

Focus Group Workshop 1 Notes

28th February 2008 | 6pm | Frankston Arts Centre

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Climate Change

(Table 1)

- Topics 1 & 2 interrelate/ overlap
- Sea level rises have implications for development and amenity
- Less dramatic impacts on homes, gardens and open space
- Encourage drought tolerant plants to assist the environment
- What are the implications for low lying areas and for development approvals?
- Would be good to address sea level change at policy level
- Solar orientation in new developments should be required

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Sustainable City

(Table 1)

- Extending good public transport to the suburbs would help
- Should introduce additional requirements for stormwater collection, passive heating etc
- Suggest Frankston should adopt higher standard efficiency requirements and market itself based on this. Alternative view increases cost to struggling first home buyers.
- Encourage great use of public transport
- Explore market and resource requirements and establish skill needs for industry/ business
- Some conflicts in objectives including protecting environment

- Should target clean industries. Is this outside the scope of Planning Scheme incentives?
- Size of blocks tends to work against attracting large industry
- Should include recommendations from TAFE to Bay Sustainable Development Opportunities (July 2004)

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High Quality Urban Design

(Table 1)

- Emphasis is often on sustainability rather than aesthetics
- Decide what the character is that we want to promote and protect
- Concern over elements such as mobile phone infrastructure and billboards
- Would like to reduce visual impact of roads and road widening

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Neighbourhood character and housing needs

(Table 1)

- There were different views about what forms of residential development should be encouraged.
- There are already enough housing choices for the elderly! There many choices of units/ apartments/ retirement villages around Frankston.
- Concern about random redevelopment
- Concern about the impact of large scale redevelopment on large lots and repetitive design.
- Solar orientation should be required.
- Quite a good demand in CAD but development not viable

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Frankston 2025

(Table 1)

- Good quality urban design would achieve many of the objectives
- Major concern was protection of canopy trees. Provide larger lots to assist this.
- Yes, Planning Scheme should reflect/ integrate objectives and outcomes
- Discouraging cars in the CAD is a key objective
- Bulky goods definition should be clarified/ modified to ensure core retailing in the CAD
- Spot rezoning tends to work against vision
- Urban Design Guidelines for CAD should be more detailed

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Prescription vs Performance

(Table 1)

- Need more prescription in planning controls
- Prescription can help achieve a more innovative outcome by providing parameters
- Prefer prescription, particularly in outer parts of Frankston City to increase certainty
- Alternative views over whether or not greater prescription in CAD is desirable

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Prescription vs Performance

(Table 2)

- For prescriptive based planning. Need to have standards/ rules which deliver results

- Need prescriptive controls to take pressure off councillors
- The Planning Scheme should be slanted towards prescriptive wherever possible- the rest will follow naturally. Should come hand in hand.

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Educating the community about Strategic Planning

(Table 2)

- A lot of people don't know about planning- But those that don't are the ones that don't care
- The Scheme is too complex! Too much to take in.
- Should be taught in schools!
- Need to employ strategic planners in council, not other professionals to do the job
- Definitely need to feed objectives of Frankston 2025 into the scheme- through the MSS and local policy

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Educating the community about Statutory Planning

(Table 2)

- Controversy exists because the scheme isn't clear enough!
- Where does the real problem exist? Need to identify where the problem lies first (ie at what level of government?) in order to fix the issues.
- Scheme needs to be more inclusive. Industrial/ Businesses are also important. Need to include all stakeholders and get more people involved!
- The review should reflect the 'communities' directions, not just councils.
- Council should consider educating 'everyone', not just 'residents and developers'.

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Managing Change in Frankston

(Table 2)

- Strongly agree with issue direction
- What exactly is a higher order activity? Need to explain/ include a definition.
- Shouldn't focus on Frankston being a "Transit" City. The word implies that people are moving through Frankston and not coming into the centre to stay.
- Need stronger objectives in the Structure Plan! - We have already invested a lot of time and money in a Structure Plan that was just overruled by State Government
- How are Knox and Melbourne achieving high quality Urban Design? Need examples
- Agree that we need to build up not out
- Agree that we need to locate all activities within the CAD. No Bulky Goods on outskirts! Encourage these stores to move in closer.
- Need to continue Government and Business investment in the CAD. Bring them back!
- Too much big box outer development occurring on the outskirts
- Keep the people in central Frankston!

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Improving City Pride – Gaming Issues in the City

(Table 2)

- Do we even have the power to control this? Who prepares the policy on gaming? Do we have a say?
- Where will they relocate gaming?
- Not sure that there is currently a problem- surely there are more important issues?

- Generally against pokies in residential areas

other

General Notes

- Currently not enough strategic thinking or integrity in the planning process
- The Issues Report provides no information about protecting key environmental assets. Green spaces are an important quality of Frankston and one we mustn't ignore! Imperative that we protect the Green Wedges against inappropriate development. These spaces need to receive better recognition. A strong need to reinforce a buffer zone through better connected open space networks.
- The Issues Report tends to be biased towards residential development. What about Industrial/ Commercial? Document doesn't refer to the users! Needs to consider Industrial and Commercial Stakeholders.
- What about Rural Land? Need more priorities in this plan. Developers keep creeping in. Developers are planning by stealth and introducing incremental change so that they can have a way in.