



## The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP

Minister for Planning  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation

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Ms Juliana Addison  
Chair  
Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
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Dear Chair

On 9 February 2022, the Government welcomed the tabling of the 'Inquiry into Environmental Infrastructure for Growing Populations' that seeks to secure parks and open space for the liveability of Melbourne and our growing regional centres.

Government is considering the 57 recommendations made by the Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Standing Committee and the detailed recommendations are being considered in the light of existing government programs and priorities. As lead Minister in submitting this response to Parliament I want to ensure that the most up-to-date and current response is provided.

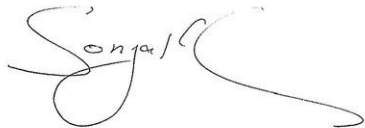
Government is already delivering several programs mentioned in the Inquiry report and many initiatives have been advanced since the report was released in February 2022. For example:

- More than \$315 million has been given to the Suburban Parks Program creating more than 6,500 hectares across Melbourne, \$5 million to the More Trees for a Cooler, Greener West initiative and a further \$105.6 million towards making Victoria's Great Outdoors more accessible and affordable,
- Planning scheme changes were introduced to ensure that precinct structure plans give consideration to tree canopy cover,
- A review of the open space contributions guidelines under the *Subdivision Act 1988* are underway,
- The 'Open Space for Everyone' program continues to provide land for parks and recreation across the Port Phillip region,
- The Western Grasslands reserves are being delivered in response to the Melbourne Strategic Assessment that enabled the sustainable growth of Melbourne, and

- New catchment management strategies are being delivered to address the important role of rivers and waterways.

The Department of Transport and Planning is leading the Victorian Government's response to these recommendations, and a report which will be tabled in Parliament shortly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Kilkenny', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

**The Hon Sonya Kilkenny MP**  
Minister for Planning