

## What's New

### Rural Zones – Planning for Rural Land Use and Development in a Changing Climate

The MAV Rural Zones Planning project is drawing to a close. It has identified a range of issues relating to rural land use and development affecting councils and land holders across Victoria. A series of council workshops are planned to discuss project outcomes, future MAV direction and activities, and a facilitated session for representatives to raise issues of concern to their municipalities. All interested councillors and officers are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP with the name of your council representatives and the session you wish to attend to [rsvp@mav.asn.au](mailto:rsvp@mav.asn.au). Full details are available at [www.mav.asn.au/eventscalendar](http://www.mav.asn.au/eventscalendar). Contact Amy McDonald, 9667 5589, [amcdonald@mav.asn.au](mailto:amcdonald@mav.asn.au).

### Moving Forward 2008-2010

The Premier announced the State Government will expand initiatives for rural and regional Victoria as part of the *Moving Forward: Update – The Next Two Years*. Key initiatives for local government are \$15.9 million for long-term and sub-regional plans, support for Precinct Structure Plans in regional growth areas supported by an additional 15 planners and an additional \$5 million for the Small Town Development Fund – with a new funding ratio of 3:1. A new Ministerial Taskforce, led by Jacinta Allen, and including Minister Madden will report to the Premier and coordinate the preparation of plans for the future development of regional Victoria and provide a cohesive framework for delivering priorities. For a copy of the Moving Forward, [click here](#).

Many of these initiatives target the key challenges facing local government such as skills shortages, infrastructure development, drought and climate change. The MAV strongly supports the \$50,000 investment in a planning internship program for indigenous students. This program will assist councils implement the Aboriginal Heritage legislation that came into effect 12 months ago.

### Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 Review

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) within DPCD has announced the review of the *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007* that support the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Submissions close at 5pm on 27 June to [aboriginal.heritage@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:aboriginal.heritage@dpcd.vic.gov.au). The MAV has forwarded the terms of reference for the review to councils and is seeking comments, and will circulate a draft submission in mid-June. Contact Kirsty Morieson, 9667 5586, [kmorieson@mav.asn.au](mailto:kmorieson@mav.asn.au)

### Support for Councils in Planning For Change

As part of the Moving Forward program, assistance is available for councils in drought affected areas to engage with business and community groups to identify longer-term consequences of sustained drought and better position them in developing and delivering solutions to local economic sustainability challenges.

Grants of up to \$100,000, on a dollar-for-dollar basis are available for:

- Hosting regional workshops around planning for change and sustainable economic development;
- Engaging research or technical expertise to identify new land use and economic development opportunities; and
- Investigating the socio-economic impacts and opportunities associated with changing climate.

Assistance with applications is available from RDV. For copies of the guidelines, [click here](#) or contact Victorian Business Line on 13 22 15.

## Diary Dates

Tuesday 17 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M2030 – informal discussion – issues and response</li> <li>• Briefing by Auditor-General's Office on Planning Performance Audit</li> </ul>
20 June Traralgon	Rural Zones Workshop
23 June Swan Hill	Rural Zones Workshop
24 June Ballarat	Rural Zones Workshop
25 June	M2030 Reference Group and Launch of Good Design and Local Government
27 June	Planning Advisory Group
30 June Benalla	Rural Zones Workshop
13 August	ESD Advocacy Group

**For further information about matters raised in this bulletin, or to contribute to the Planning Bulletin, contact**

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## NEWS (Cont'd)

### Urban Growth Zone

VC48 has applied the Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) to rural zoned land in Melbourne's designated growth areas inside the Urban Growth Boundary (Casey, Cardinia, Hume, Melton and Wyndham Planning Schemes). It is envisaged that the UGZ will also be useful for future urban areas in regional cities and towns. The Planning Minister has also announced \$9 million for:

- \$5.5 million over four years for master-planning of 37 new communities and an expanded role for the Growth Areas Authority (GAA) in Precinct Structure Planning;
- \$3.5 million over two years for mapping of native vegetation sites across the growth areas; and
- A dedicated specialist planning team at the GAA to work with councils to complete master-plans and reduce the lag time in housing and infrastructure.

The zone will streamline approvals processes and establishes the GAA as a referral authority. Importantly, draft guidelines for Precinct Structure Plans will soon be released for consultation to address issues including density and housing choice, access to jobs and transport links. For more details on UGZ, [click here](#), new Minister's Direction No. 12 – Urban Growth Areas, [click here](#) and VPP Practice Note, [click here](#).

### Melbourne 2030 Audit

The MAV met with DPCD representatives regarding *Planning for all of Melbourne* to commence discussion about how the various proposals may work. At that meeting, the MAV was advised that Clare McArdle has been appointed for an interim period to establish the Melbourne 2030 unit within DPCD. This unit provides coordination of the range of Melbourne 2030 implementation initiatives and will also support the planning sub-committee of cabinet. A Members Brief has been circulated to councils on the Audit Expert Group's (AEG) findings, recommendations and the Government response. Key implications for councils relate to:

- New Activity Centre Zone and boundaries;
- Development Assessment Committees (DAC);
- Housing growth requirements; and
- Joint infrastructure plans.

The DACs will take over approval processes for 26 Principal Activity Centres. A spokesperson for the Premier indicated *"it is anticipated there will be a roster of planning specialists from which the committee chairs will be chosen; and that any disagreement over who should be selected for the role of chairperson is to be resolved by the MAV"*. Provisions to establish DACs will be introduced in the Spring session. On 29 May, Minister Madden said in Parliament that *"I welcome Mr Davis; question, but initially I want to correct his premise about stripping council powers. Let us make this perfectly clear: I am not a Maclellanesque planning minister, for a start. I am not a Kennettesque planning minister, so I do not*

*strip powers and I do not strip authority from local government. Let me make this perfectly clear: we are working in partnership with local government to make sure that we can improve housing affordability and accessibility."*

The Government response places more responsibility for implementation with the State and in partnership with councils, and emphasises the need for improved community engagement, with the MAV and councils. View the Government's Response, Fact Sheets and the Audit Expert Group's Report [here](#). Contact Liz Johnstone, 9667 5585, [ljohnstone@mav.asn.au](mailto:ljohnstone@mav.asn.au)

### VAGO – Planning Performance Audit

The MAV has arranged a briefing for councils on the recent Performance Audit into Planning. The Auditor-General released his report on Victoria's Planning Framework for Land Use and Development on 7 May, concluding that the Victorian planning system is generally sound. It acknowledged improvements made to the planning system and recommends steps for an agreed framework for performance management, training and greater regulation of aspects of the planning permit and planning scheme amendment processes. The report examined whether key elements of planning schemes assist decision making by councils, and the adequacy of arrangements in place within DPCD for measuring and reporting on the performance of the State's planning framework. It also examined councils' management of planning processes, their extent of compliance with the Act and their own planning schemes, and the adequacy of local quality assurance arrangements for ensuring compliance. The report can be found [here](#).

### Development Assessment Forum is 10

The Development Assessment Forum (DAF) was formed in 1998 to promote best practice, recommend ways to streamline development assessment and cut red tape without sacrificing quality of decision making. The Forum's members include Commonwealth, State/Territory and local government; the development industry; and related professional associations. Planning expert panels were a controversial aspect of the Leading Practice Model and were introduced in South Australia last year, and legislation has been introduced into NSW which introduces panels with no guarantee of local representation. So there has been a national swing to panels with different responses in each state. DAF is meeting in Adelaide this week – where it first met – to consider its future relevance and activities. For further information, [click here](#).

### VCEC

The Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission has released its draft report "A State of Liveability: An Inquiry into Enhancing Victoria's Liveability". The draft report is intended to encourage further consultation with stakeholders and is calling for additional information. For further information, [click here](#).

### Creating Better Places

The final round of Creating Better Places (CBP) will close on 18 July. It has funded 68 projects across four categories since 2005-06. The focus of Round Four will be to clearly demonstrate the outcomes of the program and priorities are:

- Physical works - capital projects;
- Bridging projects - design for capital works;
- Place managers; and
- Other strategic projects.

A forum was held on 6 June for councils. For further information, [click here](#).

### Herald Sun Careers Expo 20 - 22 June

The MAV, PIA and DPCD with Victorian Universities teaching planning will operate a stand at the "Herald Sun Careers Expo" from Friday 20 - Sunday 22 June at the Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre. This is an initiative supported by the Minister for Planning to help address the skills shortage in the profession. PIA is coordinating volunteers to assist at the stand for 2 - 3 hours. Planners create and design spaces and places for the benefit of the community to ensure economic growth, sustainability, social equity and community living. If you know of anyone interested in a career in planning, please direct them to the Planning Careers stand at the expo. For more information, email [Judit.Mioldazys@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:Judit.Mioldazys@dpcd.vic.gov.au). To volunteer, contact Stephanie Mack, 9347 1900, [smack@planning.org.au](mailto:smack@planning.org.au).

### Housing – fast and affordable

#### Retailer unboxes DIY flat-pack homes

Britain's Argos chain is the first major retailer to market an affordable flat-pack house that can be built in two days by only two persons. To find out more, [click here](#).



#### Free Plans for Eco Homes

Working on the belief that green design should be available to all, FreeGreen is a new site that offers free, downloadable building plans for eco-friendlier houses. To read more, [click here](#).



### Waste Transfer and Recycling Facility Provisions Issues Paper

The Minister for Planning has appointed an advisory committee to review the waste transfer and recycling facility provisions in planning schemes. An Issues Paper will be available for comment shortly.

### Select Committee on Gaming Licensing Final Report

The Select Committee inquired into a range of issues arising from the lotteries licensing process then under-

way - proposals for electronic gaming machine operations in Victoria after 2012; measures to address the issue of gambling-related harm and overall operation of the Community Support Fund. For a copy of the report, [click here](#).

### Feedback Wanted

#### Eddington Transport Review

Sir Rod Eddington has undertaken a comprehensive study into improving east-west transport connections across Melbourne – the East West Link Needs Assessment (EWLNA). The Victorian Government is now considering the EWLNA report and is seeking comment. The draft MAV submission has been sent to councils for comment. For a copy of the Eddington report, [click here](#). Contact Skye Holcombe, 9667 5533, [sholcombe@mav.asn.au](mailto:sholcombe@mav.asn.au)

#### 2008 Environment Surveys

A reminder that the 2008 Local Government Environment Survey and the new Councillor Environment Survey, distributed on 19 May are now due. Findings will provide the MAV with vital information to undertake advocacy work on behalf of local government and to raise its profile in environmental management. Previous reports from the 2006 and 2002 surveys are available at [www.mav.asn.au/enviroment](http://www.mav.asn.au/enviroment). Contact Naree Atkinson, 9667 5514, [natkinson@mav.asn.au](mailto:natkinson@mav.asn.au)

#### Climate Change Discussion Paper

The MAV is currently working on its submission to the State Government Climate Change Summit Discussion Paper, which will close on 4 July. To provide feedback for inclusion, contact Pablo Brait, 9667 5529, [pbrait@mav.asn.au](mailto:pbrait@mav.asn.au). For a copy of the Discussion Paper, [click here](#).

#### E-Planning Surveys

Over 50 councils completed this survey. To finalise the report, a response must be received from every council. The MAV will be calling councils to assist them in completing the survey. Contact Liz Johnstone, 9667 5585, [ljohnstone@mav.asn.au](mailto:ljohnstone@mav.asn.au)

## IN THE NEWS

### LOCAL

#### Future Melbourne

Future Melbourne is a strategic vision for the future of the city and will affect everybody who lives, works, or visits Melbourne. Through public forums, submissions and online discussions, it now has a draft plan. The Future Melbourne wiki is an interactive website where visitors can comment, discuss and even directly edit the content of the plan. To be involved, [click here](#). Submissions close on 14 June.

### LOCAL

#### Maribyrnong Peak Oil Policy

Maribyrnong City Council has adopted a policy to address future oil supply constraints to protect council operations from the impacts of rising oil prices after worldwide oil production reaches its peak and oil supplies begin to decline. The plan has targets to reduce its dependence on oil-based products by 3% annually and to halve its overall oil consumption by 2025. The oil-based products included in the council's 3% annual oil use reduction target are petrol, diesel, LPG, natural gas and non-recycled asphalt. Actions have been developed under varying scenarios. Contact Gavin Mountjoy, 9688 0366, [gavin.mountjoy@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:gavin.mountjoy@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

#### Hume and Biodiesel

Hume City Council has converted about 20 vehicles, primarily in its garbage fleet, to run on biodiesel and plans to power all 64 of its diesel fleet vehicles with biodiesel by March 2009, hoping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 11% and cut airborne emissions by 30%. The biodiesel used contains oil derived from beef tallow, reducing the petrochemical component. The biodiesel conversion project was funded by the EPA through the Federal Government's National Environment Protection Measure Initiative. The initial test of the biodiesel use in 2006 showed the vehicles were quieter, better performing, produced lower emissions and used less fuel when compared to diesel usage. For more information, contact Hume City Council on 9205 2200.

#### Gippsland Creating Better Coastal Places and Spaces project

Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Wellington and East Gippsland Shire Councils have worked with DPCD and RDV to fund and introduce the planning provisions from the coastal Urban Design Frameworks for 34 settlements and landscape assessment projects into Planning Schemes. The project will also involve additional strategic planning work.

#### Casey Developer Contributions for Transport

Casey City Council is seeking financial contributions from developers to help finance the purchase of a community bus for use by residents in developing communities. The provision of a community bus is an item in its draft Development Contributions Plan for Cranbourne West to offset the upfront cost of about \$143,000. The State Government is currently reviewing bus services in Casey. Benefits of early provision of public transport services to growth areas is well known. The council plans to trial the community bus in Cranbourne West to provide residents with access to shops, parks, kindergartens, major bus stops and train stations. For more information contact Peter Fitchett on 9705 5200.

#### Regional Land Use Strategy

Greater Shepparton, Moira and Campaspe councils have developed a regional land use strategy to consistently apply similar planning principles across the three council areas. The shared objectives are to protect broad-acre farmland under planning legislation; encourage continued growth and investment opportunities in the agricultural sector; and facilitate the growth of existing farms in the municipalities. For more information, contact Colin Kalms on 5832 9730.

#### Boosting suburban farming

Australian Permablitz is a group that focuses on bringing sustainable gardens to the suburban neighbourhoods around Melbourne, using team effort to speed up the process. To read more, [click here](#).

#### Zero Net Emission Strategy

Melbourne City Council is updating the *Zero Net Emissions by 2020 – A roadmap to climate neutral city*. This update provides a range of strategies to deliver reduced emissions of 50 – 60% across the municipality. To view the draft strategy or provide comment, [click here](#).

#### Manningham Vegetation Report

Manningham City Council has been monitoring trends in the ecological condition of native vegetation across the municipality. It critically evaluates various methods for monitoring vegetation change and analyses baseline data from 40 plots distributed across the city. A major finding is the most popular method for measuring vegetation condition (Habitat Hectares) has shortcomings for monitoring trends (as opposed to one-off measurements) and some simplifications to that method can significantly improve its value. The report is available [here](#).

### GLOBAL

#### Price Tags

The third issue on Paris focuses on the design of Paris's great parks, public spaces and promenades. This four-century scan looks at how Paris has evolved in its use of public space, from passive to active, and how it's changing its modes of movement. For a copy, [click here](#).

#### Sustainable City

This is an article on car-oriented American lifestyles over the past 50 years and the urban sprawl it generates, which are no longer sustainable in the light of peak oil and global climate change and the need to reduce travel distances. To read more, [click here](#).

#### Walkability – In Melbourne

To see urban public spaces and street planning success stories from around the world, [click here](#).

### GLOBAL

#### Pearls-on-a-String in the UK

The 'sustainable urban extension' is an important solution to the problem of meeting the need for housing and related development. Both new settlements and urban extensions provide opportunities for concentrated rather than sprawling development and have played a major role in providing solutions to address housing shortages. They are a cluster of linked new settlements and provide a new and appropriate form of the new town model. Excellent public transport is essential to the operation of a networked cluster. Ref: Best Practice in Urban Extensions and New Settlements TCPA, March 2007

#### Eco-friendly Hotel

InterContinental Hotels Group is creating a hotel which it claims will be the world's first 100% ecologically-friendly hotel. The futuristic, solar-powered 'Innovation Hotel' uses the latest technology in energy and water conservation and recycling. The virtual property is currently featured on the website for guest feedback on its features. For further information, [click here](#).

### STATE

#### Victoria

##### Building Surveyor Internships

The Building Commission has received \$80,000 to fund 10 building surveying internships with five interns already started with Alpine, Moira, Glenelg, Golden Plains and Mildura councils. There is a shortage of building surveyors, especially in regional and rural Victoria, with some towns having to share the services of one surveyor. This funding allows for 10 internships over the next two years across different Victorian regional councils and the Building Commission is also contributing \$120,000.

##### From DPCD

- **Planning Applications Online**

The Planning Applications Online, will be piloted with six councils shortly. This initiative, part of the e-Planning roadmap, enables online preparation, lodgement, management and tracking of planning permit applications. For further information, [click here](#). DPCD is currently recruiting for an Implementation Manager to work with councils, planning consultants and referral agencies to deliver this exciting new system. To view the position description, [click here](#).

- **Interactive Mapping Services**

Over 2 million maps have now been generated through [Planning Maps Online](#) and 200,000 [Planning Property Reports](#).

### OTHER STATES

#### NSW

##### ICAC and Wollongong

The NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has recommended that Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, consider suspending development consent for a proposed \$100 million development that was granted by a former planner with Wollongong City Council, part of his report investigating alleged corruption affecting the council. The development has already been temporarily suspended by the NSW Land and Environment Court following action by Wollongong City Council. The ICAC report, tabled in the NSW Parliament, makes a finding of "serious corrupt conduct" against former Wollongong Council planner, Beth Morgan, and a developer, Frank Vellar. It says the Quattro development proposed by Sebvell Pty Ltd, a company controlled by Mr Vellar, is far larger than any existing or proposed comparable development in Wollongong. The recently-released second stage of the report is available [here](#).

##### NSW Planning Laws Pass Lower House

Over 320 country mayors, deputy mayors and councillors unanimously joined the call for an Upper House Inquiry into the State Government's planning laws, which have passed through the Lower House.

#### SA

##### Developer Contributions

Local government in South Australia is looking at best ways to implement developer levies to finance infrastructure works associated with development projects. Councils in South Australia do not have a formal regulated capacity to raise development contributions and are faced with major limitations in recovering the cost of head works associated with development. Councils have restricted powers to levy developers to provide car parking or areas of open space. A report prepared by Heynen Planning Consultants for the Local Government Association of South Australia recommended that some level of contributions could be applied by councils in the state. The report favoured two options:

- Differential/special rate applying to non-contiguous land (parcels of land that are not connected) to enable councils to collect funds for non-specific projects or infrastructure; or
- A framework allowing councils to negotiate and enforce agreements with owners/developers.

The association is assessing responses to the report and its recommendations. For a copy of the report, [click here](#).

## NATIONAL

### Your Development

The 'Your Development' website - a 'one-stop-shop' for councils, developers, planners, architects, surveyors and engineers to access information about sustainable urban developments. The website, being developed by the CSIRO's Sustainable Ecosystems division in partnership with the Australian Greenhouse Office, should be live in August. For more information, [click here](#).

### Community Coastcare

Community Coastcare is an element of the Federal Caring for our Country initiative, and will provide small grants up to \$50,000 and bigger grants of up to \$250,000 to organisations, including local government, for projects to protect and rehabilitate coastal and aquatic habitats. Applications close 25 July. See [www.nrm.gov.au](http://www.nrm.gov.au) for information and application forms.

## Information and Resources

### New & Revised Native Vegetation Data

DSE has completed native vegetation mapping across the state and is now focusing on updating and improving the quality of existing spatial and typology datasets. New and revised data sets available are:

- Native Vegetation Extent Model – the current extent of native vegetation across the state, categorised into 'woody' and 'grassy' native vegetation, and 'wetland habitat', with probability ratings;
- Native Vegetation Quality Model – A new vegetation quality spatial grid data set based on Habitat Hectares; and
- Other New or Revised Datasets – Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) mapping for active floodplains of major northern and north-eastern river systems, and mapping of treeless alpine vegetation to EVC level. A new map of current EVC extent is also available.

The Bioregional Conservation Status (BCS) of EVCs has been revised since mapping has been updated and should be used for all planning permits and offset plans submitted from 11 April 2008. For any enquiries regarding the datasets, please email the Native Vegetation Information Project Manager:

[EVC.Benchmark@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:EVC.Benchmark@dse.vic.gov.au) or for enquiries regarding access to the data, contact the Data Distribution Manager at [data.cgdl@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:data.cgdl@dse.vic.gov.au).

### More than 6-star

One of Britain's biggest builders, Barratt Developments, has unveiled what is believed to be the UK's first zero-carbon house built by a volume house builder. To find out more about this house, [click here](#).

## Courses and Training

### STEPS & SDS training

The Moreland Energy Foundation (MEFL), in partnership Moreland City Council, runs regular STEPS/SDS training. Upcoming sessions will be held on 25 June, 27 August, 22 October and 19 November. All sessions will run from 1 – 5pm for those interested in learning how to use the tools. Cost to attend is \$80 + GST. To RSVP, [click here](#) or [click here](#) to find out more about the program.

### Clearwater Workshops

Presentations will include recent stormwater projects and how to match appropriate stormwater systems for different sites, demonstration of Melbourne Water's free online computer package 'STORM' that will help you quickly select and assess the most effective stormwater features for your site, anticipate flows and meet targets. In this quick afternoon session you will also learn about regulations for development and works approvals. Places are starting to fill. To view session details and to RSVP, [click here](#) or contact Clearwater, 9235 5335, [info@clearwater.asn.au](mailto:info@clearwater.asn.au).

## Conferences and Events

(a web link is provided for events previously listed)

For MAV major event information keep an eye on the [MAV events](#) page too. We try to list many smaller events that come up from time to time.

### 2008 Alfred Deakin Lectures

There are 18 free public sessions with over 50 international and local speakers and moderators. To find out more, [click here](#).

### PIA Local Government Planners Dinner, 20 June, San Remo Ballroom, Carlton

[www.planning.org.au/vic](http://www.planning.org.au/vic)

### PIA Showcasing Excellence in Planning, 6 - 7.30pm, the E Zone, Faculty of Architecture, Melbourne Uni

- 'Planning for change – innovation and adaptation within established areas', 18 June
- 'Planning for our environment', 25 June

To find out more, [click here](#).

### Green Roofs Australia, 18 - 20 June, Brisbane

<http://www.icebergevents.com/greenroofsconference2008/Registration/>

### City Development World 23 – 25 June, Sydney

[http://www.terrapinn.com/2008/cdw\\_au/speakerList.stm](http://www.terrapinn.com/2008/cdw_au/speakerList.stm)

### Local Government National Environment Conference, 9-11 July, Cairns

[www.lgaq.asn.au](http://www.lgaq.asn.au)