

Infrastructure Victoria's Final 30-year Infrastructure Strategy

December 2016

On 8 December 2016, Infrastructure Victoria, a body independent of the State Government, released *Victoria's Final 30-year Infrastructure Strategy*, outlining a long-term vision to address Victoria's infrastructure needs and priorities by 2046. A pipeline of evidence-based initiatives are outlined in the final strategy, totalling 137 recommendations for the short, medium and long term.

The final strategy highlights the opportunity to leverage private sector innovations to deliver outcomes for the community in the area of health care, education, transport, housing, securing Victoria's water supply and transitioning to a cleaner energy future.

An emphasis has also been placed on addressing the infrastructure needs of regional and rural areas.

Infrastructure Victoria have estimated that the recommendations of the final strategy - if adopted - would total around \$100 billion dollars in capital spending in the next 30 years.

The Victorian Government is required to respond to the recommendations within 12 months and also create its own five-year plan to deliver on its response to the recommendations.

Infrastructure Victoria is also required to refresh the strategy within five years and has indicated it will refresh the strategy in three years.

The final strategy is available in full [here](#).

Contents

Infrastructure Victoria's final 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy	1
Identified Needs	2
Top Three Recommendations	3
New Recommendations	3
Immediate Response from the Government – North East Link	3

Infrastructure Victoria's final 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy

With Victoria's population set to reach 9.5 million by 2046, the strategy focuses on what the State Government can do differently to facilitate and deliver outcomes by providing the right infrastructure in order to connect people to jobs, education, services and with their community.

A common theme running throughout the strategy is the need to address ICT connectivity in order to improve service delivery and optimise assets through technology. A leading factor in the development of the final strategy are the opportunities that private sector technological innovations could create.

Around 35 per cent of the recommendations are new projects and 45 per cent are behaviour change/supply management initiatives. The remaining recommendations are about better planning and prioritisation and further investigation into infrastructure options.

When developing the strategy, Infrastructure Victoria focused on how to make the most of existing assets. Options to build new infrastructure are to be considered only when non-build solutions had

been exhausted or determined as not viable.

Infrastructure Victoria have also released a supporting document of 285 options which provides a summary of assessments and scenarios tested during the development of the final recommendations.

Identified Needs

Infrastructure Victoria was established in October 2015 to provide independent and transparent advice to the Victorian Government on infrastructure matters. Infrastructure Victoria made a commitment to define the challenges facing the state, before developing recommendations.

The strategy identifies the infrastructure challenges Victoria faces, and outlines 19 needs to:

1. Address infrastructure demands in areas with high population growth
2. Address infrastructure challenges in areas with low or negative population growth
3. Respond to increasing pressures on health infrastructure, particularly due to ageing
4. Enable physical activity and participation
5. Provide spaces where communities can come together
6. Improve accessibility for people with mobility challenges
7. Provide better access to housing for the most vulnerable Victorians
8. Address increasing demand on the justice system
9. Provide access to high-quality education infrastructure to support lifelong learning
10. Meet growing demand for access to economic activity in central Melbourne
11. Improve access to middle and outer metropolitan major employment centres
12. Improve access to jobs and services for people in regional and rural areas
13. Improve the efficiency of freight supply chains
14. Manage threats to water security, particularly in regional and rural areas
15. Manage pressures on landfill and waste recovery facilities
16. Help preserve natural environments and minimise biodiversity loss
17. Improve the health of waterways and coastal areas
18. Transition to lower carbon energy supply and use
19. Improve the resilience of critical infrastructure

The needs identified above will ultimately be addressed in the State Government's response.

Top Three Recommendations

Infrastructure Victoria have identified three short to medium term priorities:

1. Increasing densities in established areas to make better use of existing infrastructure, including:
 - Upgrading arterial road networks in outer metropolitan areas.
 - Increase the provision of temporary or 'pop up' community infrastructure, such as relocatable buildings.

2. Introducing a comprehensive transport pricing regime to manage demands on the network, including:
 - Improve transport modelling tools in order to support the operation of driverless vehicles.
 - Institute an asset management-based approach to a long-term program of tram and train rolling stock procurement.
 - Introducing opportunities for new market players offering innovative transport services.

3. Investing in social and affordable housing for vulnerable Victorians to significantly increase supply, including:
 - Supporting the private sector in providing affordable private rental housing.
 - Providing an alternative statutory approvals process for affordable housing developments by amending the planning system.

New Recommendations

The final report includes three new recommendations (which were not included in the Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy):

1. An inland rail line from Melbourne to Brisbane;
2. Identifying a new site for a prison and reserving land for potential future use; and
3. The delivery of a port rail shuttle to connect on-dock rail access at Swanston Docks with terminals across metropolitan Melbourne.

The strategy acknowledges that State Government partnerships with the Commonwealth Government, local governments, private enterprises and community sector organisations will be vital for the success of the plan.

Immediate Response from the Government – North East Link

Following the release of the strategy, the Victorian Government announced it will build the North East Link and allocated \$35 million for a business case development, consultation and route selection to be completed by 2018. A planning approval and tender process is also scheduled to commence in 2018.

The North East Link – a major road project which would create a more complete ring road in Melbourne by connecting the M80 to Eastlink.



The Victorian Government indicated the project would take up to 10 years to complete. Funding for the \$10 billion project will be derived from government contributions and tolls, however the final funding arrangements will be confirmed upon completion of the planning process.

The project will be managed by a newly established North East Link Authority. Further details about the North East Link Authority will be available in the near future.

Further information

Infrastructure Victoria's 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy Final Strategy is available [here](#).

Options Book: A Supporting Document for Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy is available [here](#).

Infrastructure Victoria's Draft 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy is available [here](#).

The Victorian Government Media Release relating to the final strategy is available [here](#).

The Victorian Government Media Release relating to the construction of the North East Link is available [here](#).