


Environmental Infrastructure for Growing Populations Inquiry:

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Summary Recommendations (1):

- Definition of Environmental Infrastructure (EI) should be widened to include multiple types, public and private spaces, connectivity and multiple benefits (nature, biodiversity, ecosystem services, public health)
- Methods for long-term measurement and monitoring needed consistent with this definition, linked to population growth (e.g. VIF) and made available for future policy and planning
- Biodiversity, urban greening and urban shade also important for health, active transport and amenity of activity centres particularly with climate change
- EI measurement should include geographic access, quality, responsibility for maintenance and cross sectoral benefits to health, biodiversity and ecosystem services



Summary Recommendations (2):

- EI should be purposively planned for future use (i.e. population growth) reflecting multiple benefits and for the lifetime of a suburb
- Limited access to current data and evidence-based resources on EI with a notable gap addressed by the [Australian Urban Observatory](#)
- EI important to Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2020-2023 (climate change priority) and Biodiversity 2037
- VPP could be amended to include value of EI to access to urban shade, cooling, health and nature.
- Planning for EI quality and health benefits included in PSPs and GAIC



Summary Recommendations (3):

- EI should be a focus of GAIC funding and requires strengthening in the future
- Timely delivery of EI should be prioritised with delays in EI delivery (particularly in growth areas) resulting in health implications due to patterns of use and behaviour established early
- EI should be linked to Victorian Targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (11.7 Sustainable Cities and Communities) and include measuring and monitoring goals and targets



Thank you

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