

11/7/12

New planning zones to help deliver the great Australian dream

Reforms to Victoria's planning zones will foster opportunities to support jobs, help families and encourage growth, according to Master Builders.

"Local communities and builders across the state need a planning system that creates greater certainty, which Planning Minister Matthew Guy's proposed reforms will help deliver," said Executive Director Brian Welch.

"If we are to enshrine Melbourne's place as one of the world's most liveable cities, our community needs to have a sensible discussion about catering for population growth.

"Master Builders applauds the State Government's moves to start this dialogue to help guide the future shape of Victoria."

The zone reforms proposed today include a new General Residential Zone and Residential Growth Zone to facilitate development in appropriate settings.

"A rising population creates greater demand for existing housing, which provides a big benefit for homeowners by lifting the value of their greatest asset – their home," Mr Welch said.

"By building a wider variety of housing options, including more units and apartments, we can also tackle the current housing affordability crisis.

"This will open up new opportunities for young people and families to fulfil the great Australian dream and enter the property market for the first time.

"Increasing housing density also provides new opportunities for investments in public transport facilities, improved roads, new schools and other community infrastructure.

Reforms have also been proposed to commercial zones by replacing five current building zones with two new commercial zones.

"We want to encourage the construction of new workplaces, retail precincts and offices across our suburbs to help Melbournians access employment and great facilities close to home," said Mr Welch.

"Encouraging the construction of new infrastructure and housing will also support jobs in Victoria's building industry, which is one of our state's largest employers.

"Cutting red tape and modernising our planning framework will support investment and generate economic activity for years to come.

"The package announced today will benefit Victorians and we hope councils and local communities will enter this discussion recognising the opportunities these reforms will help provide."

The reforms are expected to be introduced into the planning system by the Victorian Government in October, with public comments on the proposals open until September 21.

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