



Living Locally - 20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 is a long-term plan to accommodate Melbourne’s future growth. The plan is guided by the principle of *20-minute neighbourhoods*.

The 20-minute neighbourhood is all about ‘living locally’—giving people the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or local public transport trip of their home.

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 Five-Year Implementation Plan establishes actions to ensure Melbourne is a city of inclusive, vibrant and healthy neighbourhoods.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning is responsible for *Action 75: Whole-of-government approach to 20-minute neighbourhoods*.

20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program

In January 2018 the Minister for Planning launched the *20-Minute Neighbourhood Pilot Program* (the program).

The purpose of the program is to test and evaluate the practical delivery of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

The program is being delivered in two project stages in partnership local government, Victoria Walks, the Heart Foundation and Resilient Melbourne.

The key findings and learnings from the program will inform future guidance to support a whole-of-government approach to 20-minute neighbourhoods.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* established the Sustainable Development Goals for all 193-member states.

Creating a city of 20-minute neighbourhoods aligns with the following Sustainable Development Goals:



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2015

Hallmarks of a 20-minute neighbourhood

Research undertaken by the Heart Foundation (Victoria) for the Victorian Government identifies hallmarks of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

A 20-minute neighbourhood must:

- be safe, accessible and well connected for pedestrians and cyclists to optimise active transport
- offer high-quality public realm and open space
- provide services and destinations that support local living
- facilitate access to quality public transport that connects people to jobs and higher-order services
- deliver housing/population at densities that make local services and transport viable
- facilitate thriving local economies

Attributes of a 20-minute neighbourhood

Strong and sustainable communities enjoy good access to local jobs, services and social infrastructure.

While the built form characteristics of individual neighbourhoods may vary, delivery of the following attributes will support people to live locally.



Figure 1: 20-minute neighbourhood attributes, Plan Melbourne

Accessible 20-Minute Neighbourhood

Building pedestrian friendly neighbourhoods will create a sustainable transport system by enabling short trips to be made walking. Walkable neighbourhoods promote healthy lifestyles, while ensuring communities are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

If 50% of short private vehicle trips were instead made walking, it would save the Victorian economy approximately \$165 million a year in congestion, health, infrastructure and environmental costs.¹

Research shows that 20-minutes is the maximum time considered reasonable for pedestrians to travel to meet most of their everyday needs. This represents a pedestrian catchment of 800m.²

800m is the measure of a 20-minute neighbourhood.

While cycling and local public transport provides people with active transport options, these modes do not extend neighbourhood catchments beyond 800m.

Need for housing diversity and choice

Melbourne will need 1.6 million new homes over the next 35 years. To support equitable growth, planning must facilitate the development of housing that is affordable and diverse to cater for different household needs.

Melbourne's average housing density is 14 dwellings per hectare. Research shows that a minimum housing target of 25 dwellings per hectare is needed to support built form features that align with the 20-minute neighbourhood hallmarks.³

Role of Neighbourhood Activity Centres

Neighbourhood activity centres are an integral part of community life and fundamental to the creation of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Local government has a key role in supporting a network of neighbourhood activity centres. The planning of these centres should be coordinated through a community partnership approach.

The Mixed Use Zone and Residential Growth Zone should be considered within 800m of neighbourhood activity centres. These planning controls can facilitate diverse housing and support mixed-use neighbourhoods at varying densities.

1. Badawi, Y, Maclean, F, and Mason, B, (2018). The economic case for investment in walking, Victoria Walks, Melbourne

2. Gunn LD, King TL, Mavoa S, Lamb K, Giles-Corti B, Kavanagh A. (2017). Identifying destination distances that support walking trips in local neighbourhoods. J Trans Health.

3. Gunn, L, Mavoa, S, Boulangé, C, Hooper, P, Kavanagh, A, Giles-Corti, B (2017) Designing healthy communities: creating evidence on metrics for built environment features associated with walkable neighbourhood activity centres. International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition & Physical Activity, 14:164.

20-Minute Neighbourhood Projects

Stage One (2018) - Established neighbourhoods

Brimbank, Maroondah and Moonee Valley City Councils delivered projects in Sunshine West, Croydon South and Strathmore from February-October 2018.

The projects involved each council collaborating with communities to identify strategies to create more healthy, vibrant and inclusive neighbourhoods.

In November 2018, the strategies were discussed at workshops with project partners. The workshops informed development of a *Pedestrian Report* and *Planning Report* for each neighbourhood.

The strategies in both reports reflect the Heart Foundation's *Healthy Active by Design* guidelines and the 20-minute neighbourhood attributes.

The strategies include:

- Movement Network - Install safe school crossings
- Housing Diversity - Review residential zoning
- Destinations - Streetscape improvements
- Public Open Space - Improve access to local parks
- Community Infrastructure - Upgrade facilities
- Sense of Place - Install public art with youth groups
- Healthy Food - Investigate a community garden

A summary of the strategies will be released in 2019.

Stage Two (2019) - Greenfield neighbourhoods

Research projects in Mambourin and Beveridge North West will be led by Resilient Melbourne. The projects will test 20-minute neighbourhoods in growth areas.

The projects will deliver an:

- *Academic Literature Review* of liveability outcomes in greenfield areas, based on the hallmarks;
- *Pedestrian Report* assessing the pedestrian infrastructure in Beveridge North West; and
- *Social Infrastructure Report* recommending stages for delivery of facilities and services in Mambourin.

The projects commenced in January 2019.



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