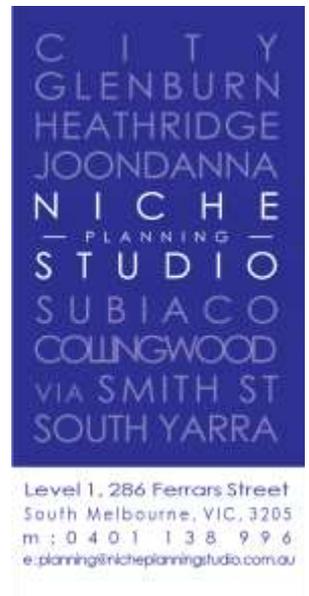


1 December 2016

Submitted online at:

<https://engage.vic.gov.au/reform-victoria-planning-provisions>



## SMART PLANNING: REFORMING THE VICTORIA PLANNING PROVISIONS SUBMISSION | NICHE PLANNING STUDIO

Niche Planning Studio congratulates the efforts of the Victorian Government on their Smart Planning program. We support the State Government's recommendations for the simplification and improvement of the planning system, and are pleased to have the opportunity to provide a submission thereon.

Our Director, Nicola Smith, was a member of the State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) Review Advisory Committee (the committee). In 2013-2014, the committee were tasked with reviewing the SPPF and providing recommendations for its improvement.

Consequently, the Advisory Committee Report, published on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2014 recommended, amongst other things, the integration of local and state policies. It proposed to change the structure of the former State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF) and Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) into thematically grouped policies.

Niche's views of the current discussion paper 'Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions', released for submissions in October 2017, are reflective of the comments outlined within the Advisory Committee Report released in 2014. We are pleased that a portion of the discussion paper reflects those changes recommended within the advisory report in 2014.

Niche is supportive of the need to simplify and improve the current operation of the planning system, in order to make it more responsive and efficient. We believe, this will allow for an integrated PPF which is more navigable, thereby strengthening its capacity to be more user-friendly. Currently, the structure of the SPPF lacks a logical framework, with no readily apparent basis for the ordering of specific policies. Further, it is important that the proposed changes allow for the reformed planning schemes to become more tailored towards each municipality.

Niche sees merit in re-establishing the policy framework as a structure that facilitates usability amongst a variety of end-users, including both planning professionals and the wider public and community. It is imperative to prioritise and progress those proposed reforms which will benefit the end-user and better land use and development outcomes, such as the digitalization of the planning schemes and the online planning library tool, thereby ensuring that a smooth transition is achieved.

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