Purpose

The purpose of the Taskforce and working groups is to look at planning and investment options in order to provide stimulus to the Victorian economy, through the building and development industry.

The Chairs of the working groups should provide regular reports and recommendations with updates on initiatives that can be implemented in the interim, short, medium and long term. Any initiatives should, where appropriate, make reference to other policy initiatives and commitments of the Victorian Government, such as but not limited to, SRL, Priority Precincts, Plan Melbourne Land Use Frameworks, Better Regulation Commissioner’s, report on planning and Ministerial Advisory Council on Planning for Affordable Housing.

A separate Working Group will be convened by the Minister for Transport Infrastructure and the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority to progress matters relating to the Government’s Big Build agenda and the civil construction industry and workforce.

The focus should be on the following:

• Planning options that will help facilitate shovel ready projects once any slowdown/shutdown period is over. Options should:
  o Be identified as short/medium/long term.
  o Highlight how they make the planning system more efficient.
  o Encourage the emergence of new asset classes, such as BTR.
  o Build on work that has already been undertaken.
  o Identify where there is a need for State government to assume the role of councils in the approval process.
  o Provide long term adjustments to the planning system overall.

• Social Housing options should identify or build upon:
  o Options to facilitate industry recovery through the early purchase of stock or co-investment in projects.
  o Further facilitate the renewal of public housing stock through the use of current models and development of new and innovative ones.
  o Assist the community housing sector to grow and increase capacity to deliver projects.

• Provide advice on government stimulus measures. There are three options within this category that should be pursued:
  o Short term pause of various revenue measures.
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- Removal of various revenue measures.
- Government stimulus through new initiatives or by expanding existing ones.
  - Deliver reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved resilience consistent with the Government’s commitments on climate change.
  - Deliver improved social and environmental outcomes.
- Provide advice on additional matters that would contribute to meeting the objective.

The Taskforce will be supported by a Secretariat and appropriate budget and resourcing to undertake its work and be supported as appropriate by relevant Government Departments. The Taskforce and Working Groups may make decisions on matters required for their smooth running and the administration of these Terms of Reference.

The Taskforce will convene for an initial period of 3 months with regular reports as agreed with the Minister and Treasurer with the option for potential extension if required.

**Project Deliverables**

1. Interim measures that can be taken to keep the building and development sector operating during the pandemic.
2. Identification of a pipeline of projects to be considered by Government that meet the objective of stimulating the economy post the pandemic.
3. Identification of any supply and demand issues and the solutions to address them.
4. Fast tracking of planning and other approval processes of suitable projects using Ministerial powers and independent experts as required.
5. Introducing planning reforms that can be sustained long term to improve the efficiency of the planning system.
6. Reporting on outcomes including the value of projects identified and jobs created or protected.
7. Identify opportunities to increase the supply of social and affordable housing within recovery initiatives.