



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Minister for Victorian Communities

The Hon John Thwaites MP
2006-07 Estimates Hearing

4 July 2006

A Fairer Victoria – Progress and Next Steps

- A year ago the government launched *A Fairer Victoria* with \$788 million of initiatives to address disadvantage in Victoria.
- Building on its success we have launched *A Fairer Victoria Progress and Next Steps* - a further \$851.6 million package of new initiatives.
- We have retained the five themes and 14 strategies
- Progress report shows we are making inroads into disadvantage



A Fairer Victoria – Progress and Next Steps

There are a number of additional focuses

- Stronger emphasis on addressing the needs of disadvantaged locations and growth areas.
- Prioritised the early years of a child's life
- Greater response to homelessness
- Support for flexible transport solution
- Increased access to services for multicultural communities.



DVC - making a difference

- Engaging with communities
 - Local teams
 - In the Community
- Creating partnerships that target place
 - Flexible Transport Solutions
 - Community Building Initiative
 - Community Renewal
- Leveraging investment for community initiatives
 - Victorian Community Support Grants
 - Volunteering
- Leading policy development in community strengthening
 - A Fairer Victoria
 - Community strength indicators



DVC grants - leveraging investment

Case study -Victorian Community Support Grants:

- 2005-06 - 134 grant approvals totaling more than \$20 million have been approved
- Provides a significant base from which to leverage additional financial and in-kind investment

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Strengthening Communities | 38% |
| Planning | 5% |
| Building Community Infrastructure | 57% |



Community strengthening in action

Community strengthening: local people working with government to make a difference to their communities and improve the places in which they live

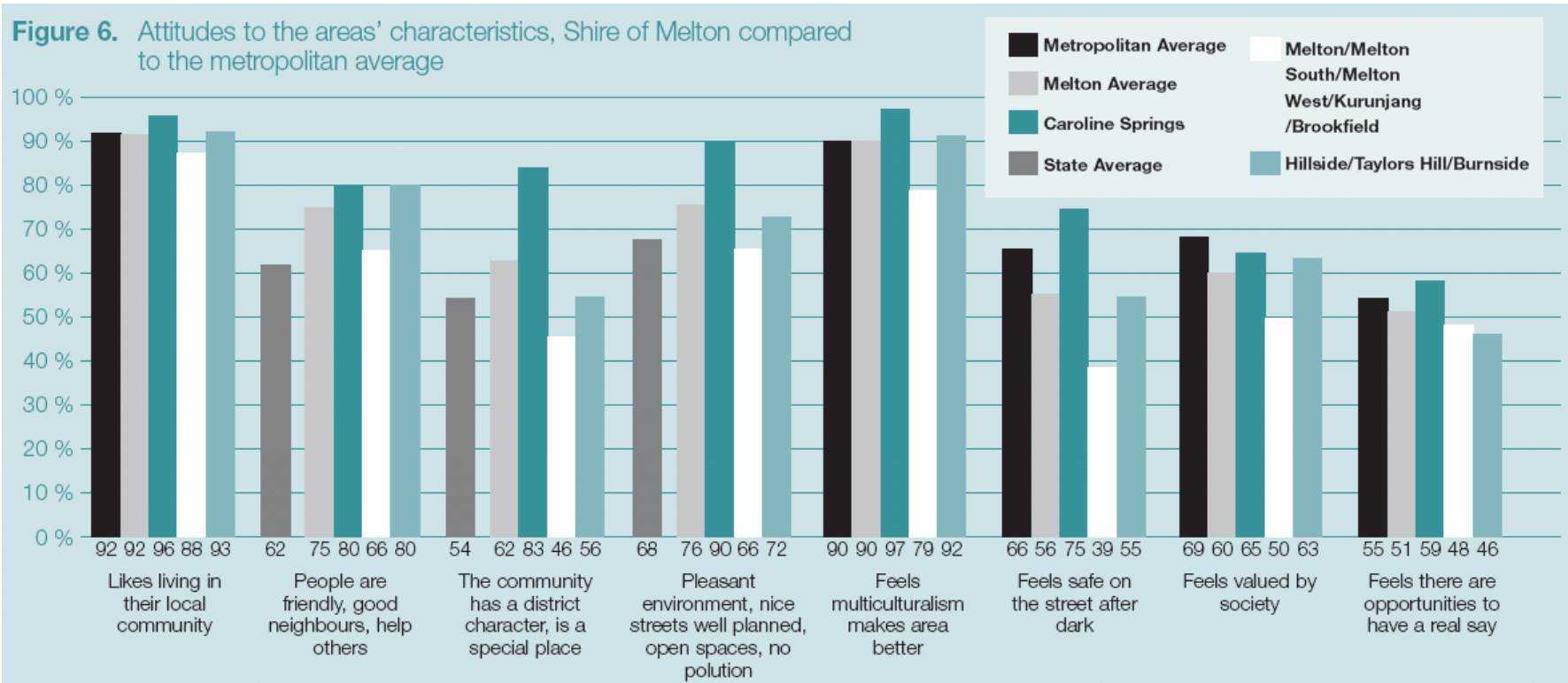
Case study - Caroline Springs

- Partnership – between state government, Shire of Melton, Delfin Lend Lease and community organisations
- Supporting community to identify community needs and giving them a say in planning
- Linking facilities and services
- Across Melton Caroline Springs residents report the highest levels on the Community Strength Indicators



Indicators of Community Strength- Melton

Figure 6. Attitudes to the areas' characteristics, Shire of Melton compared to the metropolitan average



2006-07 New initiatives – Victorian Communities

- **\$4.7 million** to expand No Interest Loans Schemes (NILS) in Victoria. Increasing the number of NILS from **850 to around 3,800**.
- **\$18.3 million** over four years towards the *Flexible Transport Solutions* initiative.
 - Supporting up to 30 projects in regional, rural and outer urban municipalities in 2006-07.
 - expansion of the *Transport Connections Program*
 - new, low-cost services and projects identified by local communities.
- **\$7.5 million** *Community Renewal and Growing Communities*
- **\$3.5 million** over two years for *Better Facilities* (revitalising RSL buildings , and redeveloping CFA stations)



Community Support Fund – Estimates 2005-06

