9 December 2011

Mr Nathan Bunt - Email: osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au
Executive Officer
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr Bunt

Committee for Melbourne Submission to Inquiry into Growing the Suburbs: Infrastructure and Business Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne

Committee for Melbourne is pleased to provide herewith its submission to the Inquiry into Growing the Suburbs: Infrastructure and Business Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne.

Committee for Melbourne is a not-for-profit, non-partisan, member network that unites Melbourne’s leaders and organisations to ensure the city’s economic, social and environmental fabrics remain inclusive, progressive and sustainable.

Founded in 1985 by a group of thought leaders, the Committee plays a key role in retaining Melbourne’s most liveable city status.

Our members represent over 150 of Melbourne’s major companies, academic institutions and civic organisations who discuss key issues affecting Melbourne’s appeal. Their expertise, leadership, insight and passion has supported some of our city’s best initiatives and is contributing to Melbourne’s development and the challenge of ensuring Melbourne gets better as it get bigger.

The organisation draws on the knowledge of its member organisation to work to improve the livability and productive capacity of Melbourne.

Melbourne is THE most livable city in the world today for good reasons:

- Productive capacity / ease of doing business
- Infrastructure adequacy, that is, utilities, transport, housing mix
- Quality and availability of education provision
- Stability - security and political
However, Melbourne’s population growth represents an inherent risk to the ongoing livability and productive capacity of the city and whilst economic reform will required to protect living standards and Melbourne’s competitiveness, our approach to planning, infrastructure and transport requirements will need to be revisited to accommodate our forecast growth.

With Melbourne’s population expected to exceed 5 million people in the coming 10 - 15 years and almost double within the next half century, the infrastructure task is significant. It will not only be imperative to address the productive capacity of Melbourne’s infrastructure assets but also to ensure the timely investment in major infrastructure projects.

Committee for Melbourne advocates for strong strategic leadership, a long-term, 50 year vision including an integrated approach to land-use planning and the provision of infrastructure. A coordinated whole-of-government approach to the planning of Melbourne’s long term infrastructure needs is essential.

Equally, it is the Committee for Melbourne’s view that population growth should be contained within the urban growth boundary and that this boundary should be fixed. Urban renewal opportunities within our existing suburbs, presents an opportunity for revitalisation and value improvement. And whilst new growth corridors and creation of new suburbs are necessary, there are many challenges and costs associated with their development if not planned appropriately. Population expansion and urban growth will require the right mix of urban densification and greater diversity in our housing mix.

Committee for Melbourne’s interest in this Inquiry and the specific commentary we can offer, in addition to the above, is in relation to term of reference B) assess the capacity of existing infrastructure to accommodate increased population growth. Drawing on the body of work completed in our recent reports entitled Melbourne Beyond 5 Million we refer the Committee to Volume 3 “Physical Infrastructure and Connectivity”. This report (located on our website www.melbourne.org.au) addresses a number of high level themes and makes several recommendations that the Committee might wish to consider in its deliberations.

We welcome the opportunity to input into this Inquiry further and would be pleased to provide further assistance should it be needed.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Andrew MacLeod
Chief Executive Officer
Committee for Melbourne