

CITY OF MELBOURNE SUBMISSION ON THE FISHERMANS BEND RECAST VISION

July 2016

This submission was endorsed by the Future Melbourne Committee on 5 July 2016.

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1. Overview

The City of Melbourne welcomes the release of the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision. It is an important step in establishing a clear direction for Fishermans Bend for future planning work and delivery.

City of Melbourne officers have provided advice and commentary on the recast vision as it was developed and will continue to work with the Fishermans Bend Taskforce to enable high quality urban renewal. The City of Melbourne will advocate for our adopted policy objectives and Council strategies to be realised in Fishermans Bend. A review of how relevant City of Melbourne objectives have been addressed in the recast vision has been included in appendix 1.

The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision asks the community and stakeholders three questions. The City of Melbourne's high level response to these questions is below, supported with further information in following sections.

1.1 Is this a vision that reflects your own aspirations for the future of Fishermans Bend?

The City of Melbourne supports this vision, particularly the following elements:

- Commitment to sustainability, in particular for Fishermans Bend to be a Green Star Community.
- Commitment to public and active transport and to investing in infrastructure before residential and business construction.
- Identification of Lorimer as a mixed use precinct and an extension of the central city.
- Using the 10 strategic directions to frame the current vision.

1.2 Are the 10 strategic directions still relevant today?

The City of Melbourne supports the 10 strategic directions. If this support is shared with the broader community, the strategic directions should be endorsed in the final recast vision and used as the overarching framework to direct and be more defined and explicit in future planning work through the Fishermans Bend Framework and Precinct Plans.

1.3 What can be changed or improved about the vision?

Recommended changes to maximise the effectiveness of the vision include:

- Differentiating Fishermans Bend in Melbourne's growth story.
- Committing to planning mechanisms to credibly deliver the vision and provide investment certainty for the private sector.
- Committing to early construction and delivery of key infrastructure including transport, information and communications technology, schools, parks and recreational facilities.
- Committing to setting performance targets.
- Committing to incorporating Indigenous heritage and Caring for Country approaches into planning for urban renewal.

2. City of Melbourne support for the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision

The City of Melbourne is generally supportive of the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision and particularly supports the following elements:

2.1 Commitment for Fishermans Bend to be a Green Star Community and to achieving the five sustainability goals

The City of Melbourne strongly supports the use of the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Communities as a benchmarking tool to provide a robust framework to achieve sustainability, liveability and resilience.

This commitment will help to deliver the objectives of City of Melbourne strategies including Zero Net Emissions by 2020 (2014), Total Watermark (2014), the Open Space Strategy (2012), the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2009) and the Transport Strategy (2012)

The recast vision should spell out the critical sustainability priorities for Fishermans Bend:

- Fishermans Bend will be planned as an urban renewal area that is adapted to the impacts of climate change (including flooding and sea level rise) and contributes to mitigation by significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The recast vision should provide examples of how this will be achieved at whole of Fishermans Bend, precinct and lot/building scale.
- Integrated water management, including water sensitive urban design and flooding responses, third pipe systems and centralised water recycling.
- Green corridors, walls, roofs and plantings that provide habitat.
- Blue corridors for a place likely to experience flooding and creating public spaces that are able to be inundated and act as ponds in a flood event.
- Facilitating the uptake of new technologies over the lifetime of Fishermans Bend.
- Include defined aspirations and targets to help achieve the five sustainability goals.

The recast vision refers to resilience in relation to climate change. The City of Melbourne supports the use of a broader definition of resilience in the recast vision that encompasses social and economic aspects. This is in line with the Resilient Melbourne Strategy.

2.2 Commitment to public and active transport, including river crossings and investing in transport infrastructure before, during and after residential and business construction

River crossings for public transport, pedestrians and cyclists that directly connect Lorimer to Docklands and to the Hoddle Grid are critical to the sustainable development of Fishermans Bend. They will ensure growth of jobs and businesses and enable a new community to establish itself with good access to services and facilities in Docklands.

The City of Melbourne particularly supports the commitment to early investment in and delivery of transport infrastructure. This is needed to support economic growth and the health and wellbeing of new communities. The commitment to public and active transport is endorsed by the City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy (2012) which has six governing directions including 'go anywhere, anytime public transport for inner Melbourne', 'support public transport, walking and cycling as the dominant modes of transport in inner Melbourne' and 'develop high-mobility pedestrian and public transport streets in the central city'.

The alignment of future pedestrian, cycle and tram bridges across the Yarra River is not yet known and this should be acknowledged in the recast vision. The east-west active and public transport link (and associated river crossing) in the fourth image on page 19 is shown conceptually rather than on a planned alignment. The connections to the CBD and suburbs to the north are also shown conceptually on page 19 in the first image. We recommend that text is added to the precinct direction images for Lorimer to note that the connections shown across the Yarra River are indicative or give further clarity about their status. Planning for future river crossings should be guided by adopted Victorian Government, City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip policy, including Access Docklands (2013), the City of Melbourne Transport Strategy (2012) and the Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan 2009-2018, in addition to a thorough evidence base and cost benefit analysis of different options.

2.3 Clear identification of Lorimer as a mixed use precinct and an extension of the central city

The 2013 Fishermans Bend Urban Renewal Area Draft Vision identified Lorimer as an extension of the central city and the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision reinforces this vision for Lorimer. The City of Melbourne supports this vision for Lorimer as a well-designed, sustainable higher density place with a range of central city activities, including residential, commercial, retail and cultural uses. The recast vision should also identify the planning tools that will be used to realise this vision (refer to section 3.2) given the current Capital City zoning and the issues associated with this to control and deliver different uses and activities.

2.4 Using the 10 strategic directions to frame the current vision

The City of Melbourne continues to support the 10 strategic directions which generally capture the intent for Fishermans Bend. Further detail about each strategic direction should be included to explain what each direction means for Fishermans Bend (for example, it is unclear in this context what the term “21st century jobs” means or what a great place for families entails) and the strategic directions should be embedded, refined and made more explicit throughout all future work, including the Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and Precinct Plans.

Strategic direction #10 relates to strong partnerships and effective governance. The recast vision should also include reference to civic leadership and go further than a focus only on planning approvals.

3. Recommended changes to the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision

The following changes are recommended to strengthen and clarify the vision. They are in addition to the recommendations listed in section 3 which reinforce the elements in the vision particularly supported by the City of Melbourne.

3.1 Differentiating Fishermans Bend in Melbourne’s growth story

The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision include a narrative about the specific importance and uniqueness of Fishermans Bend in relation to wider Melbourne.

The recast vision should set out Fishermans Bend’s relationship to other urban renewal areas and identify strategic connections including to the Hoddle Grid and Arden-Macaulay. It should demonstrate how the Port Capacity Project to redevelop the Port of Melbourne’s Webb Dock, the future lease of the Port of Melbourne and other significant projects are being considered throughout the planning for the area.

The recast vision should identify key opportunities and issues. These include opportunities such as reinforcing the Yarra River as an important defining characteristic of Melbourne’s central city, and issues such as land contamination and flooding risks.

There is also an opportunity for the Employment Precinct to develop as a future advanced manufacturing precinct, building on the area’s strong heritage in manufacturing. This would help re-invent employment in Melbourne as job requirements change due to digitisation and robotisation.

3.2 Committing to Fishermans Bend as a smart urban renewal area

The recast vision should articulate that Fishermans Bend will be built and operated as a ‘smart’ urban renewal area that embraces smart technologies, connected infrastructure and data to improve safety, reduce congestion and improve operating efficiencies. The recast vision should identify how this will be achieved including through a commitment to information and communications technology including the National Broadband Network.

3.3 Committing to planning mechanisms and key enablers to deliver the vision

The recast vision should broadly identify how Fishermans Bend will be realised over a 35 year timeframe, rather than solely focussing on the 2050 endpoint. It should demonstrate that infrastructure (including transport, information and communications technology and school infrastructure) will be delivered early to make Fishermans Bend an attractive place to live for a diverse community, including families as per the strategic directions. This is necessary to signal and provide certainty to the private development market that the vision can and will be delivered.

The recast vision should make a commitment to incorporating and interpreting the area's Indigenous and European heritage and to incorporating Caring for Country approaches into planning for urban renewal. It should identify how this will be used to create areas with distinct character and a sense of place.

The recast vision should make a commitment to implementing planning mechanisms to achieve the vision, including delivering the desired land use mix and range of activities identified for each precinct.

The recast vision should make clear commitments to affordable housing (housing outside of the main housing market and managed/owned by a registered housing association), to providing community infrastructure, including schools, sporting and recreational facilities and parks. It should make a commitment to securing key sites to provide for a wide range of uses, from active recreation to ecologically functional urban parks and spaces to help deliver the levels of density envisaged for the area. The recast vision should make a commitment to protecting solar access to future and existing public spaces and streets which is particularly important given that many proposed parks are linear.

It should identify a commitment to high quality architectural design and reiterate the commitment to using Design Review Panels to achieve this.

The recast vision should emphasise the need to support new and developing technologies and to develop as a smart city across the whole of Fishermans Bend and within each precinct. This means the smart design of sustainable and flexible hi-tech infrastructure and service delivery. Fishermans Bend could become an exemplar of using smart technologies to help deliver healthy, safe, sustainable and productive places. It should be agile and flexible to the advent of new technologies such as autonomous vehicles.

3.4 Demonstrating how Fishermans Bend works as a whole and establishing principles that apply across all precincts

The recast vision should articulate and map the overarching strategic positioning of Fishermans Bend, such as public transport, regional open space and levels of density. Individual precinct planning should then demonstrate how they deliver these higher order elements. Individual precincts will be distinct neighbourhoods with their own character and sense of place.

Many of the directions and text descriptions for the individual precincts could be elevated to apply to the whole renewal area. We recommend using headings to structure precinct statements to ensure that principles are addressed in each precinct.

The recast vision should frame Fishermans Bend in the context of the Plan Melbourne objective to create more compact cities. This will help form an integrated spatial vision for Fishermans Bend.

Compact City principles are based on an efficient public transport system with an urban layout that encourages walking and cycling, a mix of land uses, low energy consumption and reduced pollution.

3.5 Committing to setting targets

The City of Melbourne recommends using the recast vision to commit to setting performance targets in the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and precinct plans. Performance targets should be informed by adopted Victorian Government and City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip policy. Some recommended performance targets include:

- Spatial Network Analysis for Multi-Modal Urban Transport Systems (SNAMUTS) tool for accessibility targets (<http://www.snamuts.com/>). The City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy (2012) identifies mode share targets and emphasizes the importance of walking, cycling and public transport in the central city.
- The City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy's (2012) key objective to provide open space within an easy walking distance (300 metres for local and small local space) and our Urban Forest Strategy target of providing 40 per cent canopy cover.
- Performance indicators in the forthcoming City of Melbourne Local Liveability Study relating to local accessibility and land uses (derived from the Places for People study).

3.6 Recognising the importance of Westgate Park

Westgate Park will have critical role in Fishermans Bend and has the potential to be a great park in Melbourne's inner city. This should be recognised in the recast vision and it should be designated as part of Fishermans Bend urban renewal area.

3.7 Communicating the vision effectively

The recast vision is a useful tool to restart the public conversation on the future of Fishermans Bend. The artistic images are important in communicating desired outcomes and generating support for the vision, however to make them even more effective we recommend adjusting the style of the images to make it easier to understand the future scenarios. This could be achieved by relating the images to existing conditions, such as streets, buildings or surrounding landmarks while also including current photographs to show a 'now and in the future'. It is also important that the images visually represent the narrative and written content of the document and look towards the future of Fishermans Bend as a highly sustainable and technologically smart place.

Appendix 1: Audit of the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision against City of Melbourne policies

City of Melbourne policy	Assessment of Fishermans Bend Recast Vision against this City of Melbourne policy
Aboriginal Heritage Action Plan	The City of Melbourne understands that an Indigenous Cultural Values Assessment is being carried out for Fishermans Bend. The City of Melbourne also has a commitment in its draft Annual Plan and Budget 2016-2017 initiative to work with the Victorian Government to undertake a heritage review of Fishermans Bend. This work should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Active Melbourne Strategy	City of Melbourne recommends that the vision be updated to identify a commitment to providing or facilitating development of sporting and recreational facilities in Fishermans Bend.
Arden-Macaulay Structure Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas.
Arts Strategy	The commitments of the Arts Strategy should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Beyond the Safe City Strategy	Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles should be applied in future precinct planning work in alignment with the Beyond the Safe City Strategy.
Bicycle Plan	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision acknowledges the importance of public and active transport in Fishermans Bend and is consistent with the City of Melbourne Bicycle Plan. The Bicycle Plan should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work. The Bicycle Plan includes actions to support the Victorian Government to develop strategic cycling corridors including the Yarra River Corridor through Lorimer and the Employment Precinct.
City North Structure Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas.
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision includes five sustainability goals including that Fishermans Bend will be "a climate adept city".
Community Infrastructure Development Framework	City of Melbourne recommends that the vision be updated to include a commitment to providing or facilitating development of education, child care, aged care and other facilities.
Docklands Community and Place Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas. Future community infrastructure and public space plans for Lorimer and Fishermans Bend should be coordinated with the Docklands Community and Place Plan.
Docklands Public Realm Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas. Future community infrastructure and public space plans for Lorimer and Fishermans Bend should be coordinated with the Docklands Public Realm Plan.
Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas.

City of Melbourne policy	Assessment of Fishermans Bend Recast Vision against this City of Melbourne policy
	Transport planning for Fishermans Bend should consider the Docklands Waterways Strategic Plan.
Food City – City of Melbourne Food Policy	Food City should inform future precinct planning work to ensure that people can access healthy food for a healthy life.
Heritage Strategy	The City of Melbourne has a draft Annual Plan and Budget 2016-2017 initiative to work with the Victorian Government to undertake a heritage review of Fishermans Bend, in line with the Heritage Strategy. This review will inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
	The Housing Strategy helps achieve the City of Melbourne's established aspiration for an inner and central city where housing is affordable, well-designed and meets the diverse needs of our residents.
Homes for People – Housing Strategy	<p>Actions in the Housing Strategy include encouraging development bonuses in Fishermans Bend to incentivise the provision of affordable housing and working with the Victorian Government to deliver Victorian Apartment Design Standards.</p> <p>The recast vision should make a commitment to delivering affordable housing, diverse housing types and quality design in Fishermans Bend.</p> <p>The Housing Strategy should also inform future precinct planning work.</p>
Inner Melbourne Action Plan	Many of the 27 strategies in the draft Inner Melbourne Action Plan 2015-2025 directly relate to Fishermans Bend. They include planning and delivering infrastructure and open space and transport networks across the inner Melbourne region, which includes the City of Port Phillip and the City of Melbourne. The Inner Melbourne Action Plan should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Knowledge City Strategy	The Knowledge City Strategy should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Melbourne for All People Strategy	Melbourne for All People should inform future precinct planning work to ensure that public spaces, infrastructure and service delivery in Fishermans Bend caters for everyone's needs.
Melbourne Library Service Strategic Plan	<p>The principles and objectives of the Melbourne Library Service Strategic Plan should inform future precinct planning work.</p> <p>Ensuring good connections to the Library and the Community Hub at the Dock will allow new communities to establish with good access to these facilities.</p>
Melbourne Planning Scheme	Following public consultation the Fishermans Bend Recast Vision will be used to guide the preparation of a draft recast Fishermans Bend Framework Plan, and draft precinct plans for the five precincts in Fishermans Bend for public consultation. Following public consultation, these plans will be translated into controls in the Melbourne and Port Phillip planning schemes.
Music Strategy	The Music Strategy should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Open Space Strategy	The principles and objectives of the Open Space Strategy should be considered a critical input to public space planning and inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.

City of Melbourne policy	Assessment of Fishermans Bend Recast Vision against this City of Melbourne policy
Places for People	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to make a commitment to adopting performance targets for Fishermans Bend.
Public Art Framework	The Public Art Framework should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Public Lighting Strategy	The Public Lighting Strategy should inform future master planning work.
Reconciliation Action Plan	Action 2.8 in the Reconciliation Action Plan is to consult traditional owners on civic infrastructure and development projects. Public and stakeholder engagement by the Fishermans Bend Taskforce, through the life of the project, should involve traditional owners.
Road Safety Plan	The Road Safety Plan should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Southbank Structure Plan	The City of Melbourne recommends that the recast vision is updated to articulate how Fishermans Bend relates to other urban renewal areas.
Total Watermark - City as a Catchment	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision includes five sustainability goals including that Fishermans Bend will be “a water sensitive city”.
Transport Strategy	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision acknowledges the importance of public and active transport in Fishermans Bend and is consistent with the City of Melbourne Transport Strategy.
Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy	The draft Urban Ecology and Biodiversity Strategy should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Urban Forest Strategy	The Urban Forest Strategy should inform the future Fishermans Bend Framework Plan and future precinct planning work.
Walking Plan	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision acknowledges the importance of public and active transport in Fishermans Bend and is consistent with the City of Melbourne Walking Plan
Waste Management Strategy	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision includes five sustainability goals including that Fishermans Bend will be “a low waste city”.
Zero Net Emissions by 2020	The Fishermans Bend Recast Vision includes five sustainability goals including that Fishermans Bend will be “a low carbon city”.