

075 Melbourne (Australia)

3.6 million inhabitants according to the UN's *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Name	Population	% of total	Area, km ²	Density, people/km ²
Melbourne	*61,670	0.31%	36.2	1,703
Metropolitan Region of Melbourne [#]	*3,600,650	17.90%	8,831	408
State of Victoria	*4,972,779	24.73%	227,590	21.8
Australia	*20,111,297	100%	7,703,580	2.6

* Data for June 2004 from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand, 2003-04, Catalogue No 3218.0, 23rd March 2005.

Melbourne is defined as the Local Government Area of Melbourne plus the Docklands and Southbank which are currently administered by the City of Melbourne.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Melbourne	<i>City of Melbourne</i>	1 City Council 11 Suburbs: Central Business District, Southbank, Carlton, Docklands, East Melbourne and Jolimont, Kensington, North Melbourne, Parkville, Port Melbourne, South Yarra and St Kilda Road and West Melbourne
Metropolitan Region of Melbourne	<i>Melbourne Metropolitan Region</i>	31 City Councils: Melbourne, Banyule, Bayside, Boroondara, Brimbank, Cardinia, Casey, Darebin, Frankston, Glen Eira, Dandenong, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Kingston, Knox, Manningham, Maribyrnong, Maroondah, Melton, Monash, Moonee Valley, Moreland, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Whitehorse, Whittlesea, Wyndham, Yarra and Yarra Ranges.
State of Victoria	<i>State of Victoria</i>	1 <i>State</i> 39 <i>Shire Councils</i> 34 <i>City Councils</i> 5 <i>Rural City Councils</i> 1 <i>District</i>
Australia	<i>Commonwealth of Australia</i>	Federal structure composed by: 6 <i>States</i> : New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia 2 <i>Territories</i> : Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory 727 Local entities

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Melbourne

General Aspects

The city is responsible for the following jurisdictional areas: public road maintenance, solid waste management, urban planning, daycare centers, libraries and the maintenance of public parks, gardens and swimming pools.

Mayor

Has municipal executive power. Responsible for the political leadership of City Council. Chairs Council meetings and represents the city in government, economic and community meetings and forums. Also acts as the symbolic representative of the city. The Mayor is elected by direct universal suffrage for a four-year mandate.

City Council

The Council is the most important organ of municipal government and works as the legislative body of the city. The Councilors participate in the Council's own sectorial committees. These cover six major categories: Planning, Development and Services; the Environment, Community and Culture; Finances, Corporate Services and Governance; Marketing and Business Development; Security and Drugs; and Councilors' Business Trips. The Committees also hold discussions on the budget, services and administrative affairs. The City Council is made up of seven councilors elected by proportional representation with a mandate that coincides with that of the Mayor.

Chief Executive

Responsible for establishing and maintaining the structural organization that ensures that the decisions of Melbourne City Council are implemented and that the daily operations of the Council are in line with the approved corporate plan. Also advises City Council and is appointed by it.

Melbourne Metropolitan Region

Each of the 31 city councils that make up the metropolitan region have a structure of government similar to that of Melbourne City Council. However, there is no specific institution or administration for the overall territory with municipal or metropolitan powers. Most of the metropolitan responsibilities are exercised by the government of the State of Victoria. These include public transport, main roads, traffic control, police, primary-school education and the planning of major infrastructure projects.

State of Victoria

General Aspects

The state forms part of the federal government structure of Australia. It is thus responsible for the following areas of government action: education (primary and secondary schools), health (hospitals, ambulances, refuges and community health services), transport (public transport, major highways, vehicle registration), state development (investment attraction, employment, work compensation, information technology, sports, recreation, gaming, tourism), natural resources and the environment (development of agriculture, electricity and gas supply, sewerage and water supply, forests, land management, environmental

protection), law and order (courts and tribunals, legal aid, police, prisons), community services, housing, the fire brigade and emergency services.

Governor

The Governor is the official representative of the monarch in Victoria. The Governor acts as the head of state in Victoria, carrying out symbolic constitutional duties. The main political functions, apart from sanctioning state laws, are: dissolving the Parliament and formally calling elections and asking the leader of the majority party in the Legislative Assembly to be the Premier and form a government. Directly appointed by the Australian Prime Minister.

Premier

This is the head of the government and thus has executive power in the State of Victoria. Appointed by majority vote in the House of Representatives upon the proposal of the Governor.

Parliament

Bicameral parliament (Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council) with legislative power in the state. The Legislative Council is the organ that reviews bills brought by the Assembly. Although councilors in the Legislative Council can legislate, their main duty is to provide a 'second reading' to the Assembly. The Legislative Assembly is made up of 88 members elected for four-year terms by a majority system applied to single-member districts. The 44 councilors in the Legislative Council are elected in 22 electoral provinces with two per province. The Council is partially renewed in each session of the Assembly with the mandates for the 44 councilors thus being for eight years.

Public Organizations in the State of Victoria

Melbourne Water

A company owned by the Victorian Government and devoted to water management in Melbourne. Responsibilities include the distribution of water, sewerage and the management of flood-prevention systems.

METLINK

Mixed company (private sector and state government) responsible for providing information services to metropolitan transport operators, the state government and, in a more limited manner, to regional transport operators.

Private Companies

Yarra Trams

Company responsible for managing the tram system in the Melbourne metropolitan region.

Connex

Company responsible for managing the train system in the Melbourne metropolitan region.

Australia

Monarch

For historical reasons, the British monarch is the Head of State of Australia. The monarch does not exercise political power and the only political function is formal, i.e., advising the Australian Prime Minister. A lifelong, hereditary position.

Governor General

The monarch's representative in Australia. Generally a retired politician or prestigious figure whose function is to advise the Prime Minister of Australia. His or her function is to provide symbolic continuity to the leadership of state and royal approval to laws, read royal speeches, sign state documents and dissolve Parliament at the end of each session. Elected by the Prime Minister and formally appointed by the monarch.

Prime Minister

Under the Prime Minister's leadership, the government determines and manages the politics of the nation. Leads government action and is responsible for the execution of laws. Appointed by majority vote in the parliament and thus responsible to the Parliament.

Parliament

Composed of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. The function of the House of Representatives is basically to formulate bills or amend existing legislation. It also exercises government control. The Senate has two functions: to represent the States of Australia and review proposals and decisions from the House of Representatives and the Government. The House of Representatives has 150 members elected in single-member electoral districts by a preferential voting system. Their legislative mandate is for three years, although this may be reduced if early elections are called. The Senate comprises 62 senators: each state elects 12, while the Capital Territory and the Northern Territory elect two each. Senators are elected for a six-year mandate by proportional representation, although half the positions are renewed to coincide with the elections for the House of Representatives.

4. Relevant websites and online documents

State of Victoria: <http://www.vic.gov.au>

City of Melbourne: <http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au>

Australian Local Government Association – ALGA: <http://www.alga.asn.au/>

Department of Sustainability and Environment (State of Victoria):
<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/>

Department of Infrastructure (State of Victoria): <http://www.doi.vic.gov.au>

Parliament of Victoria: <http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/>

Melbourne Water: <http://www.melbournewater.com.au/>

Yarra Trams: <http://www.yarratrams.com.au/>

Connex Melbourne: <http://www.connexmelbourne.com.au/>

Melbourne 2030: <http://www.melbourne2030.vic.gov.au>

Victorian Electoral Commission: <http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/>

Australian Bureau of Statistics: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

Australian Government: <http://www.australia.gov.au/>

Parliament of Australia: <http://www.aph.gov.au/>

Australian Electoral Commission: <http://www.aec.gov.au/>