



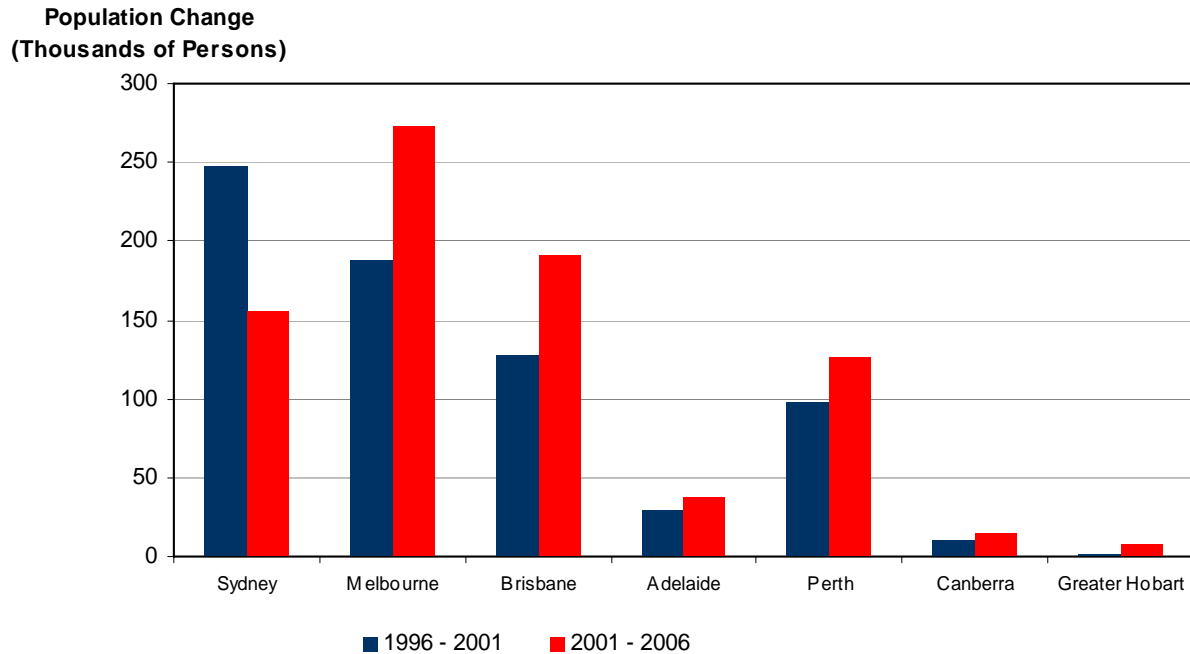
UDIA State Conference Geelong

Victorian Minister for Planning, Justin Madden
Friday 12 October, 2007



Melbourne grew by more than 1,000 persons per week from June 2001 to 2006

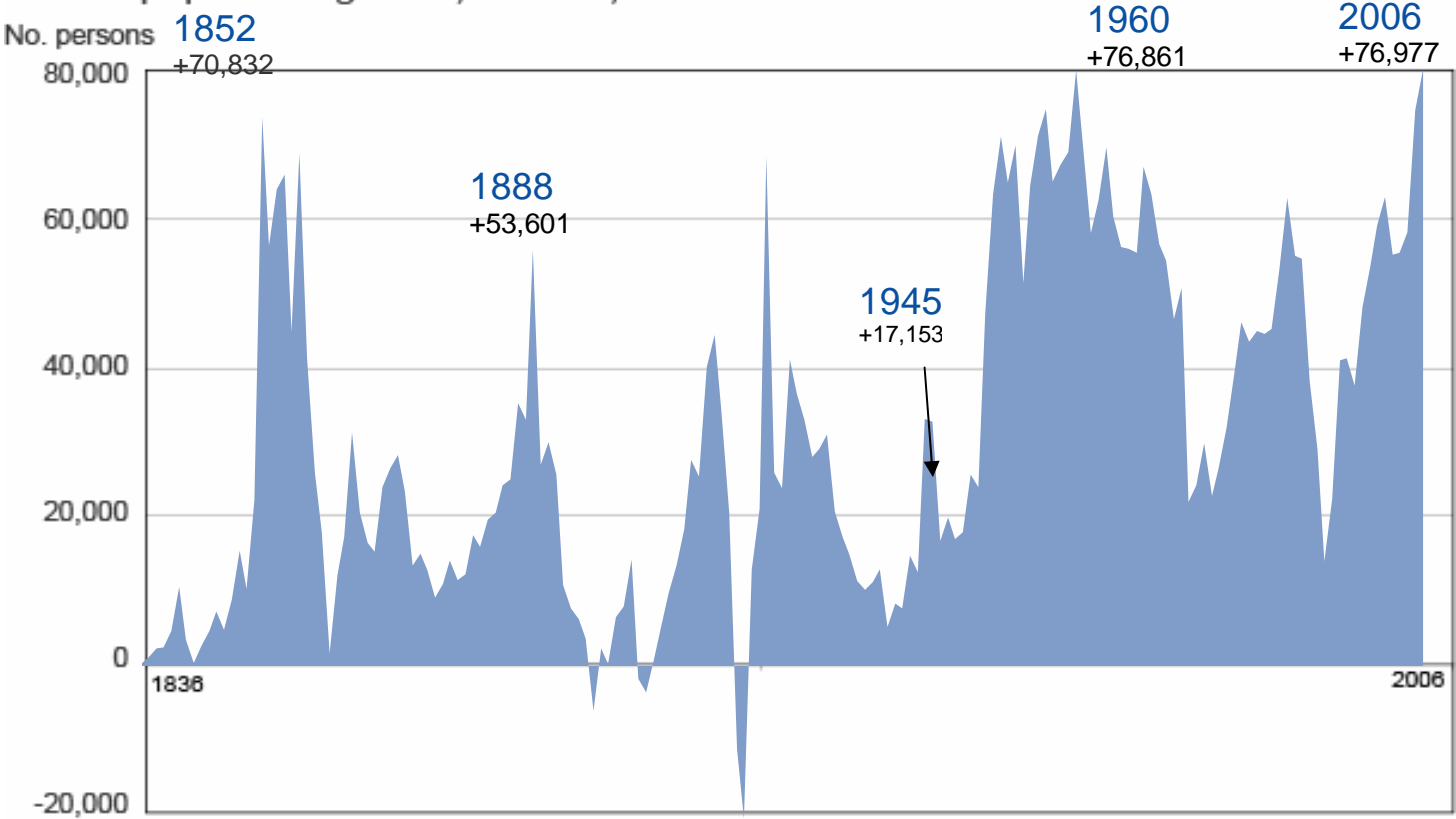
Population change, Australian State capital cities, 1996-2001 and 2001-2006





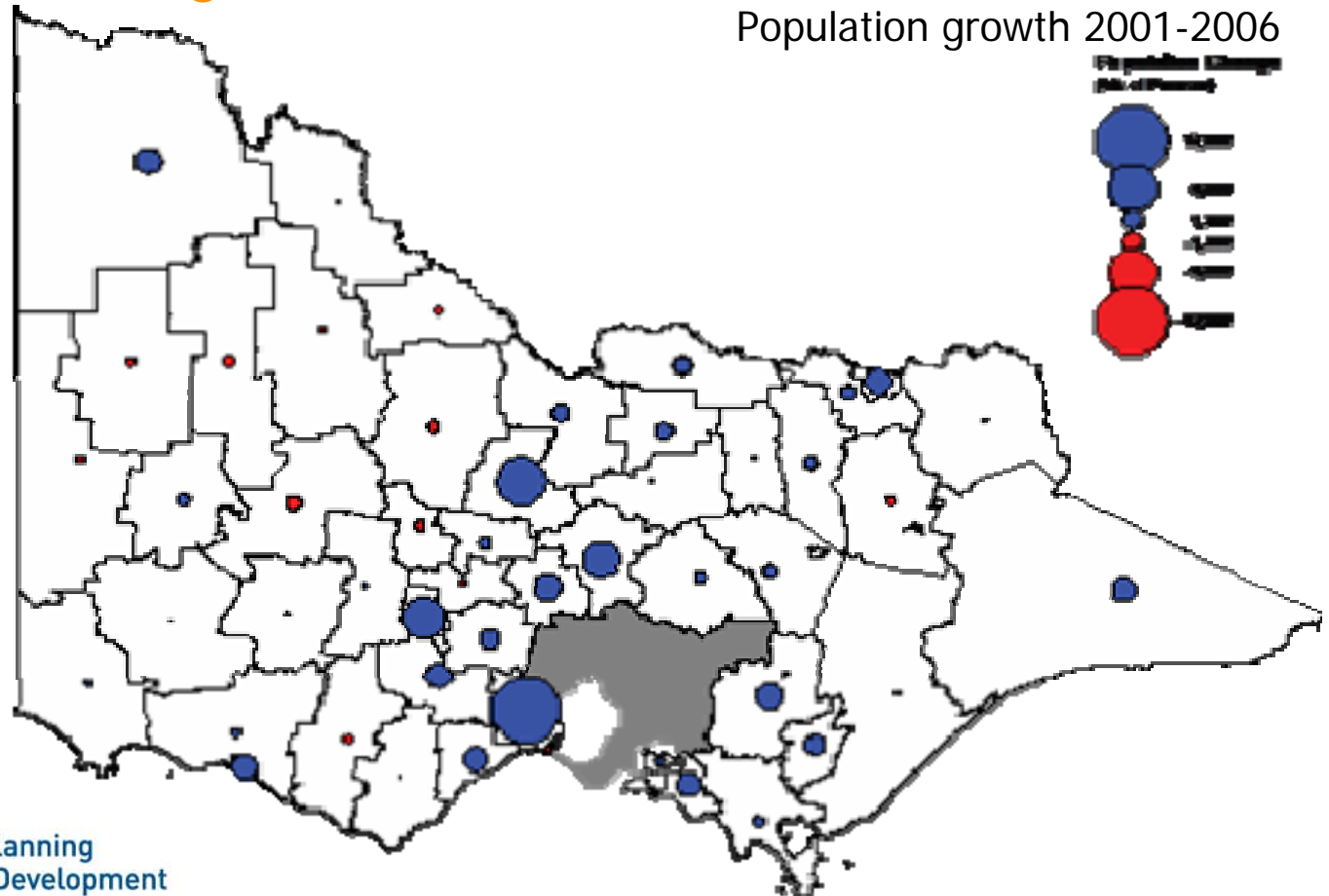
Victoria has never experienced such population growth

Annual population growth, Victoria, 1836 to 2006





In regional Victoria, 44% of all growth is in Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo





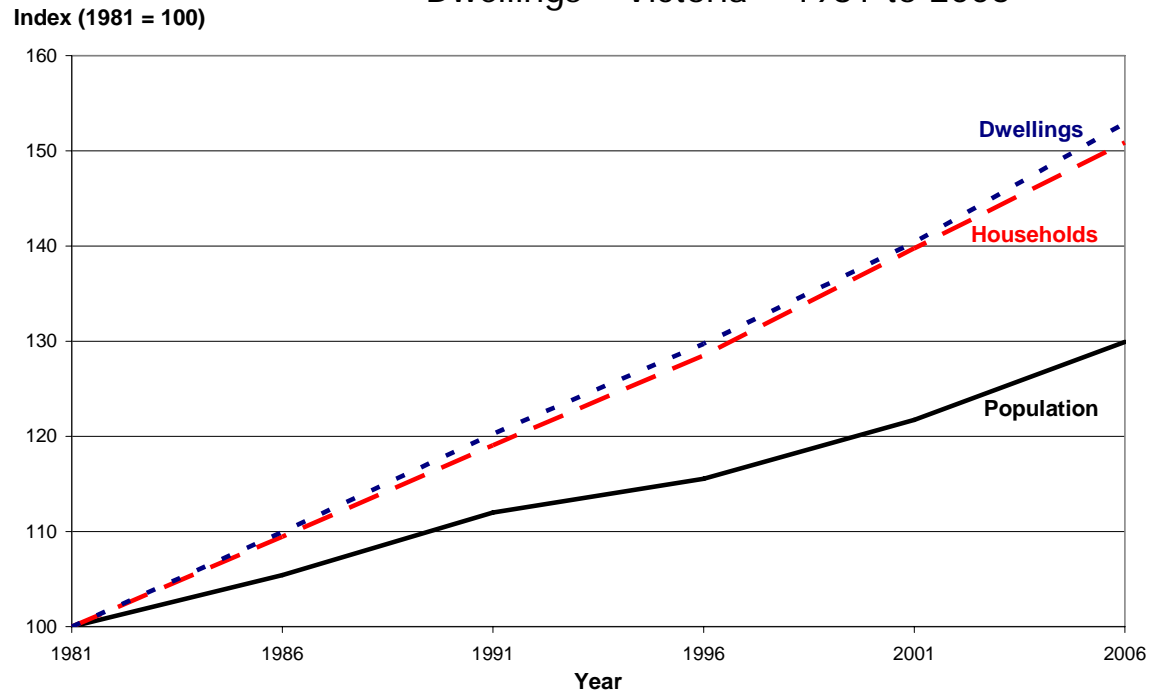
Regional Fast Rail Project has had a 30% increase in patronage between July 2006 and February 2007





Household and dwelling growth is faster than population growth

Relative Growth of Population, Households and Dwellings – Victoria – 1981 to 2006

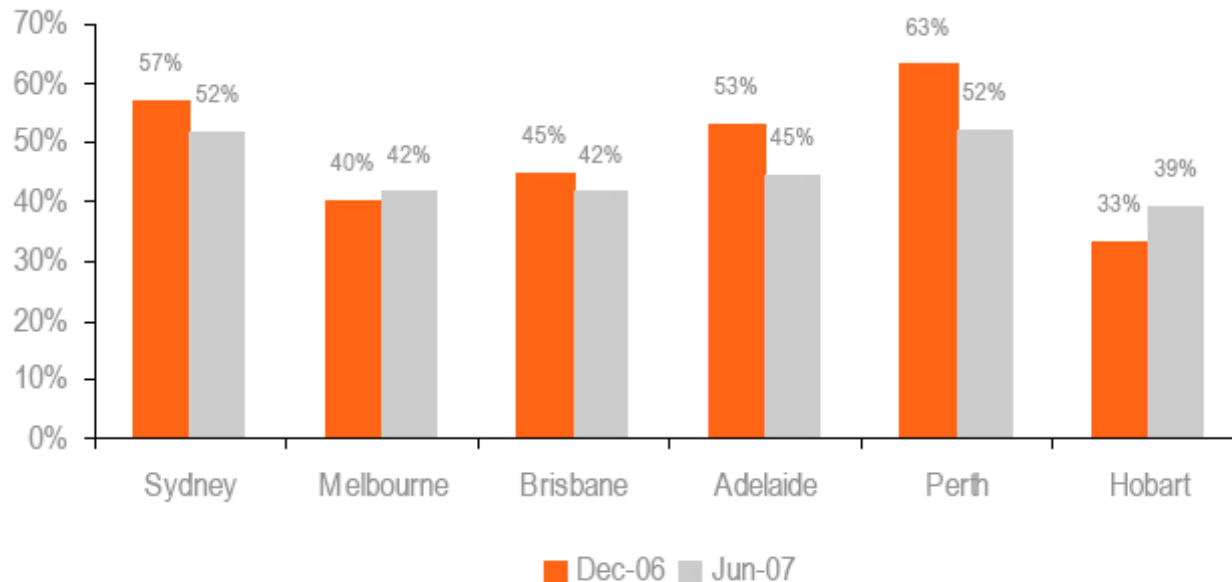




HIA – APM Land Monitor September 2007

Land as a Proportion of the Total House and Land

Land as a Proportion of Total Price



Source: Australian Property Monitors, ABS



Making local policy stronger report and implementation plan

The Victorian Government is making local policy clearer and more effective.

The Victorian Government has delivered effective planning strategies that guide development, maintain the character of our neighbourhoods, support strong, active communities with good services and protect our natural assets.

In Melbourne, we have achieved growth and retained our reputation as one of the world's most liveable places. Our suburbs, provincial cities and regions are also enjoying urban renewal thanks to growing populations.

Good planning has played a critical role in guiding development and is vital in achieving the Government's objective of balanced growth in metropolitan Melbourne and provincial Victoria.

Communities, councils and investors are seeking clearer planning guidelines to direct growth to the right locations and protect areas not designated for significant change.

In early 2007, we set up an expert working group to review the operation of local planning policy and make recommendations for improvements.

The working group's task was to form a response to Action 10.2 of the *Cutting red tape in planning* report. They found that while Victoria's planning system is robust, policy in planning schemes has become complicated and unclear.

The working group's *Making local policy stronger* report includes five recommendations and 11 actions. The Victorian Government accepts the report's five recommendations and has set out a program of actions to deliver clearer, simpler policy in planning schemes.

We will work with local councils to make state and local policy stronger, more transparent and more effective.

We will simplify local planning policies, reducing time and costs for councils, communities and developers.

We will be more specific about how state policy is expected to be implemented at the local level.

Councils will be given better controls to protect valued residential areas from inappropriate development and areas suitable for more intensive development will be more clearly identified.

There will be a stronger focus on the development of more liveable new communities, on revitalising town centres in strategic locations and on respecting the character of our neighbourhoods.

The Victorian Government is committed to taking immediate action to make local policy stronger and will act quickly to establish working groups to implement the report's recommendations.

The immediate priorities will be to:

- > Review the residential zones to improve the delivery of local policy outcomes.
- > Revise the State Planning Policy Framework.
- > Establish a Planning Policy Technical Committee to provide support, resources and assistance to councils to make local policy stronger.
- > Simplify the way state and local policy is presented in planning schemes.
- > Prepare new guidelines and procedures that make it easier to write, implement and review local policy in planning schemes.

These initiatives are part of the Victorian Government's commitment to continuous improvement of the planning system.

I thank the expert group for their work in delivering their report and look forward to its implementation.

JUSTIN MADDEN MLC
Minister for Planning





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