

Ref: D25/79592

April 16, 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Draft Infrastructure Victoria 30 Year Strategy Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the draft Infrastructure Victoria 30 year Strategy. Banyule City Council resolved at its public meeting of 14 April 2025 that it:

Adopt the submission (Attachment 1- *as tabled at the public meeting*) to Infrastructure Victoria's public exhibition of its draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy with the following additions:

- a) Add nine (9) new dot points to the 'suggested improvements' section:
 - i. As part of recommendation 7, any rezoning in relation to housing reforms should consider liveability, neighbourhood character and 30% tree canopy.
 - ii. As part of recommendation 8, building a new bus rapid transit network should consider the use of new technologies and trackless trams.
 - iii. recommendation 15 should build on and not maintain the status quo. A much more concerted effort is needed to incorporate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure into major projects, such as the North East Link project. The investment in cycling paths associated with NEL should aim to achieve expansive new trails in Banyule.
 - iv. As part of recommendation 16, this draft recommendation should include sharing the grounds of non-government schools as well.
 - v. As part of recommendation 26, where public land is not available, the government should invest in the purchase of private land for the provision of open space.
 - vi. As part of recommendation 26, the 30% tree canopy and shrub target should be extended to private land in line with the recommendations of Living Melbourne and to address the current conflict with State Government changes to ResCode.
 - vii. As part of recommendation 26, the draft strategy recognises that 'developers remove vegetation when they build homes. A further recommendation should be included that applies a method of valuing vegetation removal and requires a financial contribution for its removal commensurate with its value. This work should include capturing and applying the value of green infrastructure as an investment the same way we do grey infrastructure.
 - viii. Recommendation 30's title should be changed to 'Improve environmental assessments and site selection for renewable energy projects.

Note that the Submission document following has been updated to reflect this resolution. For more information about this submission, please contact me on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Kathleen Petras



**Transport Planning and Projects Coordinator
Banyule City Council**

Submission to Infrastructure Victoria

Draft 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy – April 2025



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Introduction

Banyule City Council provides this submission to the public exhibition of Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30 – year Infrastructure Strategy for consideration in its preparation of a finalised Strategy to be provided in its advisory capacity to the Victorian Government.

Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30 Year Infrastructure Strategy (the Strategy) proposes 43 recommendations and 7 future options that span across infrastructure sectors. These are understood as:

- *Recommendations* propose actions for the Victorian Government to start in the next 5 years.
- *Future options* are projects, policies and reforms that Victoria will likely need over the next 30 years.

Recommendations

The Strategy recommendations are grouped under the six themes are largely consistent with existing State Government policy and are. The 43 draft recommendations and 7 future options span a range of sectors relevant to infrastructure including: housing, transport, community health, self-determination for Traditional Owners, water management, resilience to climate change and the supporting the economy. These are set out in detail in Attachment 1 along with Banyule's strategic alignment with each.

The recommendations are generally business as usual and high level such as:

- Build more social housing (#1)
- Continue building protected and connected cycle corridors across Victoria. Publish updates to the strategic cycling corridor network (#15)
- Facilitate markets and invest in kindergarten infrastructure (#2)
- Expand the TAFE program in Melbourne's growth areas and some large regional centres (#4)
- Rezone locations near existing infrastructure for more home choices (#7)
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure (#24)
- Better prepare infrastructure for climate change (#27)
- Speed up household energy efficiency and electrification (#34)
- Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure (#38)
- Use government land to support at least 30% tree canopy and shrub cover on public land (#26)

Many of the recommendations are broadly relevant to Banyule as part of metropolitan Melbourne and one recommendation makes specific reference to land in Banyule. This is Recommendation No. 20, which is to upgrade critical public hospital infrastructure, including by continuing upgrades to the Alfred and Austin hospitals.

There are some recommendations, including “Future options”, which represent a new stance on a particular matter, such as:

- Over the long-term, phase out residential stamp duties and phase in residential land tax (Future option).
- Reduce speed limits to 30km/h on local roads (#14).
- Help government schools to share their grounds as open space for local communities outside school hours (#16).
- Support more use of recycled water, particularly by determining the costs and benefits of introducing recycled water in Melbourne and Geelong and build a pilot recycled drinking water facility (#25).
- Plan for and invest in manufactured water, returning more water to Traditional Owners and the environment (Future option).

Council will consider these new positions on matters as part of our future strategy preparation such as the Banyule Transport Strategy.

Alignment with Council Strategic Directions

The objectives and recommendations of the draft Strategy are broadly consistent with key themes in the Banyule City Council Plan 2021-2025 and Draft The Banyule Plan 2025 - 2029. For example:

- A focus in the draft Strategy on providing more community access to open space and on supporting equality and access for Traditional Owners supports Theme 1 of the Council Plan (An inclusive and connected community) and key strategies in support of that theme.
- A focus on water conservation, improved canopy cover and reduction of emissions is consistent with Theme 2 (Our Sustainable Environment).
- A focus on providing more housing in close proximity to jobs and services, on supporting sustainable modes of transport and on providing more public access to public open space is consistent with Theme 3 (Our Well-Built City).
- A focus on planning community infrastructure to meet future needs, facilitating multi-use of facilities and providing sustainable community facilities is consistent with Theme 4 (Our Valued Community Assets and Facilities).
- A focus on improving the community's access to services and jobs and on improving access to TAFE is consistent with Theme 5 (Our Thriving Economy).
- A focus on improving public knowledge of threats to the community, such as flooding, and providing more energy efficient infrastructure is consistent with Theme 6 (Our Trusted and Responsive Leadership).

See the Appendix which details Council's strategic alignment to each of the draft Strategy's six themes, 43 recommendations and 7 future options.

Suggested Improvements

Some improvements are suggested to the draft Strategy as follows:

- Certain recommendations are too broad. An example of this is the recommendation to reform infrastructure contributions to make it simpler and to cover all types of housing developments and reflect the cost of infrastructure in different development settings. This is a worthy sentiment. However, the recommendation is very broad and does not provide a strong or clear path for implementation.

- Certain recommendations are too weak and non-visionary. An example is the recommendation to continue building safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities, including to publish updates to the strategic cycling corridor. This recommendation is simply requesting the status quo and does not provide any clear target or vision regarding this matter.
- There is a lack of commitment to providing affordable homes. One of the Future Options is to mandate more affordable homes near existing infrastructure. Providing affordable housing is a core policy objective of the State Government, but not one that has been successfully delivered due to an unwillingness of the State Government to mandate this outcome. Given this situation, Council recommend that the draft Strategy's proposal on this matter should be a recommendation, which then must be responded to by the Victorian Government.

Further to the suggestions above the following specific improvements are requested:

- As part of recommendation 7, any rezoning in relation to housing reforms should consider liveability, neighbourhood character and 30% tree canopy.
- As part of recommendation 8, building a new bus rapid transit network should consider the use of new technologies and trackless trams.
- Recommendation 15 should build on and not maintain the status quo. A much more concerted effort is needed to incorporate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure into major projects, such as the North East Link project. The investment in cycling paths associated with NEL should aim to achieve expansive new trails in Banyule.
- As part of recommendation 16, this draft recommendation should include sharing the grounds of non-government schools as well.
- As part of recommendation 7, any rezoning in relation to housing reforms should consider liveability, neighbourhood character and 30% tree canopy.
- As part of recommendation 8, building a new bus rapid transit network should consider the use of new technologies and trackless trams.
- Recommendation 15 should build on and not maintain the status quo. A much more concerted effort is needed to incorporate pedestrian and cycling infrastructure into major projects, such as the North East Link project. The investment in cycling paths associated with NEL should aim to achieve expansive new trails in Banyule.
- As part of recommendation 16, this draft recommendation should include sharing the grounds of non-government schools as well.

Closing Comment

Despite the above issues, overall the draft Strategy is a document that provides a suitably diverse and sound set of objectives and recommendations in response to the wide range of challenges faced by the Victoria Government and local government in providing infrastructure in the next 30 years.

Note that there are several recommendations that Council are yet to form a position on and make no comment on in this report. These include:

- Reduce speed limits to 30km/h on local streets, starting in places that children often visit including around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and kindergartens (#14).
- Plan and start building residential rehabilitation and withdrawal facilities to meet the demand for alcohol and other drug treatment (#18).

Appendix: Council's strategic alignment to each of the Draft Strategy's six themes

Theme 1: Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities

Banyule Supporting Strategy:

- Draft Banyule Plan 2025 – 2029
- Council Plan & Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025
- Housing Strategy 2024
- Interim Social and Affordable Housing Policy 2023
- Integrated Transport Plan 2015
- Northern Council's Alliance (NCA):
 - Northern Region Transport Strategy 2020
 - Transport Study - Bus Network 2022

Banyule Council

Direct Strategic Alignment

Indirect Strategic Alignment

No Position

Recommendations and Future Options:

1. Build more social housing	Consistently invest in new social housing to provide more Victorians on low incomes with access to a secure and affordable home.	X	
2. Facilitate markets and invest in kindergarten infrastructure	Facilitate markets for private and not-for-profit investment in sessional kindergarten infrastructure. Share regularly updated information about the demand for and supply of funded kindergarten places. Publish priorities for government investment to deliver kindergartens in communities that will have the greatest need.		X
3. Plan and deliver expanded and new schools	Identify schools to expand and confirm areas that will need new schools. Fund expansions of existing schools and begin delivery of new schools. Minimise costs by expanding the built capacity of existing schools and building larger new schools.		X
4. Expand TAFE in Melbourne's growth areas and some large regional centres	Expand TAFE campuses in Melbourne's west, north and south-east growth areas, and some large regional centres, to train more students to fill skills gaps, especially in construction, energy and health.		X
5. Build libraries and aquatic centres for Melbourne's growing communities	Fund councils to plan and build libraries and aquatic recreation centres in Melbourne's growth areas.	X	

Banyule Supporting Strategy:		Banyule Council		
		Direct Strategic Alignment	Indirect Strategic Alignment	No Position
- Draft Banyule Plan 2025 – 2029 - Council Plan & Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025 - Housing Strategy 2024 - Interim Social and Affordable Housing Policy 2023 - Integrated Transport Plan 2015 - Northern Council's Alliance (NCA): - Northern Region Transport Strategy 2020 - Transport Study - Bus Network 2022				
Recommendations and Future Options:				
6. Make government infrastructure more accessible	Complete priority public transport stop upgrades to meet legal accessibility requirements and fund further upgrades. Provide better public information on accessibility in government buildings.	X		
7. Rezone locations near existing infrastructure for more home choices	Change all relevant planning schemes to rezone for more homes in Victoria's cities and reach housing targets. More homes should be close to public transport and open space, with good access to services.	X		
<i>Future Option: Mandate more affordable homes near existing infrastructure</i>	<i>Choose a mechanism to mandate more housing that is affordable for low-income households and close to public transport, open space and services.</i>	X		
<i>Future Option: Phase out residential stamp duties</i>	<i>Over the long term, phase out residential stamp duties and phase in residential land tax.</i>			X
8. Extend Melbourne's trams to encourage more new homes nearby	Increase services on key tram routes in activity centres that have been designated for additional housing development. Complete a detailed assessment of tram extensions in Melbourne's established suburbs. Start building extensions in areas that can support more new homes. Rezone land around the extended tram lines so more homes are built.		X	
9. Run faster bus services, more often, in Victoria's largest cities	Run buses more often, for longer hours, and give buses priority on the road. In stages, straighten out existing bus routes so they are fast and direct.		X	
10. Build a new bus rapid transit network	Complete a detailed assessment, reserve the required land, and build a new bus rapid transit network. Start with routes that connect train stations and busy destinations in Melbourne's north, west, and south-east, and extend the new Eastern Busway along Hoddle Street.		X	

Banyule Supporting Strategy:		Banyule Council		
		Direct Strategic Alignment	Indirect Strategic Alignment	No Position
- Draft Banyule Plan 2025 – 2029 - Council Plan & Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025 - Housing Strategy 2024 - Interim Social and Affordable Housing Policy 2023 - Integrated Transport Plan 2015 - Northern Council's Alliance (NCA): - Northern Region Transport Strategy 2020 - Transport Study - Bus Network 2022				
Recommendations and Future Options:				
11. Extend metropolitan trains and run more services in Melbourne's west	Extend and electrify metropolitan trains to Melton. Reallocate trains that serve Melton to other areas in Melbourne's west and regional Victoria. Assess delivery of a new train station at Altona North accompanied by land rezoning.			X
12. Run more bus and coach services in regional Victoria	Deliver more bus services in regional cities. Run more V/Line coach services to better connect small towns to regional cities. Start with routes that improve access to jobs, education and healthcare.			X
13. Make off-peak public transport cheaper and simplify regional fare zones	After upgrading the myki ticketing system, charge lower fares for off-peak travel on Victoria's buses, trains and trams. Simplify fares and reduce the number of regional fare zones		X	

Theme 2: Victorians are healthy and safe

Banyule Supporting Strategy:		Banyule Council		
		Direct alignment	Indirect alignment	No position
- Draft Banyule Plan 2025 – 2029 - Council Plan & Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025 - Bicycle Strategy 2022 - Banyule Walking Strategy 2019 - Banyule Safe travel Plan 2016				
Recommendations and Future Options:				
14. Make local streets safer for children and communities.	Reduce speed limits to 30km/h on local streets, starting in places that children often visit including around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and kindergartens.			X

15. Build safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities	Continue building protected and connected cycle corridors across Victoria. Publish updates to the strategic cycling corridor network.	X
16. Help government schools share their grounds	Prioritise which government school sports fields and facilities could deliver the greatest benefits if they were shared with local communities outside school hours. Give these schools extra help for maintenance if they voluntarily share their grounds outside school hours. Offer funding for upgrades to incentivise shared access outside school hours.	X
17. Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities	Develop and fund 5-year priorities for Victorian Government investment in community health facilities.	X
18. Build more residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities	Plan and start building residential rehabilitation and withdrawal facilities to meet the demand for alcohol and other drug treatment.	X
19. Invest in digital healthcare	Expand digital healthcare to improve the quality of care and ease demand on public hospitals. Deliver a statewide medical image sharing system and a statewide virtual care service that remotely monitors suitable patients at home.	X
20. Upgrade critical public hospital infrastructure	Define the scope and timeframes to upgrade the Royal Melbourne Hospital and begin the first stage of construction. Continue with upgrades at the Alfred and Austin hospitals.	X
21. Better use prisons and invest more in health facilities and transition housing	Use prison capacity to move people to facilities that meet their needs. Invest more in prison health facilities and post-release transition housing. Close old prisons that are underused and expensive to keep.	X

Theme 3: Aboriginal people have self-determination and equal outcomes to other Victorians

Banyule Supporting Strategy:

- Marrageil Strategy 2024
- Marrageil Aboriginal Self-determination Strategy Action Plan 2024

Recommendations and Future Options:

Banyule Council

Direct
Indirect
No
Position

22. Invest in secure homes for Aboriginal Victorians	Fund a 10-year program to build social homes for Aboriginal Victorians and provide secure and sustainable tenancies. Work with Aboriginal housing providers and Traditional Owner corporations to develop capacity across the Aboriginal housing and homelessness sector.	X
23. Fund better health and wellbeing infrastructure for Aboriginal Victorians	Fund and start health and wellbeing infrastructure projects for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs). Provide additional annual funding to further develop the skills and capacity of health and wellbeing ACCOs to plan, develop and deliver new and upgraded infrastructure in a self-determined way. Establish an interim fund for minor works and repairs until a self-determined perpetual infrastructure fund is introduced.	X

Theme 4: Victoria has a thriving natural environment

Banyule Supporting Strategy: • Urban Forest Strategy 2023 • Open Space Strategy 2016 • Water Plan 2019		Banyule Council		
Recommendations and Future Options:		Direct	Indirect	No Position
24. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure	Adopt carbon values and measure carbon in infrastructure projects to reduce emissions.	X		
25. Advance integrated water management and use more recycled water	Work with partners to fund and deliver integrated water management projects. Determine the costs and benefits of introducing recycled drinking water in Melbourne and Geelong and build a pilot recycled drinking water facility. Deliver a community education campaign on the need for more water sources.			X
Future Option: Plan for and invest in manufactured water	<i>Plan for and invest in manufactured water (direct).</i> <i>Return more water to Traditional Owners and the environment (indirect).</i>	X	X	
26. Better use government land for open space and greenery	Fund actions to better connect open spaces to each other and plant more trees and shrubs in urban areas. Give Victorians access to more public land in fast growing suburbs. Target at least 30% tree canopy and shrub cover on public land.	X		

Theme 5: Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks

Banyule Supporting Strategy:

- Asset Plan 2022
- Community Climate Action Plan

Recommendations and Future Options:

		Banyule Council		
		Direct	Indirect	No Position
27. Better prepare infrastructure for climate change	Fund high-priority, cost-effective infrastructure adaptation actions when climate adaptation action plans are updated in 2026. Produce an energy sector adaptation plan.	X		
28. Use new flood maps to revise planning schemes	Produce a common set of flood projections based on the latest climate data. Use this information to update flood studies and maps and apply them in planning schemes. Minimise building in areas at high risk of flooding.	X		
29. Coordinate faster delivery of key energy infrastructure	Fast-track key energy projects and coordinate enabling infrastructure. Establish a unified energy transition project pipeline and conduct annual progress assessments. Create a central energy transition coordinator to align priorities, improve transparency and manage risks.		X	
30. Improve environmental assessments and site selection for energy projects	Reform environmental assessments and help energy project proponents select good sites.		X	
31. Invest in home, neighbourhood and big batteries for more energy storage	Create new support for home batteries and provide incentives to encourage people to join a virtual power plant. Expand the neighbourhood batteries program, or similar. Facilitate more investment in big batteries for the transmission network.	X		
32. Determine long duration energy storage needs	Determine the most efficient policy or investment options to provide enough long duration energy storage to meet Victoria's needs.		X	
33. Develop regional energy plans, guide transition from fossil gas and maintain reliable gas supply	Develop an energy plan for electrification and gas use that meets each region's needs and prepare gas infrastructure decommissioning for homes and some businesses. Secure gas supplies to meet demand. Set a renewable gas target and support renewable gas production.	X		
34. Speed up household energy efficiency and electrification	Require efficient electric space heating and hot water when people replace their heaters at end-of-life and support low-income households to go all-electric. Complete social housing energy upgrades, including electrification. Require Victorian homeowners to disclose the energy efficiency of their homes at the time of sale or lease	X		

Theme 6: Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy

Banyule Supporting Strategy:

- Asset Plan 2022
- Towards Zero Water Management Plan 2024
- Integrated Transport Plan 2015

Banyule Council

Direct
Indirect
No Position

Recommendations and Future Options:

35. Prepare and publish infrastructure sector plans to shape Victoria's cities	Agree a set of assumptions for future population, jobs and land use for more compact cities. Require each department that owns infrastructure to develop an infrastructure sector plan as soon as possible, based on these assumptions, and publish strategic-level plans. Use the finished sector plans to decide infrastructure project funding.		X	
36. Reform infrastructure contributions	Simplify Victoria's infrastructure contribution schemes to cover all types of housing developments and reflect the cost of infrastructure in different development settings.			X
37. Improve asset management of all government infrastructure	Fund asset managers to better understand the condition, use and performance standards of all government infrastructure. Use this information to develop asset management strategies and prioritise funding.	X		
38. Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure	Identify places for new recycling and waste infrastructure and publish them in the next update to the Victorian recycling infrastructure plan. Plan for waste and recycling sites together with other commercial and industrial land. Make changes to planning controls to allow for facilities where they are needed.	X		
39. Use digital technologies to better design, build, operate and maintain government infrastructure	Pilot digital technologies on government infrastructure projects and report on their progress. Use building information modelling on major infrastructure and housing projects. Improve capabilities in government agencies and review procurement processes to promote greater use of digital technologies.		X	
40. Use modern traffic control technology for efficient and safe journeys	Further extend modern traffic control technology like sensors and cameras along arterial roads in Victoria's largest cities. Begin expanding smart motorways into Melbourne's growth area freeways.		X	

Banyule Supporting Strategy:		Banyule Council		
		Direct	Indirect	No Position
- Asset Plan 2022 - Towards Zero Water Management Plan 2024 - Integrated Transport Plan 2015				
Recommendations and Future Options:				
Future Option: Charge people fairly to use roads	Introduce road charges that help manage congestion and improve productivity. Consider options such as car parking levies, off-peak freeway tolls, congestion pricing trials, or road user charging for all motorists with lowered fixed road charges. Work with the Australian Government on road pricing options.			X
41. Make rail freight competitive, reliable and efficient	Develop and publish a 30-year integrated rail freight network plan and fund a 10-year rail freight maintenance program. Develop a freight network coordination policy.		X	
42. Encourage off-peak freight delivery in urban areas	Prepare for growing freight volumes in urban areas by piloting an off-peak freight delivery program in a high-density area of Melbourne. If successful, expand off-peak delivery for more productive and sustainable freight movement.		X	
Future Option: Plan for more efficient and sustainable urban freight	Develop a network of urban freight delivery precincts in Melbourne to improve freight productivity and reduce emissions.		X	
43. Create and preserve opportunities for future major infrastructure projects	Create and preserve opportunities to build major infrastructure projects which might be required in the long term. This includes expanding desalination capacity, City Loop reconfiguration, extending and electrifying metropolitan trains to growth areas in Melbourne's north and south-east, Melbourne Metro 2, the Bay West port, the outer metropolitan road and rail corridor and connecting western intermodal freight terminal.		X	
Future Option: Reconfigure the City Loop for more frequent and reliable trains	Reconfigure the City Loop by splitting 2 City Loop tunnels into 2 separate cross-city train lines. Build around 3 kilometres of new train tunnels and upgrade related power and signaling. Increase service frequency on the Craigieburn, Upfield and Frankston lines.			X
Future Option: Extend metropolitan trains to growth areas in Melbourne's north and south-east	Extend and electrify metropolitan trains to Clyde and towards Kalkallo to support growth in new suburbs.			X