24 November 2017

Hon Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning
Level 20, 1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Minister

SUBMISSION TO REFORMING THE VICTORIA PLANNING PROVISIONS – A DISCUSSION PAPER (OCTOBER 2017)

The City of Whittlesea welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions – A discussion paper (October 2017).

The objective of reviewing the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP) to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system is supported. The aims of the Smart Planning Program in modernising the planning system and ensuring the principles of planning schemes maintain a policy focus, facilitate appropriate development, are easy to use and are generally consistent across the State is commendable.

The recent Victoria Auditor General Office (VAGO) report on Managing Victoria’s Planning System for Land Use and Development concluded that planning schemes are overly complex, difficult to use and apply to meet the intent of state planning objectives.

The proposed changes in the Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions – A discussion paper (October 2017) attempt to address these issues by identifying improvements to the planning system. Metropolitan Melbourne, including the City of Whittlesea has experienced exponential population growth since the introduction of the New Format Planning Schemes in 1997. Successive governments have attempted to manage this growth through the planning system but without a systematic review, planning schemes have suffered. Overall many of the proposed changes are supported in principle but further testing, consultation and a legal review where appropriate, is recommended.
Please find attached our submission to the *Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions — A discussion paper* (October 2017), we are available to take part in further discussions and look forward to working with the State Government on implementing the reforms to the Victoria Planning Provisions.