

**Submission
No 7**

INQUIRY INTO APARTMENT DESIGN STANDARDS

Organisation: Infrastructure Victoria

Date Received: 20 October 2021

20 October 2021

Sarah Connolly MP
Chair
Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee
Inquiry into Apartment Design Standards
Parliament House
Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Ms Connolly,

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO APARTMENT DESIGN STANDARDS

I welcome the opportunity to provide Infrastructure Victoria's submission to the Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Apartment Design Standards. The inquiry is a valuable opportunity for Parliament to consider Victoria's requirements for better standards as our urban areas experience increases in density. I am pleased Victorians are being provided the opportunity to have their say on this important issue.

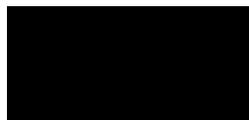
As an independent advisory body, Infrastructure Victoria is focused on infrastructure responses that address the economic, social and environmental needs of Victorians. In *Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy* we have identified the importance of increasing housing density in established urban areas.

To help inform our understanding of density, we worked with a diverse group of residents from Footscray, Camberwell and Heidelberg. Across these three suburbs, our research found residents were willing to embrace greater urban density if the area offered quality urban design which they defined as quality design and production of built form. While there were some areas of difference among the participants, our consultation highlighted that people are willing to embrace increased density if it is 'done well'. Melburnians of all ages want to live in a variety of homes that meet their needs - ranging from stand-alone houses to terraces and townhouses, through to multi-bedroom and single-bedroom apartments. We have attached our community engagement findings on 'Density Done Well' for your reference.

In *Victoria's infrastructure strategy 2021-2051*, presented to Parliament in August 2021, we have continued to recommend a denser urban form for established urban areas. Recommendation 35 of the Strategy, 'Support more homes in priority established places', calls for identification of new priority locations in established suburbs to better use existing infrastructure. We also recommend that the Victorian Government partner with local government to develop a design review process for significant development in priority locations. This process could formally incorporate design considerations through early engagement with project proponents.

If you or the Committee would like to discuss Infrastructure Victoria's 'Density Done Well' work or *Victoria's infrastructure strategy 2021-2051*, please contact me or Mr Peter Kartsidimas, Director of Networks and Planning, on [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,



Michel Masson
Chief Executive Officer