



PARLIAMENT OF VICTORIA  
Environment and Planning Standing Committee – Legislative Assembly

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Outdoor experts to provide in-depth advice for Victoria's growing communities**

Peak academic, leisure and recreation stakeholders will be among those appearing at a parliamentary inquiry into environmental infrastructure for growing populations this week.

The Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee is examining community access to open space, parks, sporting fields, bushland, nature reserves and waterways in Melbourne and regional Victoria.

On Tuesday 30 March, RMIT University's Centre for Urban Research and ICON Science Research Group, Swinburne University School of Design, Deakin University's Institute for Physical Activity and Nutrition (IPAN) and La Trobe University will take part in a roundtable discussion.

On Wednesday 31 March, a series of organisations will have their say, including the Australian and New Zealand Association for Leisure Studies, Heart Foundation, National Ageing Research Institute, Town and Country Planning Association, Walking Club of Victoria, Victorian Council of Social Service and Doctors for the Environment.

Committee Chair Sarah Connolly said the Committee received 262 submissions from a wide range of interest groups in the lead-up to the public hearings.

"Stakeholders have a wide range of concerns, including the separation of cyclists and pedestrians, securing enough open space to match multi-storey developments, maintaining and creating corridors for wildlife, preventing habitat loss, Indigenous heritage and access for sporting activities," she said.

"This will be an important opportunity to take a more in-depth look at the issues we face and any possible solutions, as we explore the current and future arrangements to secure environmental infrastructure for a growing population in Melbourne and across regional Victoria."

The online hearings will be broadcast live on the Victorian Parliament's [website](#) from 10:00 am each day, with the full schedule available from the Committee's [website](#).

The Committee has already heard evidence from metropolitan and outer suburban councils which have experienced significant population growth in recent years.

There will be further hearings in late April with the Committee due to report by the end of June.

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