



# Leaner, greener vision of our city

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ROOFTOP market gardens, a 30km/h CBD speed limit and free internet on trams are among a range of radical ideas to transform Melbourne by 2020.

A draft blueprint commissioned by Melbourne City Council has been unveiled for the community development of the city.

The Future Melbourne report also suggests cheaper parking for smaller and more efficient cars, a public bicycle scheme and closing some CBD roads at weekends.

While much of the report outlines broad visions and motherhood statements, it also proposes bold new ideas to take the

city into the future.

One objective is to make Melbourne's heart a wired city, with internet access in public buildings and even on trams.

Another suggestion was for a water activity centre at Docklands.

The report was presented to the council's planning committee last night.

Committee chairwoman Cr Catherine Ng said the report had delivered some exciting prospects for Melbourne.

"Some of them are blue-sky ideas. But ideas such as wi-fi being implemented in public spaces is already being done in other cities," she said.

Cr Ng said some of the proposals needed refining.

"There are some interesting ideas, but some need to be sharpened and developed. While

some are just wishy-washy."

Cr Ng said creating market gardens on city building rooftops could be logistically difficult.

The report was compiled by the 14-member Future Melbourne reference group, which met several times last year and hosted public forums.

The group was chaired by Melbourne International Arts Festival head Carol Schwartz. Other members included Myer Foundation co-president Sid Myer, Victorian Olympic Committee chairman Nick Green and World Vision chief executive Tim Costello.

The project was rocked when major partner Melbourne University pulled out last November.

The report will now go out for public consultation.



**Way of the future:** Isabella Groth, 20, of Sweden, tries out a wi-fi spot in Swanston St.