for residents

- Why these priorities?
  - They are the social determinants of a healthy community and City
Regional Management Forum

- Challenges
  - Making a difference

- Outcomes of RMF to date
  - Forums, access and information sharing
  - Much unrealised potential – champions of integrated approach and partnerships
Planning for Growth

How can we ensure healthy communities?
Interface Councils
Interface Councils – Some Facts

- 10 Interface Councils
- In north west region: Hume, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Melton, and Nillumbik
- Interface is home to a quarter of Melbourne's population and contains 4 of the fastest growing Councils in Victoria (in the north west region: Hume, Whittlesea, Melton and Wyndham)
- Between 2011-2016 there will be an increase of 250,000 people across the Interface
- Residents at the interface do not have access to the same services as metropolitan councils
Social-economic Issues at the Interface

- ‘One Melbourne or Two’
- Higher levels of social economic disadvantage
- Lower average incomes
- Lower educational outcomes
- Poorer health outcomes e.g. obesity, diabetes, smoking rates
- Higher levels of youth disengagement with regard to higher education and workforce participation
Social-economic Issues at the Interface

- Lower local employment opportunities
- Access to fewer numbers of professional jobs
- Higher unemployment rates
- Lower numbers of higher order services such as hospitals, TAFEs, and courts
- Relatively low numbers of arts and cultural services such as libraries, and arts centres
- Poor public transport options resulting in a heavy reliance on private vehicle-based travel
- Social outcomes e.g. family violence, gambling etc.
How do we Address the Emerging Divide?

- Local government(s) cannot do it alone
- Increase budgetary response from both State and Federal Governments to address developing inequities between regional and metropolitan areas
- Provision of local employment, community services and public transport
- Providing relevant physical and social infrastructure
- Providing higher order services, including hospitals, schools etc.
- Early intervention & prevention service and programs

What is the role of the RMF and this planning forum in responding to the divide?
Role of Local Government in Population Health Planning

- All LGs required to develop a 4 year Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in 2013

- Planning cycle will fall in line with Council Plans (required after each Council election)

- The Council must examine local data on health and social determinants

- Extensive community and key stakeholder consultation required

- Opportunities to link in with key stakeholder priorities and align planning.
The City of Whittlesea

- Area - 490 sq kms
- Current Population - 173,000
- 2010/11 growth - 167 residents/week (net)
- 2011-16 anticipated growth - 37,000 people
- 2010 - approx. 5,550 new lots released
- 2009/10 - 3,800 building permits
- Last 4 years - 10,500 building permits
- Second largest growing LGA in Australia
- South Morang fastest growing suburb in Australia
- Expected growth - 295,000 persons by 2031, with 90,000 persons within new UGB area
Whittlesea Approach to Planning for Growth

- Promote a sense of community and place via creation of neighbourhoods as the fundamental building block

- At a local level:
  - Integrated physical and social planning
  - Social Infrastructure Planning tool
  - Partnerships
Whittlesea Approach to Planning for Growth

- Joint responsibility of all levels of Government to define appropriate directions and to provide certainty in tangible ways
- LG has varying capacity to define appropriate directions and to provide certainty but does not have the capacity to deal with the broader issues in isolation and an integrated approach is required
- Growth areas must be viewed within a broader metropolitan context
- Urban planning and design can create behaviour
- Growth areas can no longer be viewed as single purpose housing destinations
How We Can Work Together?

- Have an open mind
- Collect information from all sectors involved and see the product
- Overlay and appreciate social, political and cultural settings
- Small ideas can lead to big transformational change
Potential Role of the RMF

- Potential role of RMF
- A case study
Reformed Zones for Victoria

Proposed by the Minister for Planning and the Department of Planning and Community Development

REFORMED ZONES FOR VICTORIA
A DISCUSSION PAPER ON REFORMING VICTORIA'S PLANNING ZONES

JULY 2012
## Commercial Zones – proposed changes

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<th>Zone</th>
<th>Changes</th>
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| Commercial 1 Zone  | • Combines existing B1Z, B2Z and B5Z  
                      • No schedule  
                      • Removes permit requirements for most accommodation, shops, food and drinks premises, offices, retail, child care centre, betting agency, cinema, education centre and trade supplies  
                      • Allows for hotel, restaurant and tavern (retail premises)/ bottle shop as of right  
                      • Timber yard changed from prohibited use in B2Z to ‘as of right’ (under retail premises) |
| Commercial 2 Zone  | • Combines existing B3Z and B4Z  
                      • No schedule  
                      • Removes many permit requirements, although not as many as C1Z  
                      • Removes maximum floor area restriction for an office  
                      • Makes Accommodation a permit required use (dwellings prohibited).  
                      • Exempts small scale supermarkets (2000sqm) and associated shops (total 500sqm) from a permit requirement. Larger supermarkets and stand alone shops require a permit.  
                      • Buffer distances between Industry and Warehouse to sensitive use zones (e.g. residential zone) removed. |
Conclusion

“RMF is a perfect vehicle in concept it is only in second gear at the moment, it can be truly inspiring, in fact it has the capacity to go into overdrive and be great”

Quote from a member of the NW Region RMF