



## Community access to parks and open space to be explored

A new parliamentary inquiry is calling for community input on the environmental infrastructure that Victorians need as our population grows in Melbourne and key regional centres.

The wide-ranging review by the Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee will consider community access to parks and open space, sporting fields, forest and bushland, wildlife corridors and waterways.

"Rapid population growth in Melbourne and key regional centres has transformed our state, with benefits as well as challenges," said Committee Chair Darren Cheeseman.

"The preservation of our state's environmental infrastructure is one of those challenges. This inquiry is seeking the views and suggestions of community members on what can be done to enhance the amenity of our suburbs and towns, considering both recent and future development across our state," Mr Cheeseman said.

The Committee will be examining the differences between various areas of the state in the type of environmental infrastructure that is available to the community.

"The COVID-19 emergency has highlighted the importance of people being able to access parks and open space in their local neighbourhoods," Mr Cheeseman said.

"We want to hear the insights and experiences of people with expertise in the planning of environmental infrastructure. At the same time, we want the community to let us know what their needs are as we continue developing our state, and any concerns they have about current practices in this area."

The Committee is keen to hear about best practice examples in Melbourne and key regional centres, as well as from other places either in Australia or overseas.

It will also review examples of approaches that have not met community expectations.

"This is an opportunity for the community to contribute to the way in which environmental infrastructure is planned and developed into the future in Victoria," Mr Cheeseman said.

Written submissions addressing the [terms of reference](#) for the inquiry are welcome until 28 September 2020.

Details on how to make a submission are available from the Committee's [website](#).

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