



**CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION**  
MELBOURNE

In reply please quote: G E13/0021

18 December 2015

Plan Melbourne  
Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure  
GPO Box 2392  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Plan Melbourne Metropolitan Planning Strategy Review Submission

I refer to the above matter and thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Catholic Education Melbourne provides a significant portion of education for Victorians.

Government schools currently enrol 66% of students in the State of Victoria. Approximately one third of education provision services will be delivered by non-government agencies with 23% of that provision being delivered by Catholic Education. This highlights the significant role played by Catholic education in the State.

A total of 493 Catholic schools currently operate within the State of Victoria and an additional 81 new schools will be required within the next 30 years. Many new schools will occur in the growth corridors and expansion of existing schools will be required in existing urban areas where significant redevelopment is expected to occur.

Plan Melbourne seeks innovative solutions to provide for community and liveability as well as growth and progress. A solution is to ensure a more integrated approach in planning for Independent, Catholic and government schools and community.

Getting it Together: An Inquiry into the Sharing of Government and Community Facilities a report prepared by the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission in June 2009, identifies the benefits from Shared facilities. Catholic Education Melbourne was consulted by The Commission as part of targeted consultation in respect of shared use.

Some of the benefits from shared facilities as identified by the Inquiry included:

- Stronger communities through increased participation, greater utilisation of facilities and better access to services;
- Improved learning through the availability of higher quality and specialist facilities to students and greater parental involvement in schools; and
- Decreased costs associated with facility development and maintenance.

An innovative option to achieve growth as well as provide for community liveability is to promote collocation of Catholic and government schools.

Significant social infrastructure will be rolled out in association with the 81 new Catholic schools foreseen in future to meet community demand.

Catholic Education Melbourne sees opportunities to work hand-in-hand and establish a collocation model for schools and community facilities that promote the efficient delivery of education and reciprocal benefits from the sharing of educational facilities with the broader community.

Catholic Education Melbourne support the concept of a full service school and the co-location of schools with community facilities providing for a more comprehensive, coordinated and integrated approach to child and family support at a school and system level.

It is submitted that this should be reiterated as a clear objective of Plan Melbourne.

Should you have any query in relation to the above matter please contact