



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA
Environment and Planning Standing Committee – Legislative Assembly

MEDIA RELEASE

Local voices to be heard on infrastructure needs

Community access to parks, open space and sporting fields will be the focus of a parliamentary committee hearing on Monday, 22 March 2021.

The online hearing by the Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee will be streamed live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm, with the schedule available from the Committee's [website](#).

The City of Melbourne will be presenting first up, followed by a roundtable with inner urban councils including Yarra City Council, Moonee Valley City Council and the City of Port Phillip.

In its submission to the inquiry, the City of Melbourne said that the challenges facing its open space network are varied and require unique solutions due to its role as the state's capital.

"This includes an expanding population and increased urban density, the nature and number of events, a changing climate and extreme weather events, significant urban renewal projects and the impacts of COVID-19. These challenges have led to our open space network needing to work harder for community needs and our changing environment," the City of Melbourne said.

Committee Chair Sarah Connolly said the inquiry hearings are providing a valuable opportunity for local voices to be heard.

"Responding to the needs of local communities is crucial as we examine the types of environmental infrastructure Victorians require as our population grows in Melbourne and key regional centres," she said.

"We're keen to tap into the information that councils have available to them through their engagement with local communities."

The Committee has received 262 [submissions](#) to the inquiry, including from a range of urban and regional councils.

Further hearings are scheduled, including on Thursday, 25 March 2021.

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