

Friday, 12 October, 2007

## INQUIRY TO KEEP VICTORIA LIVEABLE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Enhancing Victoria's status as one of the most liveable locations in the world is the focus of a new inquiry by the Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission (VCEC), Treasurer John Lenders announced today.

Mr Lenders said he had commissioned the VCEC to undertake the inquiry to ensure Victoria's future growth was sustainable and competitive.

"The Brumby Government wants to ensure Victoria remains the best place to live, work and raise a family," Mr Lenders said.

"Maintaining our high position in world-wide liveability rankings is not only important for the people who live in Victoria, it also helps to attract innovative people who, in turn, attract high-value industries.

"We need to strike a balance between growing our cities, towns and industries while at the same time ensuring this growth doesn't lead to a reduced quality of life."

Mr Lenders said the Commission would consider ways the Government could continue to build on Victoria's status as an attractive, vibrant and inclusive place to live in a sustainable way. The Government is asking the Commission to:

- explore the link between liveability and enhancing Victoria's competitiveness, using well-established measures of liveability like stability; healthcare; culture and environment; education; and infrastructure.
- examine the efficiency advantages of good planning and community infrastructure, and evaluate the economic costs of poor urban design;
- discuss whether 'liveability' needs are different in provincial Victoria than in Melbourne;
- report on the planning, design and implementation of sustainable urban concepts and systems in other jurisdictions in Australia and internationally that are focused on achieving liveability goals, and how these approaches can be applied in Victoria;
- identify opportunities for government to enhance the liveability of Victoria – while taking into account sustainability issues – and suggest ways of overcoming any challenges faced in realising these opportunities.

Mr Lenders said while an examination of planning issues would be important to this inquiry, the Government's *Melbourne 2030* strategy was outside the scope of these terms of reference. Mr Lenders said an audit commissioned by the Planning Minister to fine tune the implementation of Melbourne 2030, the Government's strategy to manage growth, was already underway.

The inquiry into *Enhancing Victoria's Liveability* is the sixth inquiry undertaken by the VCEC since it was established in 2004. The Commission will release a draft report for consultation, with a final report to be provided to the Treasurer within 12 months. Full terms of reference can be viewed at [www.dtf.vic.gov.au](http://www.dtf.vic.gov.au). For more information on the inquiry visit [www.vcec.vic.gov.au](http://www.vcec.vic.gov.au).

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