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21 November 2019

**RE: AILA Victoria Response: DRAFT MELBOURNE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

AILA Victoria is pleased to have the opportunity to review and comment on the DRAFT Melbourne Open Space Strategy (M.O.S.S.) as prepared by the Department of Land Water and Planning (DELWP). We commend the work to date and support the overall vision and key directions. In developing this response, we have drawn upon the expertise of our members who collectively have a wide understanding of the ecological, cultural, social and economic benefits of open space. Our submission comprises three major points which we offer to DELWP as a means for further developing and planning open space for Melbourne.

First; AILA Victoria supports the initial investments outlined in the 'Short Term' Open Space projects. However, we recommend that DELWP invest time in developing an overall framework that identifies the gaps and opportunities in the existing open space network. Part of this would include the documentation, analysis and evaluation of the cumulative effect of the proposed short-term projects to fully understand how they will collectively contribute to the future directions of open space in Melbourne. It is important to understand how these projects, in addition to existing open spaces, will combine to produce a network of open spaces and to consider the potential of this network to combat critical issues such as biodiversity loss, urban heat island effect, future recreational needs, fire and sea level rise. Of concern is that these nominated short term projects are under the control of numerous government agencies, as such it is important that an overview is prepared that can guide these developments beyond their political boundaries. The Copenhagen Climate Adaptation Plan 2011 offers a model for a broad planning document that guides the development of open space in relationship to the cities major issue of flooding. Similarly, the High Performance Landscape Guidelines were prepared to offer consistency and ambition in developing New York City's 21st century parks, both of which are sound guiding documents which could be utilised as benchmarks to inform the development of the M.O.S.S.

Second, the document outlines that the Victorian State Government is allocating \$154 million to open space. While this contribution is welcomed, this amount is surprisingly low given the expected population growth of Melbourne to 8 million by 2050. Based on current costs for developing open space, \$154 million dollars will fund only the construction of the equivalent of 7.7 MCG.

Thirdly, we welcome the opportunity to work with the team DELWP, which we recommend should be expanding, in further refining the M.O.S.S. In Semester 1, 2020 the University of Melbourne will run two design studios which further advance the ideas that emerged as part of the Future Park Design Competition (which was run in association with AILA). The outcomes of the studios, combined with a record of the shortlisted competition entries, will be published in a document which will be made available to state and local government.



These approaches and strategies will offer valuable material for advancing how the Melbourne Open Space Strategy might manifest in designed spaces, systems and infrastructures, moving from a discussion of planning objectives to an understanding of wider potentials and opportunities. AILA is open to continuing to work in close collaboration with you in reviewing and defining the ongoing development of the MOSS and look forward to its evolution.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond and we hope to continue to collaborate with DELWP on this incredibly important work. We would be happy to further discuss our response letter with you. Please contact AILA Victoria Chapter Manager, Martha Delfas at [vic@aila.org.au](mailto:vic@aila.org.au).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Heath Gledhill', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heath Gledhill  
Victorian Chapter President, AILA

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marti Fooks', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Marti Fooks  
Advocacy Sub-committee Chair, AILA

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[1] World Health Organization (2010). Urban Planning, Environment and Health: From Evidence to Policy Action. From [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/114448/E93987.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/114448/E93987.pdf?ua=1). Accessed on April 22, 2016.

[2] Creating liveable cities in Australia, mapping urban policy and implementation and evidence based national liveability indicators. J Arundel, M. Lowe, P. Hooper, R Roberts, J Rozek, C Higgs B. Giles-Corti October 2017