

Planning, Funding and Delivering Innovation in Community Infrastructure and Placemaking for Growth Areas and Urban Renewal Projects in Melbourne

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The planning, funding and delivery of community infrastructure has evolved significantly over the last decade to respond effectively to growing populations in both green field and brown field areas.

Community infrastructure planning has become much more than a desk top exercise and requires a more considered approach that involves broad community and stakeholder engagement, mapping of existing infrastructure, demographic forecasting and a better understanding of service utilisation data. Social infrastructure plans result in a detailed assessment of numerous infrastructure types with consideration of: public facilities, private opportunities, public realm and, programming.

Delivery of community and place making infrastructure requires the right sites to be available in the right locations at the right time, the brokering of partnerships and complex funding models to develop facilities that service both local neighbourhoods as well as much larger sub regional and regional service delivery catchments. Service delivery models need to be flexible and nimble enough to respond to the local context and must cater for a variety of different groups, services, programs and activities.

This presentation will reflect key learnings from:

1. Community infrastructure planning projects for urban renewal areas: Melbourne's Docklands, Footscray Central Activities Area and Fisherman's Bend; and the development of a social planning tool for Melbourne Growth Areas
2. Extensive experience administering State Government grant funding programs for community and place making infrastructure through highlighting best practice examples of innovative, integrated community infrastructure models for growth areas in Melbourne.