

Submission Template - Modernising Victoria's Planning Act Planning and Environment Amendment (General) Bill 2009

What is the issue?

(Please identify the part of the Bill your comments apply to)

- The objectives of planning in Victoria
- The planning scheme amendment process
- The planning permit process
- State significant development
- Other modernisation initiatives

What is the relevant proposal in the Bill [Number 1 – 70]?

N/A

What is your comment, or what should be changed and why?

Further action on planning

1. Packaged liquor outlets do not require planning permission, meaning that there is no possibility to assess their contribution to amenity or safety issues at the planning stage. As noted above, packaged liquor outlets impact on violence, risky drinking and alcohol-related diseases. The proposed changes to the objects of the Act emphasise the need to, amongst other things, secure a health environment for all people in Victoria, and to balance environmental, social and economic considerations. In this context, the Coalition believes that planning legislation should be amended to require that packaged liquor outlets obtain a planning permit in all circumstances.
2. The Coalition supports the recent changes to Victorian planning legislation allowing for the consideration of the cumulative impact of both existing and proposed licensed premises when considering planning permit applications. However, local councils, who are tasked with assessing planning permits, report that they have received very little guidance on how to assess 'cumulative impact' and that they lack the resources and capacity to undertake their own research in the area. We encourage the Department of Planning and Community Development to consider measures to build capacity within local councils to consider cumulative impact matters in planning decisions.

The National Local Government Drug and Alcohol Advisory Committee (NLGDAAC) made a submission to the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy's National Alcohol Forum outlining ambiguities regarding local councils' roles in planning and liquor licensing and proposing a range of policy changes to empower better local decision making. In particular, NLGDAAC proposed that local governments should be able to control the approval of building permits that comply with identified alcohol management design principles. The Coalition supports this recommendation.

Please duplicate this page for as many proposals as you wish to comment on.