

Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria

October 2021





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Source: VPA

TRADITIONAL OWNER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich cultures and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's First People and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us. We embrace the spirit of reconciliation and ensuring that Aboriginal voices are heard.

Why Aboriginal cultural heritage is important

Generations of Aboriginal people have lived across Victoria for tens of thousands of years. Evidence – both tangible and intangible – of this long occupation and stewardship of the lands and waterways of the state is embedded across all our landscapes. Traditional Owners have the right to manage and protect their heritage, cultural practice, and identity.

In Victoria, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018* recognise both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Tangible heritage represents the physical evidence of the activities of Aboriginal people, those objects and other physical evidence that represent the ways in which Aboriginal people lived in, utilised and changed their environment. Such objects include stone artefact scatters, culturally modified trees and fresh and salt water middens among myriad other physical expressions of the thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation of this land. Intangible heritage is strongly linked to Country, and can include songs, rituals and stories and many other cultural practices and knowledge about landscape, waters, native plants, trails and resource locations. It is also embodied in language, place naming, traditional skills and ceremonies that reflect and celebrate creation stories, as well as in contemporary Aboriginal cultural practices.

In all areas of Victoria, including developed areas, Aboriginal cultural heritage continues to exist and thrive. In the growth areas, the structure planning process provides opportunity to investigate and protect both tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage through a broader landscape approach.

Victorian Planning Authority's commitment

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) commits to continuing to improve our practices, to better protect and acknowledge Aboriginal values and heritage in our plans, Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) and strategic documents.

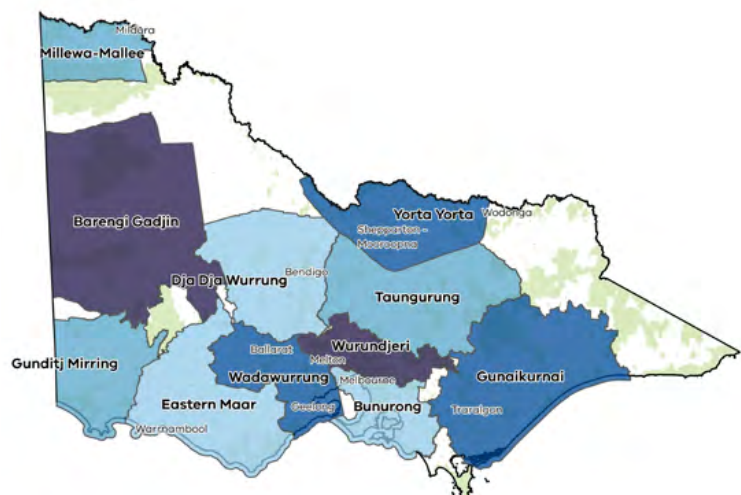
The protection of tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural heritage is an important part of continuing cultural practice, understanding history and recognition of the Traditional Owners of Victoria. Commonwealth and State Acts and Regulations provide for protection of places and areas of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

The ultimate custodians of Aboriginal cultural heritage are Traditional Owners, including groups formally recognised as Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) who are appointed by the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council (VAHC) under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. In 2021 there are 11 RAPs with decision-making responsibilities for approximately 74% of Victoria. Traditional Owner Groups (TOGs) without formal recognition also have a vital role to play as key partners and stakeholders.

Strategic planning for Aboriginal cultural heritage also involves a range of different stakeholders including State Government agencies, local government, developers, landowners and community groups.

The VPA commits to engaging with the range of stakeholders required to better protect and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage in our PSPs.

For more information on how we engage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage please see our Heritage Manual in the Practitioner's Toolkit.



FOREWORD – MINISTER FOR PLANNING



Do you want to spend more time with friends and family and less time in traffic? To be able to walk to the shops? Or have local parks you can take your kids to or walk your dog in or ride a bike through?

Do you want more trees and shade so you don't have to hide from the heat in summer? And be able to choose to stay in the local area when you move out or start a family or downsize?

If you want any or all of those things this document is for you.

The Victorian Planning Authority's *Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria (New Communities)* is all about building better neighbourhoods.

Before COVID-19 hit, Victoria was Australia's fastest growing state. After the pandemic, we're still projected to grow rapidly, with Melbourne's population expected to hit 9 million by 2056.

Many of those new Melburnians will live in urban renewal sites like Fishermans Bend, but many others will choose new communities in greenfield sites.

New Communities is all about ensuring those greenfield developments have the social, environmental and economic foundations they need to grow greener and stronger.

The Government wants new communities to be designed, built and serviced in ways that suit the long-term interests of local residents and businesses rather than the short-term profits of developers.

That means setting higher standards for planning the layout and structure of new communities – and protecting Aboriginal cultural values and heritage. That means building accessible public spaces and a diversity of affordable housing and creating local jobs. That means ensuring new communities grow into 20-minute neighbourhoods, where residents are a 20-minute walk from most of their daily needs. That means ensuring new communities are climate-change resilient and safe from bushfire. And that means ensuring the planning for new communities is flexible enough to adapt to new challenges and opportunities.

In the end, the stronger we make the planning foundations the more resilient and liveable those new communities will be.

After all, new communities are like new trees. Planting requires effort, but once their roots are established they are self-sustaining and transformational.

New Communities will ensure Melbourne's new communities have strong roots and a healthy future.

**The Hon. Richard Wynne MP
Minister for Planning**

The *Guidelines for Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines: New Communities in Victoria* (the Guidelines) ensure a consistent, best-practice approach.

The Guidelines outline the intended performance of new 20-minute neighbourhoods to be articulated by PSPs.

PSPs will make use of a suite of tools to give expression to the vision and objectives – including plans, diagrams, tables, and requirements. Further, PSPs provide a mechanism to prepare and assess planning permit applications for subdivision, use and development.

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