



Hon Richard Wynne MP

Minister for Planning  
Minister for Housing8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002Cr Kathy Majdlik  
Mayor  
City of Melton  
PO Box 21  
MELTON VIC 3337

Ref: MIN089029



Dear Mayor

**PLANNING REFORM PROGRAM**

Thank you for writing to me on 14 September 2021 about the Planning Reform Program. I understand you have also written to the Member for Melton, Mr Steve McGhie MP. Please accept this response on behalf of myself and Mr McGhie.

Like you, I understand the critical importance of community voices in planning decisions and am committed to enabling the community's participation in the planning decisions that affect them.

The planning reform program was announced in November 2020 as part of the Victorian Government's 2020/21 budget (please refer to <https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/planning-revamp-boost-economic-recovery-and-jobs>), and consultation with local council planning departments and executive officers began in March 2021.

I understand your Chief Executive Officer recently participated in a local government workshop to discuss the proposed assessment model for state significant development proposals, and this year, Melton council officers have been involved in two statutory reform briefings. These briefings were in relation to signs statutory reform and post-permit processes. Information provided in both briefings by Melton and other councils has fed into the projects, which are still in progress. Melton officers also provided input into a recent survey of local government digital capability, which included sharing insights on the current planning data and technology landscape and identifying opportunities to uplift digital planning.

Further consultation on the program is either underway or about to commence, including:

- **Digital reform** – ongoing consultation through to 2024 with many councils expressing interest to work with DELWP to co-design solutions and provide feedback.
- **Better planning approvals** – a co-design process with ten local councils is underway to develop solutions for streamlining the planning permit assessment processes.
- **Assessment model for state significant development proposals** – targeted consultation on the criteria and assessment pathway is underway.
- **New code assessment model** – a discussion paper is to be released in late 2021 or early 2022 for consultation.

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The planning reform program spans four years and opportunities for consultation with local government will be rolled out progressively. If you would like more information, please call Alana Macwhirter, Director Planning Reform Coordination, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, on 9637 8411 or email [alana.macwhirter@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:alana.macwhirter@delwp.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**HON RICHARD WYNNE MP**  
**Minister for Planning**

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Cc: Mr Steve McGhie MP