

Victorian Infrastructure Plan

October 2017

On 18 October 2017, the Andrews Labor Government announced the Government's five-year Victorian Infrastructure Plan. The Plan contains the Victorian Government's response to the independent authority Infrastructure Victoria's inaugural [30-year infrastructure strategy](#), presented to the Government in December 2016 to advise on the State's short, medium and long-term infrastructure requirements.

The Victorian Government responded to each of Infrastructure Victoria's 137 recommendations, with 134 recommendations either accepted in full, in part or in principal.

The Plan contains the Victorian Government's record \$40 billion investment in the State's infrastructure needs, affirming current existing funding levels for key projects including the North-East Link, the Metro Tunnel and the Regional Rail Revival.

The Plan details the Government's focus on nine critical sectors, including outlining the Government's priorities, projects and long-term policy directions across each sector including Transport; Culture, sport and community; Digital connectivity; Education and training; Energy; Environment; Health and human services; Justice and emergency services; and Water.

In its Plan the Government acknowledged the role of the private sector in delivering infrastructure, Victoria's growing population, the need for greater accessibility to essential services and fostering gender equality.

The Plan will be updated annually as part of the State Budget, and its progress will be regularly assessed by Infrastructure Victoria. The full Victorian Infrastructure Plan, including the Government's responses to each recommendation, is available [here](#).

The Government's initiatives across nine critical sectors include:

Transport

The Plan provides for continual investment in transport projects to cater for an expected population of 10.1 million Victorians by 2051, through:

- \$11 billion to build the Metro Tunnel
- \$6.9 billion to remove Victoria's 50 most dangerous and congested level crossings as well as \$1.4 billion towards station upgrades and network improvements
- \$5.5 billion towards the West Gate Tunnel project
- \$2.7 billion over two years towards regional public transport, including upgraded stations and new connections
- \$1.3 billion to complete the CityLink Tulla Widening

- \$596.7 million for the Mernda Rail Extension project
- \$193.2 million over four years to continue all night public transport on weekends
- \$100 million for planning and pre-construction work for the North-East Link
- \$60.3 million towards the Streamlining Hoddle Street project.

Culture, sport and community

The Government outlined a plan for long-term renewal and expansion of Victoria’s arts and sporting precincts, including:

- Upgrades to major sporting infrastructure including: \$272 million for the Melbourne Park Redevelopment; \$10 million for the Victorian Home of Golf and national high performance centre; \$38.5 million for Ballarat's Eureka Sports Precinct; and \$25 million for Junction Oval
- \$120 million for the Community Sport Infrastructure Fund to support sport and recreation facilities, including \$14 million for Female Friendly Facilities
- \$88.1 million (including \$27.7 million from philanthropic sources) to redevelop the State Library of Victoria, creating an additional 1,000 square metres of space for public use
- \$50 million through the Shared Facilities Fund to establish multipurpose ‘hubs’ at schools across the State that will be accessible to all members of the community.

Digital connectivity

Internet connectivity and digital capability were identified as vital aspects to Victoria’s future, delivering:

- \$96.1 million to establish Services Victoria, which will provide a single online contact point for a range of government services
- \$72.3 million for Triple Zero to respond to demand for emergency call-taking, and improving emergency services communications, including radio coverage in the City Loop
- \$68 million towards digital services in schools and an additional \$16.4 million to improve bandwidth and digital connectivity for students in rural and regional Victoria
- \$25.5 million for Smart Planning, reforming the planning system by developing modern digital tools to make the system more efficient and easier to navigate.

Education and training

Affirming Victoria’s focus on quality education as the Education State, the Plan outlines investment in all levels of the education system, including:

- \$2.5 billion for school infrastructure, including \$722 million to construct, plan and buy land to construct new schools and \$174 million for relocatable classrooms
- \$264 million towards the Skills First initiative to support students across Victoria to participate in training and attain jobs, and \$128 million to deliver ten Tech Schools across the State
- \$120 million to provide new and refurbished classrooms at Independent and Catholic Schools
- \$43.8 million for the Doctors in Secondary Schools program, establishing GP consultation facilities at 100 secondary schools across Victoria.

Energy

The Plan supports businesses and households to make upgrades that will improve their energy efficiency and decrease energy costs, through:

- Continuing the Government's \$146 million Renewable Energy Action Plan
- \$53 million to implement the Greener Government Buildings program
- \$42.5 million to deliver geoscientific and environmental studies into the risks, benefits and impacts of onshore conventional gas, to be undertaken by Victoria's Chief Scientist, to inform the Government's strategy on onshore conventional gas exploration
- \$25 million to support large-scale energy storage initiatives throughout Victoria, in partnership with energy storage companies and electricity network businesses.

Environment

Meeting the challenges of climate change and population growth underpin the Plan's environmental proposals, with projects including:

- \$273.3 million to reduce the impact of bushfires through emergency management agencies partnering with local communities
- \$86.3 million to support initial implementation of Protecting Victoria's Environment — Biodiversity 2037
- \$31.8 million to improve parks management and increase the service delivery capacity of Parks Victoria, including up to 60 additional park rangers
- \$30.4 million to implement the waste and resource recovery planning framework.

Health and human services

The Government prioritised quality healthcare and improved social equity outcomes in the face of a growing population, through:

- Affirming the 2017-18 Budget's record \$1.9 billion investment into preventing family violence
- Establishment of a \$1 billion Victorian Social Housing Growth Fund to support a pipeline of projects to deliver more social housing
- \$851 million to abolish stamp duty for first home buyers purchasing new and existing properties under \$600,000; \$50 million to double the first home buyer grant in regional Victoria to \$20,000; and \$50 million for a pilot shared equity scheme to assist first home buyers with insufficient deposits, with the Victorian Government taking an equity share of up to 25 per cent
- \$498 million for acute health services including the Northern Hospital, expansion of the emergency department at Monash Medical Centre and critical infrastructure works at the Austin and Royal Melbourne hospitals
- \$215 million to implement the government's Better, Safer Care reforms to patient safety
- \$201 million to increase bed-based and community mental health capacity
- \$200 million towards the Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital in Melbourne's west
- \$169.5 million for Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment in regional Victoria.

Justice and emergency services

The Plan provides for safer communities and an increased readiness for bushfire season, including:

- \$448.1 million to establish 17 family violence safety and support hubs across the State, including in Barwon, Bayside Peninsula, Inner Gippsland, Mallee and North-East Melbourne
- \$289 million towards a new high-security youth justice centre in Cherry Creek, including 224 beds and a mental health unit



- \$227 million towards mobile technology and body cameras to frontline police, and a new intelligence system to give frontline police state-of-the-art ICT to better respond to incidents
- \$136.7 million to transition Victoria Police, Victoria State Emergency Service, Life Saving Victoria, Corrections Victoria and Country Fire Authority in-field operations to the State's digital regional mobile radio network to improve communications
- \$74 million for new prison infrastructure and security enhancements at Victoria's maximum-security facilities, including at Barwon Prison for men and the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre for women.

Water

The Plan identifies supply of water, under strain due to climate change-related issues, as crucial to Victoria's agriculture industry, providing:

- \$222 million to improve and monitor the health of our waterways and catchments
- \$60.6 million to ensure water management meets the needs of all water users
- \$40 million towards constructing a stock and domestic pipeline to increase water security in rural communities of the South West Loddon region
- \$21.2 million to support Victoria's cities and towns to manage water use, including through water efficiency programs and by improving stormwater harvesting.

Further information

The Victorian Government media release on the Victorian Infrastructure Plan is available [here](#).

Hawker Britton's Occasional Paper on Infrastructure Victoria's Final 30-Year Strategy is available [here](#).

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