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13 June 2025

Emily Mottram

Executive Director, Activity Centres
Department of Transport and Planning
1 Spring Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

By email: emily.mottram@transport.vic.gov.au

Dear Emily

Re: Merri-bek City Council Submission – Expanded Activity Centres Program, Phase 1 Community Engagement (Merri-bek Cluster)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback as part of Phase 1 of community engagement on the State Government's Expanded Activity Centres Program, which includes the Brunswick and Coburg Station Activity Centres – collectively referred to as the Merri-bek Cluster.

Please find enclosed Merri-bek City Council's submission, which was endorsed by Council on 11 June 2025.

Council supports the approach to focus housing growth in well-serviced locations. However, our submission outlines concerns that a housing-alone focus without the critical infrastructure, sustainability, economic, and housing considerations needed to ensure growth in the Merri-bek Cluster risks material negative impacts on local liveability. Our submission also reflects Council's strong advocacy for outcomes aligned with community needs and long-term priorities, and for genuine community engagement on these significant reforms.

As a key stakeholder, Council looks forward to continuing to support the Department of Transport and Planning by contributing local knowledge and strategic insight as the Program progresses.

Should you have further questions in relation to this submission, please contact Alayna Chapman, Unit Manager Strategic Planning via email: achapman@merri-bek.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A blue ink handwritten signature, appearing to be 'Pene Winslade'.

Pene Winslade

Director Place and Environment
Merri-bek City Council

Encl: Phase 1 Community Engagement Submission – Activity Centres Program: Merri-bek Cluster (June 2025)