

ATTACHMENT A



**OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL
Outcomes Report**

The provision of the information below is consistent with the *Guidelines for Official Ministerial Overseas Travel*. This report must be sent to the Premier within 40 working days of return, and published on the relevant department website within 60 working days of the Minister's return. The published version of the report does not need to include the 'next steps / follow up' section or the signature block.

Name of Department / Agency	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	
Departmental / Agency Contact	Ms Marlene Mifsud, Director Ministerial Services	
Telephone Number	(03) 9637 8157	
TRAVEL DETAILS		
Minister's Name	The Hon Richard Wynne MP	
Portfolio/s	Planning	
Did the Minister's spouse accompany the Minister in an official capacity? If Yes – please outline the role of the spouse in achieving the outcomes of the visit	YES (official capacity) <input type="checkbox"/> YES (private capacity) <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Ministerial staff	Ms Nicole Swift, Senior Advisor	
Countries visited	United Kingdom	
Date of travel	23 July – 2 August 2019	
Number of official travel days (include day of departure and day of return)	11	
Funding source (list Department/s or Agency)	Office of the Minister for Planning	
EXPENSES <i>Include combined expenses for Minister, accompanying staff and spouse (if accompanying in an official capacity)</i>		
Air fares (including taxes and fees)	\$27048.94	

Accommodation (including taxes and fees)	\$10086.61
Other expenses (including surface travel and travel allowances)	\$3870.00
Travel cost for Minister and ministerial staff	\$41005.55
Are the above costs final and complete?*	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*correct at the time of publication

Purpose of travel

The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring that the State maintains its reputation as a world-leader in creating liveable cities with population growth management and sustainability. The Government is also committed to addressing homelessness and improving diversion and resettlement services, particularly with regard to employment initiatives for newly arrived humanitarian migrants. Engagement with international government and non-government representatives will allow learnings from global best practice which can be applied in the Victorian context.

From 23 July to 2 August 2019, I travelled to the United Kingdom, visiting London, Edinburgh and Glasgow. My time in London focused on issues of:

- Building regulation
- The rectification of combustible cladding
- The challenges in the market for insurance associated with the building and construction sectors
- Urban renewal, and
- Interventions to prevent rough sleeping.

My visit to Edinburgh and Glasgow was focused on the provision of public and social housing, as well as interventions to prevent rough sleeping and homelessness and included meetings with representatives of Government, academia and the private sector.

Benefits of travel to the State of Victoria

This visit continued Victoria's leadership in response to the issue of combustible cladding and broader building regulations, and actively engaged the insurance sector to progress efforts to restore the availability of professional indemnity insurance for building practitioners in Victoria. The visit also provided the opportunity to gain insight from a range of innovative approaches that have been taken in other jurisdictions to the issues of the provision of social and affordable housing, as well as interventions to prevent rough sleeping.

Benefits of the trip to Victoria include:

- Gaining an insight into the UK Government's response to the issue of combustible cladding in the wake of the tragic fire at Grenfell.
- Gaining an understanding of different stakeholders' views on the issues confronting the UK building system, many of which are directly analogous to the issues facing Victoria.
- Positioning Victoria as a global leader in responding to the issue of combustible cladding and in implementing a best practice, modern approach to building regulation.
- Positioning Victoria to engage productively with the local and international insurance market to ensure the ongoing availability of indemnity insurance for building surveyors, to enable delivery of the Government's rectification program and to stabilise the market for insurance in the building sector more broadly.
- Gaining an understanding of a variety of international best practices to the issues of the provision

of social housing, to responding to homelessness and rough sleeping and to the use of social impact bonds (or similar instruments).

Addressing the shared challenge of combustible cladding and the need for building reform

A significant portion of the time in London was spent meeting with a range of stakeholders to both learn how the UK had responded since the tragic Grenfell fire in June 2017 and sharing the progress that Victoria has made in responding to the issue of combustible cladding and improving building regulations more broadly. Both the UK and Victoria are grappling with the prevalence of combustible cladding on medium and high-rise buildings and both are trying to gain an understanding of and respond to the root causes of this issue.

I was able to articulate the strong steps that the Victorian Government had put in place to respond to the issue of combustible cladding, including the establishment of the Victorian Cladding Taskforce, the development and implementation of a coordinated state-wide audit and the recent announcement of a \$600 million cladding rectification program and establishment of a new dedicated authority, Cladding Safety Victoria. Victoria's actions were well received by the stakeholders that I met with, all of whom commended the leadership that the Victorian Government is showing. My meetings included:

- Meeting with the Chairman of the UK Local Government Association, Lord Gary Porter CBE, to discuss the experience of responding to the issue of combustible cladding from the UK local Government perspective, including a discussion of the fire safety issues beyond combustible cladding which have been identified in buildings in the UK.
- Meeting with representatives of the UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which is leading the UK Government's response to the issue of combustible cladding, including overseeing the UK Government's *Building Safety Programme*. We discussed the potential shared learnings between Victoria and the UK and as a result of their interest in Victoria's world-leading approach to responding to the issue of combustible cladding, the UK officials sought a further meeting with Victorian officials to further discuss the details of Victoria's approach. We agreed that we have a shared interest in ongoing sharing of information between Victoria and the UK as we both progress with cladding rectification and make changes to our respective building systems to address the underlying causes of the current situation.
- Meeting with Dame Judith Hackitt, Chair of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. I briefed Dame Judith on Victoria's Cladding Rectification Program, which she was strongly supportive of, and discussed the progress of her work and the response to her earlier recommendations. The meeting continued to build on the already strong relationship between the Victorian Government and Dame Judith. We discussed opportunities to continue to share information as our respective jurisdictions progress reforms to our building systems.
- Meeting with the UKAS, the UK's National Accreditation Body, to discuss the shared challenges of product testing, assurance mechanisms through building product supply chains and opportunities for greater interjurisdictional collaboration in relation to testing and testing standards for building products.
- Meeting with the Chair of the National Fire Chiefs, Mr Roy Wilsher to discuss the important role played by fire authorities in ensuring the safety of buildings. We discussed the reflections of the UK fire authorities on the tragedy of Grenfell and some of the key themes that the fire authorities believe need to be considered and addressed in responding to the causes of the current situation.

Taking steps to stabilise the market for professional indemnity insurance for building professionals

Like Victoria, the UK is dealing with significant recent tightening in the availability of professional indemnity insurance for building practitioners, and in particular building surveyors (and their UK equivalents). I discussed the issue of the lack of availability of professional indemnity insurance with all of the stakeholders above, with whom I met to discuss combustible cladding and the regulation of the building sector. In addition, I had a number of specific meetings to discuss the insurance issue, including:

- Meeting with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Director of Practice Standards and Technical Guidance, Mr Gary Strong, who also a member of the International Fire Safety Standards Coalition. We discussed the similar challenges being faced by the UK and Victorian insurance markets for indemnity insurance, as well as the assurance framework RICS puts in place around its members to provide a level of confidence to insurers about their members. We discussed RICS activity in Australia and a variety of short- and medium-term options to stabilise the professional indemnity insurance market.
- Meeting with the Head of Class of Business at Lloyd's of London, Ms Caroline Dunne to discuss the recent movements in the market for professional indemnity insurance. Together with the CEO of the Victorian Building Authority, I briefed Ms Dunne on the Victorian regulatory environment and the significant intervention the Victorian Government is making into addressing the problem of combustible cladding and issues in the building industry more broadly. The presentation was well received and there will be ongoing engagement between the Victorian Government, Lloyd's of London and its representatives in Australia, with a view to stabilising the market for professional indemnity insurance for building professionals.

Approaches to addressing the challenges of homelessness and rough sleeping, and to the provision of social and public housing

During my time in London, Glasgow and Edinburgh I held a number of meetings and went on a number of site visits to explore different approaches and interventions to address and prevent the incidence of homelessness and rough sleeping, with a view to exploring how the experience of other jurisdictions might be applicable to the Victorian context. I also met with a number of individuals and organisations associated with social and public housing. My meetings and site visits included:

- Meeting with the Director of Services (Rough Sleeper, Migrant & Criminal Justice Services) at St Mungos, Ms Petra Salva to discuss St Mungos' early interventions targeting new rough sleepers through the offering of a single, coordinated service plan within 72 hours of referral. We also discussed the systems in place to enable the efficient sharing of client data to enable coordinated service offerings, as well as the outcomes-based funding arrangements which are in place.
- Site visit to the No Second Night Out Assessment Hub to gain an understanding of the service offering and effectiveness of the approach. We discussed the drivers of the homelessness service system and the need for coordination between the not-for-profit sector and relevant State and local governments.
- Meeting with Professor Ken Gibb, from the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence, which is an initiative that commenced in 2017 and is a multidisciplinary partnership between academia, housing policy and practice. My discussion with Professor Gibb focussed on the social return on homelessness intervention – and in particular early intervention – the challenges being faced in the UK housing sector, particularly in the context of Brexit, and a number of initiatives including the More Home policy and the Help to Buy program.

- Meeting with Des McNulty, Deputy Director and Assistant Vice-Principle Economic Development and Civic Engagement, Policy Scotland, University of Glasgow. Our meeting focused on the role social infrastructure can play in driving the liveability of cities. I was also interested in the Institute's recent work on housing discrimination and public perceptions of different social and public housing cohorts.
- Site visit of SightHill Transformational Regeneration Area in Glasgow. The development is one of eight regeneration areas identified by the Scottish Government and was previously a public housing estate. My site visit explored the contamination issues that had been faced by the development, as well as the process that was undertaken to decant existing residents to enable the redevelopment.
- Meeting with the Deputy Director of Equalities, Human Rights and the Third Sector at the Scottish Local Government and Communities Directorate, Ms Lisa Bird to discuss the rollout of the Scottish Government's "Building a sustainable social enterprise sector in Scotland: 2017-2020". Our discussion focussed on how Government can most effectively engage with the social enterprise sector to deliver on policy priorities in a coordinated way.

Urban renewal and integration of heritage protection

While in London, I also toured a number of urban renewal sites, with a focus on understanding how the developments managed the protection of heritage assets within an urban renewal context, as well as delivering on social and affordable housing goals.

Site visit to Elephant & Castle, London

- Lendlease has been working in partnership with Southwark Council over the last nine years to deliver a \$4billion housing and commercial precinct in Elephant and Castle in central London.
- Elephant and Castle has been an important London location since Roman times as both an entertainment and transport hub.
- It was bombed heavily during the blitz of World War Two before becoming home to the Heygate social housing estate during the 1960s.
- I met with Victoria Quinlan, Managing Director – Investments Europe, Jonathon Dobson, Senior public affairs Manager and Iain Smith, Public Affairs Manager – Elephant Park from Lendlease.
- During the visit Lendlease explained how the project has delivered 3000 new homes with 25 per cent affordable housing, 6000 construction jobs - 1000 of which will be ongoing and the creation of an Energy Hub which provides net-zero carbon heat and hot water for all homes in the immediate area.
- I was also shown through the Southwark Skills Centre, a not for profit venture providing construction skills training for disadvantaged people seeking positive changes. The centre aims to address the shortage of building trade workers in London.

Site visit to the White City Regeneration Area

- The White City Regeneration area in the Hammersmith and Fulham Council is on the site of the 1908 Olympics and has been the home of the BBC's Television Centre since 1960.
- A number of heritage assets including the BBC Television Centre, the Shepherd's Bush Empire Theatre and the Odeon Cinema Buildings, the Dimco Building and the White City London Underground Station have been restored as part of the urban renewal program currently being implemented.
- The regeneration area covers 110 hectares and has three distinct sub-areas: White City East, Shepherd's Bush Town Centre and the estates in White City (White City West).

- When completed, it will have 5000 new homes, including affordable homes and student accommodation, an Imperial College campus - which will be a research and innovation centre specialising in science and bio-technology, a tech hub, a media and creative quarter, mixed-use developments including entertainment and leisure facilities, retail, commercial and office buildings, and plans for better transport connections including new pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.
- There will be new open spaces including a new public park, two public squares and an opening up of railway arches to improve connectivity.
- In 2008 Westfield opened a shopping mall that started off regeneration of the area. This project has provided 12,000 jobs with a further 8000 expected from its new extension project that will create an extra 740,000 sq. ft. of retail, dining, leisure and entertainment space, making it the largest shopping centre in Europe.
- Historically, the area has had high levels of deprivation in terms of income and employment with the 2011 census indicating an unemployment rate of 7.1 per cent in White City compared to 5.1 per cent in London overall. The council has stated that the economic benefits from the regeneration should benefit local people in terms of training and apprenticeships, so they can access new job opportunities. The creation of new homes is expected to go some way to meeting housing needs in the area. The criticisms of this redevelopment (and others) centre around the loss of socially rented homes and that 'affordable homes' are tied to market rates and therefore unaffordable to many people.
- I met with the Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Councillor Stephan Cowan, to discuss mixed-use development, mixed-density housing, innovation and creative hubs, sustainable communities, jobs of the future and housing affordability which are all concepts that are important to Victoria. As a government we too are dealing with similar issues. The visit provided important insights into how this local council and its stakeholders are negotiating this long-term redevelopment.

Site visit Battersea Park Power Station Redevelopment

- Battersea A Power Station was built in the 1930s and Battersea B Power Station, to its east, in the 1950s. They were constructed to a near-identical design, providing the four-chimney structure. The Power Station was decommissioned between 1975 and 1983 and remained empty until 2014.
- The building is an art deco masterpiece designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who also designed London's red telephone boxes and the Bankside power station – now the Tate Modern.
- Since Battersea power station stopped generating electricity in the 1980s, development proposals for one of London's biggest landmarks have included a theme park, a football stadium and a shopping centre with an ice rink on top.
- Now the four chimneys have been painstakingly rebuilt to strict heritage controls and piles dug 80 meters into the ground to support the restored building in a \$16 billion development which will see the site developed as a mixed-use neighbourhood incorporating, tourism, residential, cultural and commercial spaces.
- Public transport has been improved by an extension to the Northern line on the London Underground with Battersea station to open in three years.
- I was given an overview of the development by the Director of Special Projects at the Battersea Power Station Development Company, Mr Andrew Jones. We discussed some of the complexities of the redevelopment, including restrictions to the depth of the underground tube tunnel for the new station and the full restoration of the Grade 2, Level 2 heritage building (for context, Buckingham Palace is Level 1).
- The project is in the St Paul's Cathedral precinct so strict height controls are in place to protect

views to the Cathedral.

- The restored power station will house Apple's new UK headquarters. The visit provided valuable insights into how heritage can be incorporated into modern developments to create a functional, modern and aesthetically appealing result which has re-generated a derelict area underutilised for decades.

Site visit to Canary Wharf

- Visit to one of London's early urban renewal projects in the docklands to access the now completed project. A mixed-use development of commercial, residential and shopping complex underpinned by two new tube stations connected to the underground rail network. A successful example of integration, mixed-use development and value capture.

Site visit to Borough Markets

- Similar to the Queen Victoria Market in Melbourne, the Borough Market is a busy, well utilised heritage market and a significant tourist attraction for London. Like Victoria Market, Borough Market has had to manage the need for regeneration and infrastructure upgrades, with the protection of the site's heritage values: I was also able to observe the potential conflicts between surrounding uses (there are a large number of restaurants and entertainment venues in the vicinity of the market) and the operation of the market, especially during pack up.

Next Steps/Follow Up

Following my successful visit, a number of actions have commenced and will continue to be progressed. These include:

- Engagement between Victorian officials, Lloyd's of London, their representatives in Australia and the Insurance Council of Australia, including in relation to gaining relevant insurance coverage for practitioners involved in the cladding rectification program being delivered by Cladding Safety Victoria.
- Engagement with Australian representatives of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to explore opportunities for their oversight and assurance processes to be applied to surveyors in Victoria, thereby providing greater confidence to consumers and insurers.
- Further examination of early interventions to prevent longer term rough sleeping and how such interventions might be supported in the Victorian context.
- Working with officials and stakeholders from the UK to explore opportunities for greater international collaboration in relation to responding to the issue of combustible cladding, and the broader issues with the building system, including the potential for Victoria to co-host an international conference on these matters in 2019-20.
- Applying key learnings from urban renewal site visits, including to Elephant & Castle, Battersea Park and White City to urban renewal projects in Victoria, including in relation to maximising opportunities for the provision of social and affordable housing.
- Ongoing opportunities for engagement with Dame Judith Hackitt, including as the review into Victoria's building system is progressed.