

The role of Planning Panels Victoria

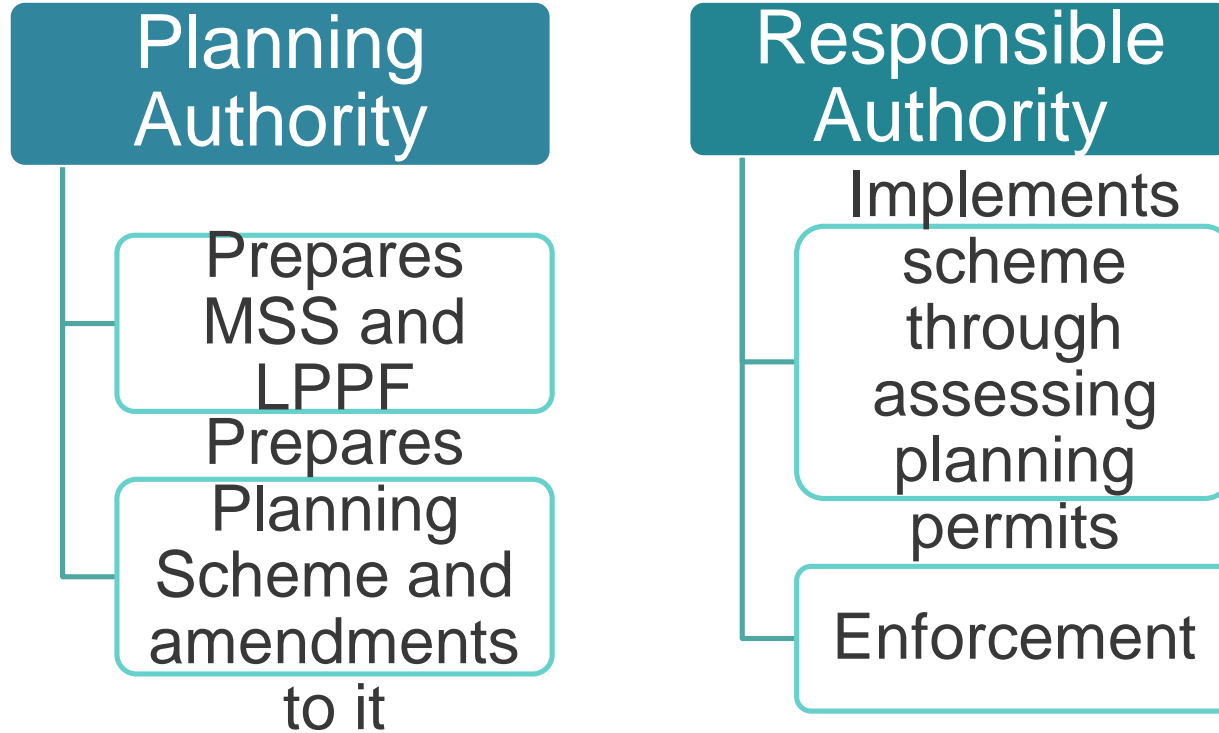
Stonnington Planning Symposium | 20 March 2019



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Planning Panels Victoria



Planning
Panels
Victoria



- Public participation** Planning Panels are established under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and are a means of facilitating public participation in the planning and environment decision making process.
- Independent** Provide a process to independently assess planning scheme changes or development proposals through consideration of submissions, conduct of Hearings and preparation of reports.
- Advise and recommend** Panels are advisory and make recommendations, with the final decision being made by the Council and ultimately the Minister for Planning.

What is the Panel process?

- Council exhibits an Amendment to its Planning Scheme, which is a change in law
- Submissions received, Council seeks to resolve these
- If they can't, submissions must be referred to a Panel
- Office of PPV set up by the Minister for Planning to administer his role in considering Planning Scheme amendments
- All submissions referred, not just those that can't be accommodated
- Panel appointed, hearing dates set, hearing convened
 - S.24 – consider all submissions referred and give a reasonable opportunity to be heard
 - S.160 – hearings in public
 - S.161 – rules of natural justice and procedural fairness
- Panel prepares and submits its report.



- Gives a community a real say in forward planning for its own community – having a voice that is heard and considered
- Leads to a better understanding of planning outcomes and decisions
- Provides higher levels of community confidence and ownership in the planning system
- Ultimately, should result in better statutory outcomes and less appeals to VCAT.



- Major policy reviews
- Site specific and area rezoning
- Heritage reviews
- Neighbourhood character
- Open space strategies
- Commercial reviews
- Housing strategies
- Industrial land reviews
- MSS reviews
- Precinct Structure Plans
- Development contributions
- Rural strategies.



Recent:

- Bayside C113, C114, C115 (Sandringham, Bay and Church Streets Housing Strategies)
- Bayside C140 (Bayside Housing Strategy)
- Greater Bendigo C215 (Residential Strategy)
- Knox C131 (Knox Housing Strategy)
- Knox C149 (Knox Activity Centre)
- Mildura C89 (Mildura Housing and Settlements Strategy)
- Monash C125 (Monash Housing Strategy)
- Moorabool C79 (Bacchus Marsh Housing Strategy)
- Casey C198 (Casey Housing Strategy)
- Greater Geelong C375 (Barwon Heads Structure Plan)
- Latrobe C105 (Live Work Latrobe – report submitted).

- Councils need to plan for future growth in its municipality and take its share of population growth
- Planning is not about managing the status quo, but it is about managing growth
- Submissions must be relevant to Amendment
- Must provide reasons to support or not support it



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- Recognise that many do not want change, especially increased densities or development
- Opportunity to input into where growth should occur
- Panels find in favour of net community benefit to the broader community and future generations.

Planning Panels Victoria:

- provides a solid grounding for developing policy, with a strong focus on community engagement
- provides a platform for all stakeholders to be involved and to have a sense of ownership
- is essential to deliver planning policy and rezoning proposals in a transparent and open manner
- provides a robust and rigorous approach to considering planning proposals and difficult policy issues

Refer: <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/panels-and-committees/planning-panels-victoria>

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/cases/vic/PPV/>