



Victorian Young Planners Committee
Planning Institute of Australia (Victoria Division)



Smart Planning Review
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne
Victoria 3002

By Online Submission

Dear Sir/Madam

Victorian Young Planners: Response to Reforming the Victorian Planning Provisions – A Discussion Paper

The Victorian Young Planners Committee is pleased to make this submission on the Reforming the Victorian Planning Provisions Discussion Paper and we value the opportunity to provide our feedback on the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's (DELWP) Smart Planning Program. Given the growing pressures on housing and development in Victoria and the increasing need for good urban planning, we see the program as a highly timely and important project.

The Victorian Young Planners (VYP) is the local group for Young Planners supported by the Victorian Division of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA). Membership to the VYP is open to students and professionals with up to five years of professional experience within the planning and urban design fields. The VYP is supported by an elected committee of members engaged in both the public and private sectors of planning.

We are excited about the Smart Planning project and see it as a great opportunity to establish planning controls that are both logical and user friendly for planners and community alike. We welcome opportunities to make the planning system clearer, more efficient and more accessible

and see the Smart Planning program as an opportunity to re-establish transparency and trust in the planning system and processes.

We agree that the growth in complexity of planning schemes not only affects their efficiency and effectiveness and act as a barrier to long-term change. This submission includes feedback from a consultation session with our members. The session was attended a mix of young professionals working in local government, private sector and state government.

A clear theme in our discussions with our members was that the success of the Smart Planning program should not be measured by the efficiency of processes, but the development and planning outcomes it produces for communities. High quality planning outcomes that address place specific qualities and decisions that are highly transparent and provide certainty should be paramount in the evaluation and success of the program.

Our consultation also strongly focussed on the need to include local government involvement in the creation and formation of any new policies. An understanding of the day to day implementation of any new controls and systems proposed as part of Smart Planning should go beyond the headline level and be both functional and effective for use by frontline planners at local council.

Smart Planning presents an exciting opportunity for DELWP to update the digital user face and capabilities of the Planning Scheme and relevant Victorian Government policy documents. The Engage Victoria hub demonstrates that the Victorian Government does have capability to create a functional and attractive digital product.

The VYP are pleased to see that DELWP is committed to improving the Planning Maps Online interface, establishing a public Victorian Planning Library and creating a 'click through' experience. These new tools will make life easier for frontline planners and the community.

The VYP is generally in support of code based assessment where appropriate but is concerned that as there are no draft provisions to review and therefore cannot accurately comment on the proposal. There is a risk that the type of reform posed will increase the planning scheme bloat and make the system more complex. There is also a risk that the new provisions will not capture many proposals as the requirements to use them will be too hard to meet.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comments on the Reforming the Victorian Planning Provisions Discussion Paper. [REDACTED]

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