

6 May 2011

The Executive Officer  
Outer Suburban/Interface Services and Development Committee  
Inquiry into Liveability Options in Outer Suburban Melbourne  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Submit to:  
osisdc@parliament.vic.gov.au

**La Trobe University Submission**

***Inquiry into Liveability Options in Outer Suburban Melbourne***

***Inquiry on Growing the Suburbs: Infrastructure and Business Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne***

La Trobe University welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to these inquiries.

Yours sincerely



David Ensor  
Vice-President (Operations) and Chief Operating Officer

## La Trobe University Submission

### Inquiry into Liveability Options in Outer Suburban Melbourne

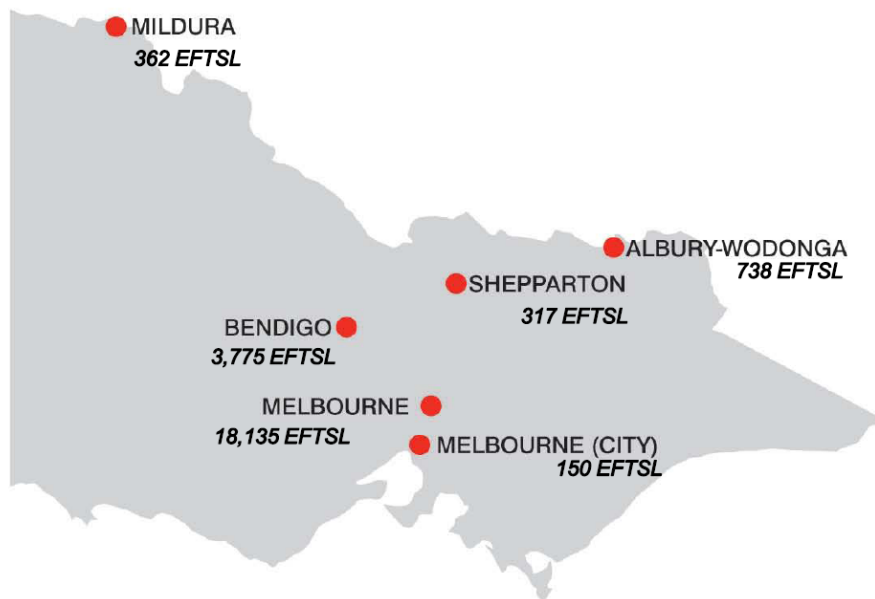
#### Inquiry on Growing the Suburbs: Infrastructure and Business Development in Outer Suburban Melbourne

April 2011

#### About La Trobe University

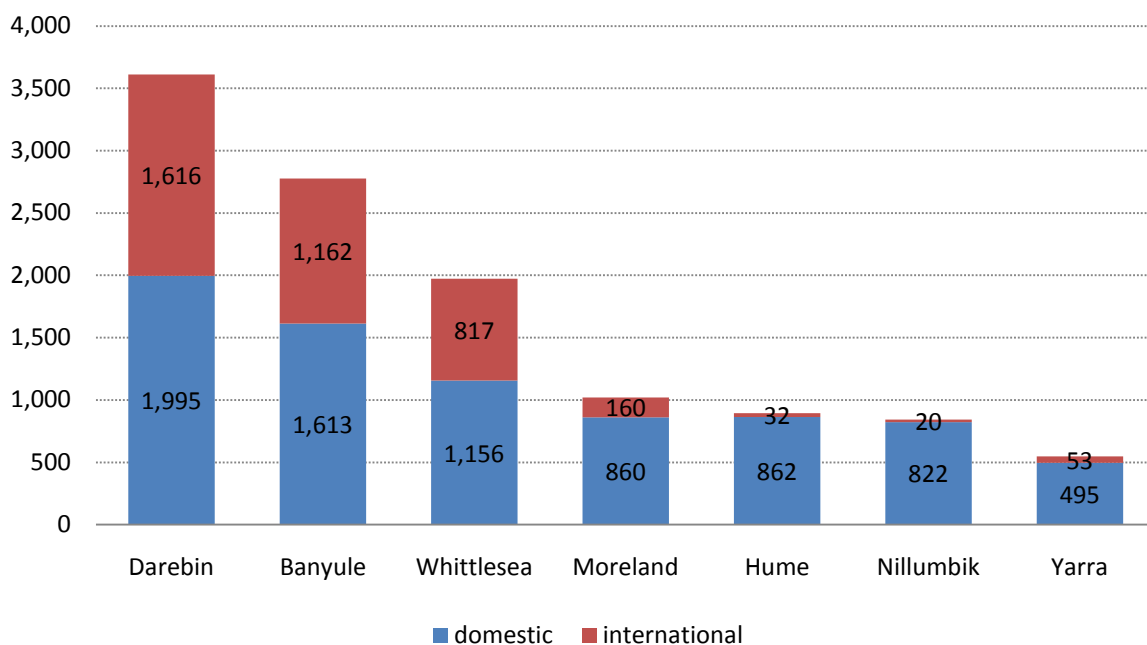
1. La Trobe University's founding mission was, and remains, **to serve the community of Victoria for the purposes of higher education, for the education, economic, social and cultural benefit of Victorians and for wider Australian and international communities.** From inception, La Trobe has been particularly focussed on providing access to quality higher education to those from disadvantaged backgrounds and has become an internationally recognised leader in this field. Innovation in teaching and research was, and remains, central to its mission. From its beginnings as a single campus, metropolitan University in Bundoora, La Trobe has expanded its presence across Victoria, through a merger with the Wodonga Institute of Tertiary Education in 1991 and through the establishment in 1991 of the La Trobe University College of Northern Victoria, incorporating the Bendigo College of Advanced Education. La Trobe University has campuses in Albury-Wodonga, Bendigo, Mildura, Shepparton and Beechworth.
2. For La Trobe, engaging our communities in mutually supportive endeavour is inseparable from our core activities of teaching, learning and research. With seven campuses, the communities to which we most strongly relate are based in the northern Melbourne metropolitan region and northern Victoria. We interact with and contribute to these communities through teaching and research which is designed to enrich and develop their economic, professional, social and cultural fabric. We use our network of campuses to provide educational opportunities that are inclusive; encouraging participation of a diverse range of students, particularly Indigenous, low socio-economic, rural and isolated students. La Trobe attracts students from across the world for the quality of its teaching and learning. The University has achieved international standing for its research and scholarship in a wide variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, health sciences and technology.

- La Trobe's Melbourne campus is the largest in terms of effective full-time student load.



EFTSL as at 10 March 2011

- The Melbourne Campus (Bundoora) employs 2,044 people in academic and professional positions. Of the approx 22,000 student enrolments at La Trobe's Bundoora campus, slightly more than half live in Melbourne's North. The following figure shows the breakdown of these students for 2010 by local government area.



- La Trobe is committed **to increased student access and retention**. The University's current Strategic Plan (Vision 2015) commits the University to increase undergraduate domestic enrolments by 30 percent between 2009 and 2015, focusing on increased low socio-economic student participation. It also commits the University to increase taught postgraduate

enrolments by 50 percent, focusing on building the advanced skills needed by the Victorian and National economy. The University will also achieve its growth ambitions through Curriculum Bridges and Schools Partnerships ensuring that that school study is supported and linked to the La Trobe curriculum and that aspiration for higher education is increased.

6. La Trobe is also committed to **relevant research to build local communities**. La Trobe University has over 30 University and faculty-based research centres and institutes and is a participant in 7 Cooperative Research Centres, hosts 5 national and international research institutes and is engaged in numerous joint ventures with other research organisations, industry and government bodies.

The following research strengths are La Trobe's designated areas of research focus. These areas have been identified on the basis of outstanding performance of La Trobe staff against a number of criteria such as: academic publications, success in the receipt of competitive grant funding, national and international research collaborations, prizes, conference participation, public commentary and intellectual leadership.

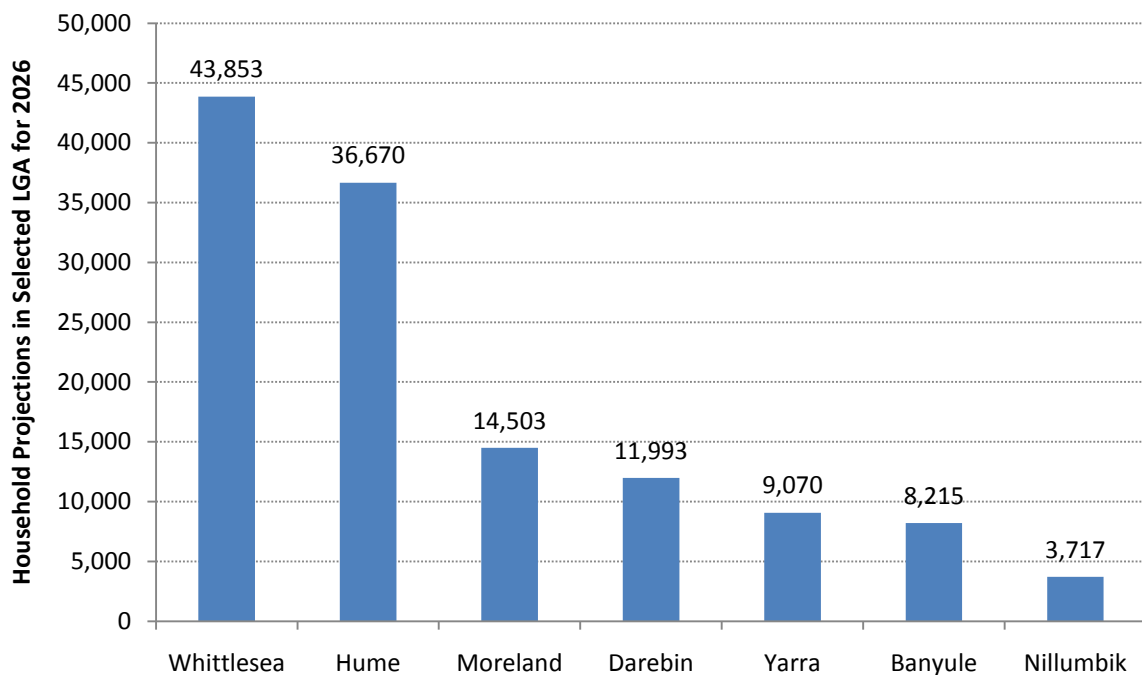
- **Agribioscience and the Environment:** Affiliated organisational areas include the AgriBio, the Centre for AgriBioscience, the CRC for Plant Biosecurity, the CRC for Molecular Plant Breeding, the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre, the Centre for Sustainable Regional Communities, as well as Departments/Programs including Botany and Zoology.
- **Health and Society:** Includes diverse research involving the interaction of health with society. Affiliated organisational areas include the National Stroke Research Institute, Cooperative Research Centre in Aboriginal Health, Research Centres in Sex, Health and Society, Mother and Child Health, Musculoskeletal Research, Australian Centre for Evidence Based Aged Care and Australian Institute for Primary Care, as well as Departments/Programs in Nursing, Psychology, Physiotherapy and Public Health.
- **Human Behaviour and Thought:** Includes research in cognitive and developmental psychology, neuropsychology, social psychology, mind, logic and language, environmental ethics and policy, European philosophy, mathematics and statistics and computer science. Affiliated organisational areas include the ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematics and Statistics of Complex Systems, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute, the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre, as well as Departments/Programs in Psychology, Philosophy, Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science.
- **Human Communication:** Includes research from Linguistics, English and Media Studies. Affiliated organisational areas including the Research Centre in Linguistic Typology, the Research Centre of Contemporary Greek Studies, the Australian Migrant English Program, as well as Departments/Schools in Asian Studies, Education and English. Leading international scholars in Linguistics and English.
- **Human Society and Organisation:** Includes research from a variety of areas in the way society is organised and functions around politics, sociology, business, the economy and law. Affiliated organisational areas include the Innovative Universities European Union Centre, the Centre for Dialogue, as well as Departments/Programs in Economics and Finance, Law, Management and Marketing, Graduate School of Management, Management and Accounting, Politics, Social Work and Sociology. In Politics, principal contributor to Australian public affairs; in Cultural Sociology, prominent international contributor.

- **Molecular Science:** Includes a variety of research that involves the study of molecules and ways to image them and encompasses parts of traditional disciplines of microbiology, biochemistry, chemistry and physics. Encompasses the Australian Institute of Molecular Medicine, the Centre for Materials and Surface Science, as well as Departments/Programs in Biochemistry, Physics and Chemistry.
- **Studies of the Past:** Includes a wide variety of research broadly in history and archaeology. Encompasses the Departments/Programs in History and Archaeology. Leading international scholars in Archaeology and History.

### About Melbourne’s North

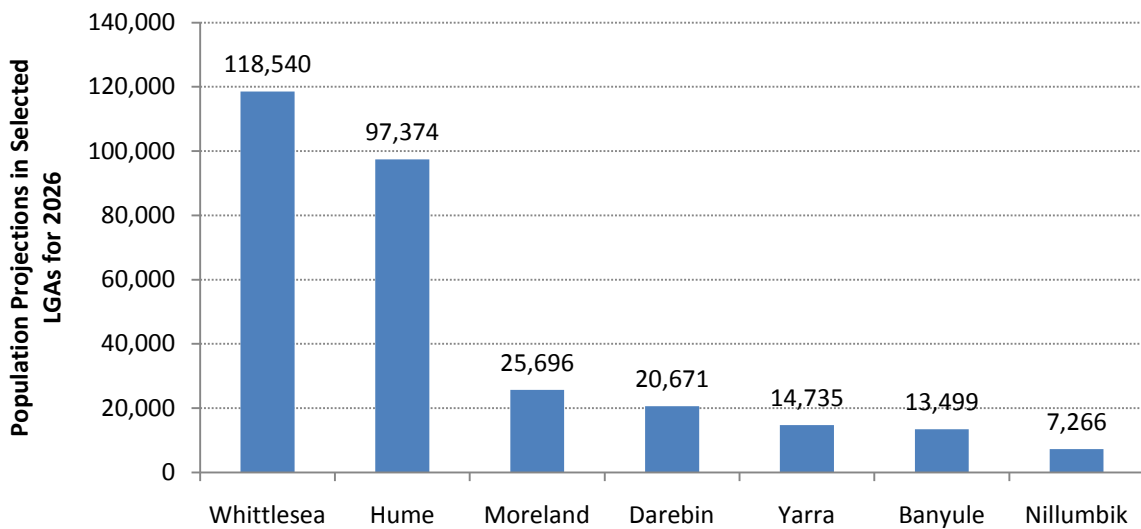
7. Melbourne’s North is the region covering the local government areas of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. It is highly diverse, and its inner areas are transitioning to a knowledge economy and the creative industries as manufacturing, logistics and warehousing activities increase in the outer areas.
8. The population in the region is set to increase markedly, with well in excess of 25% of Melbourne’s population growth (forecast population of 5 million) targeted for Melbourne’s North, particularly Hume and Whittlesea.

### Household Projections to 2026<sup>1</sup>

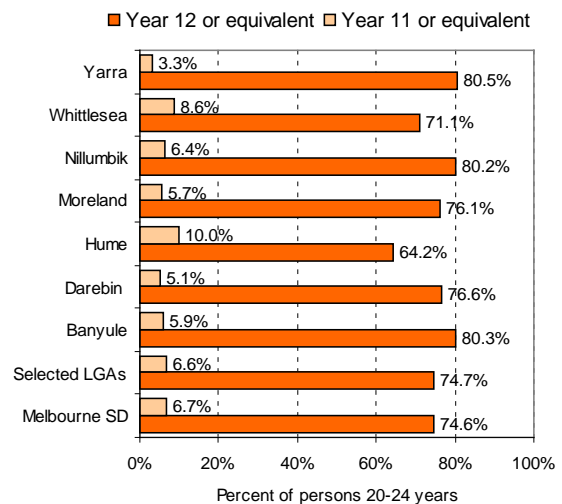
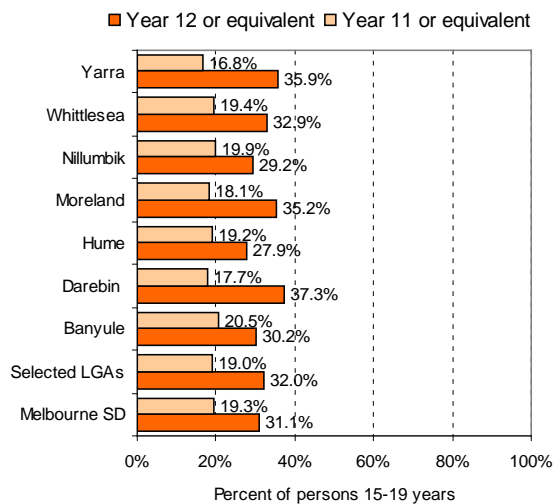


<sup>1</sup> Source: Meeting the Challenges of Planning Melbourne’s Growth Areas, Growth Areas Authority, November 2010

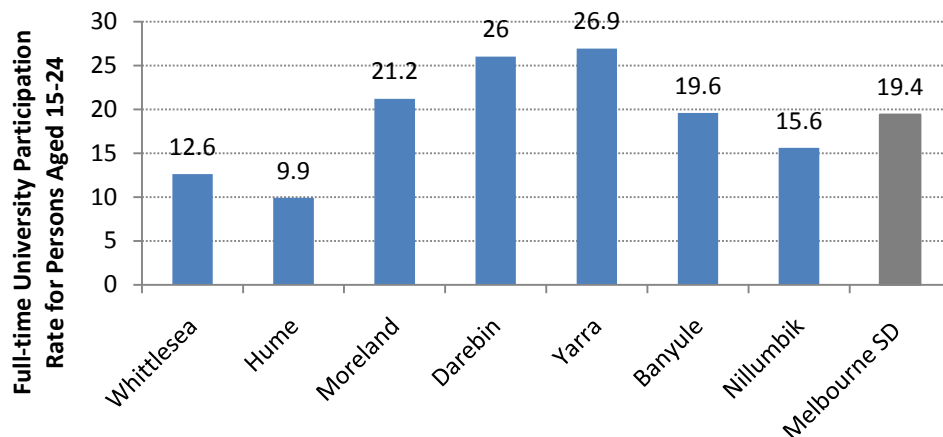
## Population Projections to 2026<sup>1</sup>



9. The charts below show the percentages of 15-19 and 20-24 year olds who have completed Year 11 or Year 12, based on Census 2006 data. The best measure of secondary completion rates comes from the 20-24 age group since many in the 15-19 age group will still be at school. The following comments are based on the 20-24 age group. With the exception of Hume (and possibly Whittlesea) all LGAs have secondary school participation rates at or above the overall Melbourne figure. The figure for Hume of 64.2% is well below the Melbourne figure of 74.6%.



### University Participation (%) by Local Government Area (2006 census data)



10. Darebin and Yarra are the region leaders in university participation with rates of 26.0% and 26.9% respectively, well above the overall Melbourne figure of 19.4%. Hume, Whittlesea and to some extent Nillumbik have participation rates well below the overall Melbourne figure. Of particular note is the figure for Hume which is around half the overall Melbourne figure.

### La Trobe's Presence in Melbourne's North

11. A region's competitiveness is determined by how productively it uses its human, capital, and natural resources. That productivity sets the region's standard of living through its effect on wages, returns on capital, and returns on natural resources. Universities harbor large, often untapped revitalization capability for the region and have the potential, in partnership with governments, businesses, and community organizations, to fuel regional economic growth.
12. La Trobe is committed to building the educational aspirations of communities in Melbourne's North. La Trobe's partnership with the State Government in the Charles La Trobe College is one manifestation of this commitment. Associated with this project, Quantum Victoria is a centre of excellence and innovation in science and mathematics education which will have a state-wide responsibility for increasing student interest and knowledge in science and mathematics, as well as being an integral part of the College. The La Trobe Institute of Molecular Sciences (LIMS; which secured \$64m from the Education Investment Fund) is supporting researchers in biochemistry and cell biology. It is intended that LIMS will engage with around 2,500 secondary school students annually giving them exposure to leading scientists and fostering their interest in science.
13. La Trobe supports the development of the **Northern Bioscience Precinct** would complement the two existing science clusters - Bio21 (in Parkville and focused on medical research) and The South East Melbourne Innovation Precinct (SEMIP) centred on Monash University and CSIRO and focused on materials and nanofabrication. It would provide a research hub that focuses on agricultural research and translational biotechnology research support collaboration between educational institutions and industry in the areas of agricultural and translational biotechnology research and collaborations with national and international science precincts to foster exchange of ideas and resources.

### A co-ordinated vision for the region

14. La Trobe University is committed to engagement with Melbourne’s North to support the continuing development of a knowledge economy and to provide a space for innovation in research and development for local industries. The University also supports the development of a co-ordinated vision by the region that encapsulates the varied needs of a diverse region. The University supports the development of an independent entity to promote the region and to co-ordinate across all sectors in the community to identify and advocate for the infrastructure and service needs for the region.

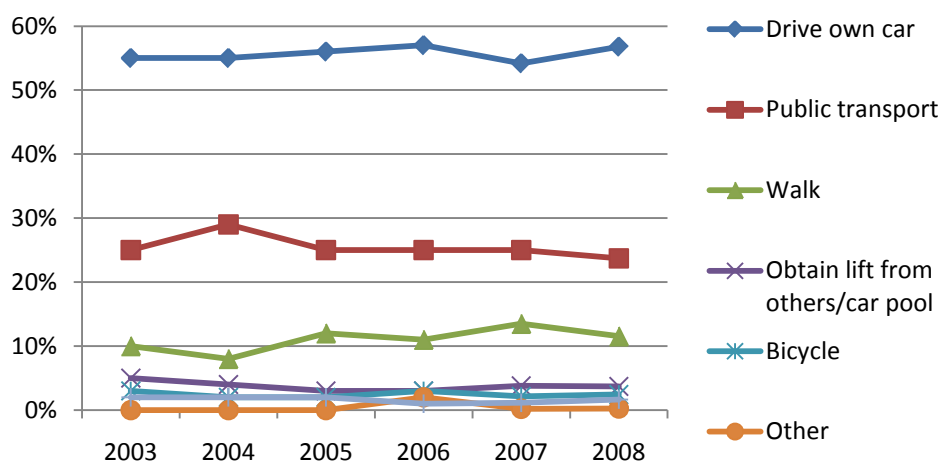
### Public Transport, liveability and access to education

15. La Trobe supports the Growth Areas Authority position that Melbourne must stop creating dormitory suburbs and invest in the development of transport infrastructure and services that will ensure the outer northern suburbs are attractive, affordable and desirable places to live and work in.

16. As outer metropolitan areas grow it is important that inter-suburban public transport service provision caters for the growth and links the high density/high growth residential areas with key local activity centres such as Universities, retail areas and health services. Melbourne’s northern metropolitan region is serviced by key public transport to and from the centre of Melbourne but the development of the polycentric model of growth will mean that public transport services with-in and between suburbs will have greater impact on the liveability of the area.

17. A Survey of New Undergraduate Students was conducted at La Trobe from 2003 to 2008 inclusive which shows that students overwhelmingly use their private cars to travel to campus. The First Year Experience Survey (2009) showed that 72.5% of La Trobe first year students spent four days or less on campus (compared with national average of 65.1%). Of the 24.3% of La Trobe students who stated they had seriously considered deferring/discontinuing in their first semester, problems with daily travel was a reason cited 30%.

**La Trobe Survey of New Undergraduate Students; Method of Travel to Campus, 2003-2008**



18. More recent data from the Australasian Survey of Student Engagement shows that the majority of students spend 1-5 hours travelling to campus per week and that approximately 25% of students spend 6-10 hours.



### Hours Spent Travelling to Campus in a Typical Week, 2008-2010

