

Submission form: Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy

Your details

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About you

Please tell us which best describes you:

☐ Victorian resident
☐ Victorian business owner/operator
☐ Industry professional
☐ Community organisation representative
☒ Local government representative
☐ State government representative
☐ Researcher
☐ Other (please specify): Click or tap here to enter text.

Your focus areas

Select the topics or regions you are providing feedback on (select all that apply):

Topics	Regions
☐ Across sectors	☐ Regional Victoria
☒ Circular economy	☒ Urban growth areas
☐ Cities	☐ Melbourne
☒ Climate change	
☒ Community infrastructure	
☒ Education	
☒ Energy	
☒ Freight	
☒ Health	
☒ Housing	
☒ Infrastructure for Victoria's First Peoples	
☒ Transport	
☒ Water	

Your feedback

Add as many sections as you need to provide all your feedback in this submission.

Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Build more social housing
Recommendation number:	1
1. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
2. Tell us why	The increasing number of people experiencing homelessness in Cardinia Shire highlights the growing need for social and affordable housing. Currently, there is a significant gap between the demand for and availability of social and affordable in Cardinia Shire. Analysis of the socio-economic determinants of harm and priority groups within the municipality indicates Pakenham (central, north-east, north-west and south-west) have high proportions of people in age cohorts considered at elevated risk, individuals with compromised mental health and other indicators including CALD communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Pakenham has the highest concentration of people experiencing homelessness in the municipality, and together with Koo Wee Rup, has experienced the greatest increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in recent years. Council supports this recommendation as it aligns with our existing strategies and position. This recommendation is consistent with Council's Plan for Victoria submission, which advocates for social housing to be considered as essential infrastructure. Additionally, the recommendation aligns with Council's Social and Affordable Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2018-25. The vision of the strategy is to ensure Cardinia Shire provides diverse, high quality, sustainable and affordable housing that is responsive to the needs of a growing and diverse community. The primary goal of the plan is to increase access to appropriate and affordable housing.
3. Share any supporting evidence or examples	In 2021, 5% (1,984) of households in Cardinia Shire were in need of affordable housing. (Source: Profile.id) As of 2021, Cardinia Shire has a significantly lower proportion of social housing (0.8%) compared to Greater Melbourne (2.3%). (Source: Profile.id) Homelessness in Cardinia Shire is worsening over time and becoming more visible in the community. In 2023, 44% of residents had seen someone who is experiencing homelessness locally, up from 22% in 2019. (Source: 2023 Liveability Survey Report, Cardinia Shire Council)

	16% of residents reported that they or a friend required housing support, and 19% of renters reported spending more than 50% of their income on rent (2023 Cardinia Shire Liveability Survey) Further information available in Council's Social and Affordable Housing Strategy.
4. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should include a provision for the state government to continue conducting land audits of state-owned land and properties, including existing social and affordable housing sites. These audits are essential to identify underutilised land and determining the most appropriate locations for new social and affordable housing developments. The audits should specifically assess the potential to increase density and number of social and affordable housing developments in well located areas that are close to amenities, jobs, services and opportunities. This approach will ensure that housing developments are strategically placed to maximise access to essential services and support the needs of the community
Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Facilitate markets and invest in kindergarten infrastructure
Recommendation number:	2
5. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
6. Tell us why	The recommendation suggests co-locating kindergartens with primary schools to reduce costs. Cardinia Shire are supportive of this approach as it can provide numerous benefits, including improved transitions for children and better use of shared facilities. However, evidence and practical experience indicate that locating a kindergarten next door does not necessarily lead to cost savings. The State Government's Building Blocks Kindergarten Infrastructure Strategy emphasises that every new government primary school should have a kindergarten on site or next door. This approach does not inherently reduce costs and may, in fact, lead to higher expenses due to the need for additional infrastructure and maintenance. Facilities built on Council land become Council assets, which require ongoing asset renewal and maintenance. This places a financial burden on local governments, which may not be sustainable in the long term. The recommendation should address this issue and propose solutions to mitigate the financial impact on local councils. To reduce pressure on state and local governments, more can be done to encourage private investment in the kindergarten sector. This could include incentives for private investors by offering tax breaks, grants, or subsidies to private investors who build and

	operate kindergartens. Encouraging or incentivising public-private partnerships where private entities can invest in kindergarten infrastructure with support from the government. In addition, the state government should consider simplifying the regulatory and approval processes for private investors to make it easier and more attractive to invest in the kindergarten sector where possible. In addition, to ensure effective planning and delivery of kindergarten infrastructure, it is crucial to have timely and reliable data on capacity and demand. Sharing updated data on these factors is essential for effective service planning. Without accurate and current data, challenges arise in making informed decisions about where to locate kindergartens, including the feasibility of co-locating them with primary schools. Transparent data and information are necessary to avoid inefficiencies and ensure that infrastructure investments meet the actual needs of the community.
7. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Further evidence available within Council's Community Infrastructure Plan
8. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should clearly state that co-locating kindergartens with schools, either on site or next door, does not necessarily reduce costs and may require additional funding for infrastructure and maintenance. It should include provisions for financial support or grants to local councils for the ongoing asset renewal and maintenance of kindergarten facilities on Council land. The recommendation should propose specific measures to attract private investment in the kindergarten sector, such as tax incentives, grants, public-private partnerships, and streamlined approval processes. The recommendation should include a provision for the state government to ensure transparency about the costs associated with co-locating kindergartens with primary schools. This includes providing detailed cost analyses and justifications for how this approach will effectively minimise costs. The recommendation should outline specific strategies and measures to mitigate any potential financial impacts on local councils. This transparency will help build trust and ensure that all stakeholders understand the financial implications and benefits of the proposed investments. The recommendation should include provisions for the regular collection and sharing of updated data on kindergarten capacity and demand. This transparency is crucial for making informed decisions about the location and co-location of kindergartens with primary schools. Without accurate and current data, planning and delivering kindergarten infrastructure becomes challenging, potentially leading to inefficiencies and unmet community needs.

Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Plan and deliver expanded and new schools
Recommendation number:	3
9. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
10. Tell us why	The recommendation aligns with Cardinia Shire Council's housing targets outlined in the Plan for Victoria document. Cardinia Shire must achieve housing targets of 36,000, which necessitates significant investment in school infrastructure to support the growing population. While expanding existing schools can be cost-effective, it may not always be feasible or the most economical option, particularly in areas with high land and construction costs. Additionally, expanding schools should not come at the cost of impacting the availability of open recreational space for students. The recommendation does not consider the co-location of community facilities within schools, which may provide significant benefits such as shared resources, reduced costs, and enhanced community engagement. Cardinia Shire has a rapidly growing population but lacks a TAFE campus. Co-locating higher education facilities, such as TAFE campuses, with high schools can support ongoing education, reduce disengagement among young people by providing additional accessible options for study, and can support bridging local skills gaps. This approach aligns with Recommendation 4, which emphasises expanding TAFE campuses in growth areas but has disappointingly neglected to identify Cardinia, one of Victoria's fastest-growing municipalities, as a priority area for investment and expansion. Co-locating high schools with TAFE campuses or other higher education institutions can lead to shared use of facilities such as libraries, sports complexes, and laboratories. This can reduce costs and improve access to high-quality resources for both high school and TAFE students. Co-location can facilitate smoother transitions from high school to higher education by providing students with early exposure to tertiary-level courses and environments. Programs like dual enrolment or early tertiary high schools can help students earn credits while still in high school, improving higher-education readiness and reducing the time and cost to complete a degree. Co-locating TAFE campuses with high schools can help address local skills gaps by offering vocational training and education that aligns with the needs of the local economy. This can enhance employment opportunities for young people and support local businesses. Co-located facilities can serve as community hubs, offering a range of services and programs that benefit the broader community. This can include adult education, community events, and access to recreational facilities.
11. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Consider Youth Foyer Model

12. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should clearly state that while expanding existing schools can be cost-effective, it may not always be feasible or the most economical option, particularly in areas with high land and construction costs. Additionally, expansion should not reduce the availability of open recreational space. The recommendation should explicitly include strategies for co-locating community facilities with schools to maximise resource use and community engagement. The recommendation should specifically identify opportunities for the co-location of higher education facilities, such as TAFE campuses, with high schools as per the need and requirement outlined in Recommendation 4 of the Draft Strategy, with the addition of Cardinia identified as a priority area for inclusion.
Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Expand TAFE in Melbourne's growth areas and some large regional centres
Recommendation number:	4
13. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
14. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire is experiencing rapid population growth but currently lacks a TAFE campus. As a region home to a large number of young families, and with three additional families moving in every day, there is a pressing need for additional skills and training opportunities to meet the demand from new graduates in the coming years as well as new residents today. The recommendation emphasises the need to better utilise existing TAFE campuses and concentrate additional facilities there before opening new sites. However, Council has continually advocated for additional TAFE locations within Cardinia Shire to provide residents with access to skills and training close to their homes. The recommendation has not considered the construction and operation of Victoria's newest state-significant industrial precinct in Officer South. This manufacturing hub, which includes the provision of a new industry training facility in Cardinia, has been identified and planned to support the development of specialised training facilities that cater to the unique needs of the local economy. However, this has not been included or considered within the recommendation Cardinia's most accessible TAFE campus is located in Casey (Berwick campus). Given the combined population growth of the Casey Cardinia region, a single TAFE campus located in Berwick, which is landlocked, is insufficient to meet the needs of the estimated combined population of 800,000 by 2046. The recommendation does not consider the vast geographical size of Cardinia, its proximity and public transport access, or lack of accessibility to higher education options for its residents.

	The recommendation should be emphasising the importance of improving links to established TAFE campuses. The recommendation has not considered the opportunity to co-locate higher education facilities, such as TAFE campuses, with high schools, which has been identified as a requirement in Recommendation 3 of the Draft Strategy. Co-location can support ongoing education, reduce disengagement among young people, and fill local skills gaps. Co-locating high schools with TAFE campuses or other higher education institutions can lead to shared use of facilities such as libraries, sports complexes, and workspaces. This approach can reduce costs and improve access to high-quality resources for both high school and TAFE students. Co-location can also facilitate smoother transitions from high school to higher education by providing students with early exposure to tertiary-level courses and environments. Programs like dual enrolment or early tertiary high schools can help students earn credits while still in high school, improving higher-education readiness and reducing the time and cost to complete a degree. Furthermore, co-locating TAFE campuses with high schools can help address local skills gaps by offering vocational training and education that aligns with the needs of the local economy. This can enhance employment opportunities for young people and support local businesses. Co-located facilities can serve as community hubs, offering a range of services and programs that benefit the broader community, including adult education, community events, and access to recreational facilities. The recommendation currently overlooks the specific needs of Cardinia Shire, one of Victoria's fastest-growing municipalities, despite its significant growth and demand for vocational training. Cardinia is specifically advocating to be recognised within the Strategy as a priority location for a new TAFE campus to meet the needs of its growing community.
15. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
16. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should specifically identify Cardinia Shire as a priority location for a new TAFE campus. This would address the significant demand for vocational training in one of Victoria's fastest-growing municipalities. The recommendation should address improving transport links to existing TAFE campuses, particularly for regional areas such as Cardinia. Enhanced transport connectivity will ensure that students from Cardinia Shire can access suitable TAFE courses more easily. The recommendation should give consideration and be linked to the construction and operation of the new state significant manufacturing hub in Officer South, which includes provision of a new industry training facility in Cardinia. This would support the development of specialised training facilities that cater to the unique needs of the local economy. The recommendation should support the exploration of co-locating new TAFE campuses with new high schools within growth areas.

Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Build libraries and aquatic centres for Melbourne's growing communities
Recommendation number:	5
17. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
18. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges and supports the recommendation for planning and building libraries and aquatic recreation centres in Melbourne's growth areas. However, the recommendation does not adequately recognise Cardinia as a municipality with a significant gap and urgent need for a regionally significant aquatic centre. Cardinia Life is Cardinia Shire's only aquatic and recreation centre and has been operating well beyond capacity for several years now. The local population has more than doubled since it opened and is projected to grow 86% faster than the Victorian average over the next decade. Total enrolments in sport and swimming have stagnated due to a lack of capacity, meaning an increasing portion of the population misses out completely. Council has engaged with a number of user groups and residents as part of our advocacy work on Cardinia Life. They all shared stories of overcrowded swimming lanes and late-night basketball competitions due to the local population exceeding the facility's capacity. Children and senior residents were most likely to benefit from Cardinia Life and therefore face the highest costs from missing out. Demand among these groups is expected to grow by 45% over the next decade – this is faster than the general population is growing and there is no space to accommodate additional users. Council predicts a gross economic benefit of \$228 million over a 30-year period if the facility is redeveloped. This includes the direct benefit to users, the social value of improved physical and mental health, and the additional income Council receives from the expanded facility. Council expects that the true benefits will be even higher when accounting for increasing participation in sport and reduced risks of drowning through water safety lessons. Of note, Cardinia's residents are shown to have one of the highest rates of drownings in Victoria. Investing in such infrastructure yields significant social returns, including reduced public health costs and social welfare expenses, thereby enhancing the overall wellbeing of the community. Council has also identified the need for a dedicated library and community hub in Officer but does not have the resources to progress the project alone. The recommendation supports the prioritisation of a library facility within Cardinia. Council is currently

	planning for the design and delivery of the Officer Library and Community Hub; however, this project is currently underfunded. The recommendation suggests that up to a third of funding should be provided by the State Government. The recommendation should state that a minimum of one-third of the funding should be provided by the Victorian Government. Given the financial constraints across the local government sector and the reluctance of the Federal Government to commit significant funding to projects of this scale, a third of the funding should be considered the bare minimum contribution from the Victorian Government. This funding is essential to ensure the timely completion of critical projects like the Cardinia Life Redevelopment and the Officer Library and Community Hub, which are vital for meeting the immediate needs of the growing community.
19. Share any supporting evidence or examples	
20. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should explicitly prioritise Cardinia Shire as a location for an expanded aquatic facility, given the urgent need for the Cardinia Life Redevelopment. This prioritisation will ensure that the necessary funding and resources are allocated to address the immediate needs of the growing community. The recommendation should state that a minimum of one-third of the funding should be provided by the Victorian Government. Given the financial constraints across the local government sector and the reluctance of the Federal Government to commit significant funding to projects of this scale, a third of the funding should be considered the bare minimum contribution from the Victorian Government. The recommendation should emphasise the importance of integrated planning and collaboration between local and state governments. This approach will ensure that projects like the Cardinia Life Redevelopment and the Officer Library and Community Hub are aligned with broader infrastructure goals and community needs. The recommendation should highlight and reflect the social return on investment in facilities of this kind, including mental and physical health improvements that reduce state government public health costs and social welfare expenses. Emphasising these benefits will highlight the value of investing in such infrastructure for the overall wellbeing of the community. .
Topic/area:	Access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Run faster bus services, more often, in Victoria's largest cities
Recommendation number:	9

21. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
22. Tell us why	Increasing bus services has been identified as a key advocacy priority for Cardinia Shire to support new residential developments and ensuring equitable access to education, jobs and services. As an interface municipality with a mix of urban growth areas and rural townships, our residents have inequitable access to public transport with very limited bus services. Only 33% of homes are within 400m of a bus stop and only 8.3% homes are within 400m of public transport with a regular 30 minute weekday service (7am-7pm). Some of Cardinia Shire's residential growth areas are more than 10 years old and still do not have any bus services. The train network has seen improvements with new stations and level crossing removals, however bus service improvements have not matched the train improvements or kept up with growth in a rapidly developing corridor.
23. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Cardinia Shire is home to a number of commercial developments that have no public transport links. This reduces access to jobs, prevents businesses from hiring skilled locals, and adds congestion to the road network. Council is currently planning the development of the Officer South Employment Precinct which will be a major regional jobs and manufacturing hub. Establishing regular and well-planned bus routes will be essential to the growth of this precinct. An efficient bus network will also require the extension of Thompsons Road from Clyde North to Pakenham, a key advocacy item for Council that will unlock this major development and ease congestion on roads across the south east. Better public transport was quite a common sentiment in Council's recent community engagement & was often linked to better health - e.g. bulk billing GPs, specialist health services & fresh produce which often required travel outside the Shire (Community Engagement Findings, Liveability Plan Review - Stage 2, 2025)
24. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should include a focus on early delivery of bus services within growth areas and new estates. Establishing bus routes early helps integrate new estates into the broader urban transport network, fostering a sense of connection and community from the onset. It also establishes sustainable travel habits among new residents and reduces traffic congestion in the outer suburbs where a high proportion of people travel long distances for work.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Help government schools share their grounds

Recommendation number:	16
25. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
26. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council's Open Space Strategy identifies that all school land, both government and private, is a major contributor to open space. While currently restricted, schools have the potential to significantly improve access to public open space through joint user agreements, such as Memorandums of Understanding, where there are access gaps in the network. However, Victoria's Draft Infrastructure Strategy only refers to sports fields and facilities as delivering open space benefits outside school hours. This should be extended to include playgrounds and other open space infrastructure such as trees, seating, and picnic tables, especially where there are gaps in access to open space with minimal opportunity to address the issue using nearby public land. Additionally, connecting paths and links to improve access should be considered as part of this initiative to share school grounds. Council's Active Cardinia Strategy identifies the demand for sports fields over the next 10 years. The opportunities for acquiring new sports fields will be limited to available land. Therefore, partnerships with schools for community use of their facilities will be crucial to meeting this demand. Access to school sites has historically been a challenge for local government authorities. Partnerships are generally at the discretion of the individual school or principal. The State Government needs to go further and mandate the requirement for schools to open up their facilities to the broader community, as blockages often rest at the school level. The State Government should also review the cost estimates provided in the recommendation, as the range of \$1 million to \$40 million over 5 years seems low for developing sites, including oval redevelopment and associated facilities/amenities. This recommendation is likely to have financial impacts on Councils if a partnership is established. This impact would be greater if Council is required to acquire and develop land (greenfield sites) for the open space, sport, and active recreation requirements of the community. However, State Government should ensure the cost of maintaining state assets such as schools and their respective open spaces isn't perceived to be cost shifting from State Government to LGA's. Public walkways through sections of underutilised school land (separated from children) is another way to improve walkability and connectivity for the general public to open spaces, shopping centres, activity areas, and community facilities. Additional benefits to sharing school facilities include activating community spaces, which improves community connections, mental and physical health benefits, and passive surveillance/security of school assets when sites are activated.

27. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Doncaster Primary School and Woodridge State School (QLD) are examples of walkways for public access through underutilised areas of schools. <u>Cardinia Shire's Open Space Strategy</u> highlights the importance of school land as a major contributor to open space and the potential for joint user agreements to improve access. The <u>Active Cardinia Strategy</u> identifies the demand for sports fields and the limited opportunities for acquiring new land, emphasising the need for partnerships with schools.
28. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should explicitly include playgrounds and other open space infrastructure such as trees, seating, and picnic tables, in addition to sports fields and facilities. This will maximise the benefits of shared school grounds for the community. The recommendation should mandate the requirement for schools to open up their facilities to the broader community, rather than leaving it to the discretion of individual schools or principals. This will ensure more consistent and widespread access to school grounds. The recommendation should review and potentially increase the cost estimates for developing sites, including oval redevelopment and associated facilities/amenities, to ensure they are realistic and sufficient to cover the necessary improvements. The recommendation should include the development of public walkways through sections of underutilised school land to improve walkability and connectivity for the general public to open spaces, shopping centres, activity areas, and community facilities. The recommendation should be transparent and address ongoing costs associated with the suggested partnerships.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities
Recommendation number:	17
29. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
30. Tell us why	<u>Cardinia Shire Council's Community Infrastructure Plan (CIP)</u> identifies community health facilities and services as an area of significant demand. While some of these services are not the direct responsibility of local government, Cardinia Shire has a responsibility to facilitate or advocate for the necessary spaces, particularly in vulnerable and isolated areas of the Shire. Certain areas of Cardinia have considerable demand for community services and support services, necessitating strong advocacy and prioritisation for both funding and provision of specialised places and

	spaces to ensure this demand can be met and no community is left behind. Maternal Child Health Centres within Cardinia Shire are often housed in ageing facilities that require significant renewal or, in some cases, new facilities to meet the needs of the growing population. For example, the Emerald MCH Centre operates in a small and ageing facility that requires significant maintenance and renewal. Council also accommodates various health providers through facility leases and licenses, where these facilities require additional maintenance. The CIP includes an infrastructure audit that identifies undersupply in certain regions of the Shire where community spaces are required. Further, community needs assessments completed as part of the Koo Wee Rup (KWR) Feasibility Study (2022) and Hills Region Feasibility Study (2023) identified various community services related to early years and family services as areas of significant shortfall. Council is required to make significant financial commitments to new infrastructure, despite some of these services not being a Council responsibility. Additional funding commitments or partnerships are necessary to meet or reduce service shortfalls in areas identified as community service deserts. Broadly, facilities are requiring renewal, and in some cases, there is a need to find alternative accommodations for service delivery. Reviewing and considering consolidating services in integrated facilities can bring efficiency and economic benefits while improving service outcomes. The Officer Library and Community Hub identifies potential community service spaces, which has a considerable funding shortfall.
31. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Community Infrastructure Plan Cardinia Shire Council
32. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should provide additional funding commitments or partnerships to meet or reduce services shortfalls in areas identified as community services deserts.

Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Build more residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities
Recommendation number:	18
33. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
34. Tell us why	Reducing harm from drugs is a key outcome area within Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan. The Council's Household Liveability Survey

	2023 revealed that residents experience a variety of harms from alcohol, both directly and indirectly. Shire specific drivers: Recent stakeholder engagement identified several key drivers of alcohol-related harm in the Shire, these included the relative accessibility of alcohol compared to other drugs; limited public transport, which restricts access to social and leisure opportunities, increases reliance on private transport, and raises the potential for driving under the influence of alcohol; a lack of non-alcohol social and leisure opportunities, such as bowling alleys, cinemas, and shopping centres, which reduces opportunities for young people to socialise; a reliance on sporting clubs, which often have a strong drinking culture, as a primary social outlet; and limited access to support services, leading some individuals to use alcohol as a form of self-medication. Access to residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities is limited within Cardinia, with only one small facility providing support to residents of Cardinia and the neighbouring rural Shire of Baw Baw. While local data indicates a lower rate of alcohol-related harm compared to the greater Melbourne average, access to services in Metropolitan Melbourne far exceeds that in Cardinia Shire. The most current alcohol-related indicators for Cardinia Shire are as follows: • There are 240 hospital admissions per 100,000 people, compared to 586 per 100,000 people in metropolitan Melbourne and 474 per 100,000 people in Victoria (2021-22). • There are 199 ambulance attendances for alcohol-related incidents per 100,000 people in Cardinia Shire, compared to 295 in metropolitan Melbourne and 394 in Victoria (2022-23). • There has been a significant rise in serious road injuries, with 19 per 100,000 people in Cardinia Shire, compared to 10 per 100,000 people in metropolitan Melbourne and 13 per 100,000 people in Victoria (2019-20).
35. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<u>Cardinia Shire Alcohol Harm Minimisation Policy Background Report January 2025 FINAL</u>
36. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should emphasise the need to increase accessibility to residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities within Cardinia Shire. Expanding the availability of these facilities will ensure that residents have better access to the support they need. The recommendation should acknowledge and address the specific local drivers of alcohol related harm identified. The recommendation should call for enhanced support services to address underlying issues leading to alcohol misuse. The includes increasing availability of mental health services, social support, and alternative leisure activities that do not involve alcohol. The recommendation should emphasise the importance of integrated planning and collaboration between local and state government, healthcare providers, and community organisations.

	The recommendation should highlight the social return on investment in expanding treatment facilities and support services. Improved access to treatment and support will lead to better health outcomes, reduced public health costs and lower social welfare expenses.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Upgrade critical public hospital infrastructure
Recommendation number:	20
37. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
38. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council is supportive of the recommendation outlining the needs for major inner-city metropolitan hospitals. However, we note with concern the absence of any mention or alternative recommendation relating to hospital infrastructure needs in the outer suburbs. This omission is significant, as it overlooks the critical healthcare requirements of rapidly growing communities like Cardinia Shire. Cardinia Shire's Liveability Plan identifies the need to increase access to community infrastructure and services close to home. This includes healthcare services, which are vital for the wellbeing of our residents. The current recommendation does not address this need, leaving a significant gap in healthcare provision for outer suburban areas. Cardinia Shire is experiencing rapid population growth, projected to grow 86% faster than the Victorian average over the next decade. This growth places immense pressure on existing healthcare facilities, which are already operating beyond capacity. Without adequate hospital infrastructure, residents will face longer wait times and reduced access to essential healthcare services. Access to healthcare should be equitable across all regions. Currently, residents in outer suburbs like Cardinia Shire have limited access to hospital services compared to those in metropolitan Melbourne. This disparity can lead to poorer health outcomes and increased healthcare costs in the long term. Including hospital infrastructure for outer suburbs in the strategy will help bridge this gap and ensure all Victorians have access to quality healthcare. Excluding outer suburban hospital infrastructure from the strategy perpetuates existing healthcare inequities. It is essential to recognise and address the unique challenges faced by these communities to ensure fair and equitable access to healthcare for all Victorians.

	Investing in hospital infrastructure in outer suburbs supports the overall wellbeing of the community. It reduces travel times for residents, decreases the burden on inner-city hospitals, and improves health outcomes by providing timely and accessible care. Improved healthcare infrastructure in outer suburbs can lead to significant economic and social benefits. It can attract healthcare professionals to the area, create jobs, and stimulate local economies. Additionally, it enhances the quality of life for residents, making these areas more attractive places to live and work. Cardinia Shire Council strongly advocates for the inclusion of public hospital infrastructure needs for outer suburbs in Victoria's Draft Infrastructure Strategy. Addressing these needs is critical to ensuring equitable access to healthcare, supporting community wellbeing, and achieving the broader goals of the Liveability Plan. We urge the Victorian Government to consider these factors and make the necessary amendments to the strategy to include comprehensive hospital infrastructure planning for outer suburban areas.
39. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Cardinia Shire LGA is in the 24th percentile for access to health infrastructure (Australian Urban Observatory, 2021). There is a small regional hospital in Kooweerup and plans for a Community Hospital in Pakenham. Currently the closest hospital for residents living in the urban growth areas of Cardinia Shire is in Berwick. <u>Liveability Plan 2017-29 - Cardinia Shire Council Cardinia Shire Council</u>
40. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should explicitly include the infrastructure needs of public hospitals in outer suburbs, such as Cardinia Shire. This inclusion is essential to address the healthcare disparities between metropolitan Melbourne and rapidly growing outer suburban areas. The recommendation should call for the development of a comprehensive regional hospital plan that classifies hospitals based on hierarchy, catchment areas, services provided, and accessibility. This plan will be instrumental for land use development and planning complementary or co-located services, ensuring that healthcare infrastructure is strategically placed to meet community needs. The recommendation should advocate for the development of integrated healthcare hubs in outer suburbs. These hubs would combine hospital services with primary care, allied health, and community health services, providing a holistic approach to healthcare that is accessible and convenient for residents. The recommendation should highlight the importance of equitable access to healthcare across all regions. It should call for measures to ensure that residents in outer suburbs have the same level of access to quality healthcare services as those in metropolitan areas. The recommendation should acknowledge and address the existing healthcare inequities by prioritising investment in hospital infrastructure in outer suburbs. This will help bridge the gap in healthcare provision and ensure that all Victorians receive timely and effective medical care.

	The recommendation should propose increased funding and resources for hospital infrastructure projects in outer suburbs. This includes securing financial support from both state and federal governments to ensure the successful implementation of these projects. The recommendation should explore incentives for private-public partnerships to enhance healthcare infrastructure. These partnerships can leverage the strengths of both sectors, create economies of scale, and expand access to care for underserved populations. Incentives could include tax benefits, grants, or streamlined regulatory processes to encourage private investment in public healthcare projects.
Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Mandate more affordable homes near existing infrastructure
Recommendation number:	Future Option
41. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
42. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council supports the Future Option to mandate more affordable homes near existing infrastructure. Despite being an interface Council, housing in Cardinia Shire is becoming increasingly unaffordable, disproportionately impacting households with very low and low incomes. Council's current approach to securing social and affordable housing is voluntary and based on negotiation, typically occurring when developers seek to subdivide at a higher density than what is prescribed by the precinct structure plan. In such cases, Council negotiates through a Section 173 Agreement for lots and/or dwellings to be gifted to a registered community housing organisation at no cost. Council welcomes the introduction of a mechanism in the planning scheme to mandate this requirement when subdividing, developing, or rezoning land for residential use.
43. Share any supporting evidence or examples	For the 12 months to December 2024, only 0.3% of all rentals in Cardinia Shire were affordable to households on very low income. In 2021, Cardinia Shire had a higher proportion of households in the low-income bracket (22.7%) compared to Greater Melbourne (20.3%).

	For the 12 months to December, 35.3% of all rentals in Cardinia Shire were affordable to households on low incomes, a significant decrease from 94.3% for the 12 months to June 2020. Additionally, 5% (1,984) of all households in Cardinia Shire are in need of affordable housing. More than 50% of residents reported spending 30% or more of their income on rent or a mortgage, with 19% spending more than 50% of their income on housing (2023 Cardinia Shire Liveability Survey). <u>Social and Affordable Housing in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
44. Include proposed changes and improvements	The Future Option should specifically include 'very low' income households who are disproportionately impacted by the lack of affordable homes. This will ensure that the most vulnerable residents are not overlooked and have access to affordable housing. The Future Option should acknowledge that to mandate social and affordable housing, changes are required to the Planning and Environment Act 1987. While the Act currently includes the objective of facilitating the provision of affordable housing in Victoria, this is not mandated. The Act should be amended to include mandatory provisions for affordable housing in all new residential developments.
Topic/area:	Aboriginal people have self-determination and equal outcomes to other Victorians
Recommendation name:	Invest in secure homes for Aboriginal Victorians
Recommendation number:	22
45. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
46. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council acknowledges and supports Recommendation 22, which calls for increased investment in secure homes for Aboriginal Victorians. Cardinia Shire has a growing and higher Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population compared to Greater Melbourne. However, despite this upward trend, the area remains underserved, with only a limited number of Indigenous community housing organisations available to support the local Indigenous community. Council welcomes the support of federal and state governments in increasing the number of social and affordable housing units for Indigenous Victorians. It is crucial that this housing be culturally appropriate, well-located, and equipped with essential wrap-around services to ensure the wellbeing and stability of the residents.

47. Share any supporting evidence or examples	In 2021, Cardinia Shire had a higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (1%) compared to Greater Melbourne (0.7%). (Source: Profile.id) The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Cardinia Shire has been increasing over time, rising from 0.8% in 2016 to 1% in 2021. (Source: Profile.id) <u>Social and Affordable Housing in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
48. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should emphasise the importance of culturally appropriate housing that respects and incorporates Indigenous cultural values and traditions. This includes design elements that reflect cultural heritage and provide spaces for community gatherings and cultural practices. The recommendation should emphasise the requirement for housing to be strategically located to ensure easy access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and employment opportunities. Proximity to public transport and community facilities is also vital to support the daily needs of residents. The recommendation should highlight the need for comprehensive wrap-around services that address the holistic needs of Indigenous residents. These services should include mental health support, substance abuse programs, employment assistance, and educational opportunities. Providing these services will help residents achieve long-term stability and improve their overall quality of life. The recommendation should call for support from other levels of government to encourage Indigenous community housing organisations to extend their service catchment area to include areas of growing need, such as Cardinia Shire. The recommendation should propose increased funding and resources for Indigenous community housing organisations to develop and manage new housing projects. This includes financial support for the construction of new homes, as well as ongoing funding for maintenance and support services.

Topic/area:	Aboriginal people have self-determination and equal outcomes to other Victorians
Recommendation name:	Fund better health and wellbeing infrastructure for Aboriginal Victorians
Recommendation number:	23
49. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part

50. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council supports Recommendation 23, which calls for increased funding for health and wellbeing infrastructure for Aboriginal Victorians. However, we believe that the recommendation should specifically include the funding of a feasibility study and project contribution for the delivery of an Aboriginal Gathering Place within Cardinia Shire. Currently, the closest Gathering Places are located in Doveton (CDG/Casey Border) and Healesville, which are inaccessible for many residents of Cardinia Shire. This lack of accessibility inhibits residents' ability to connect with their community and access required supports. It also limits the ability to attract Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to the Shire, as there are limited venues suitable to house them. In 2021, 1% of the population in Cardinia Shire identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, which is greater than the 0.7% in Greater Melbourne (Source: Profile id). Through community consultation for the development of the Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, a Gathering Place has been identified as a priority for local residents. Despite this, Council has been unsuccessful in securing suitable financial contributions to enable this infrastructure, which is essential for creating culturally safe spaces.
51. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<u>Reconciliation Action Plan Cardinia Shire Council</u>
52. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should include specific infrastructure grants to develop new Gathering Places or modify current facilities to be adapted for this purpose. This funding is crucial to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in Cardinia Shire have access to culturally safe spaces where they can connect with their community and access necessary supports. The recommendation should deliver a feasibility study to assess the needs, potential locations, and design requirements to ensure the successful delivery of Gathering Places in areas of greatest need,
Topic/area:	Victoria has a thriving natural environment
Recommendation name:	Advance integrated water management and use more recycled water
Recommendation number:	25
53. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part

54. Tell us why	Council has developed robust water management plans and incorporated water management into key strategies like our Liveability Plan. Cardinia Shire also presents an opportunity to better capture and use large volumes of stormwater, particularly to water parks and open spaces.
55. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Council has partnered with a number of external organisations to improve water management and maximise use of recycled water. This includes the Dandenong and Western Port Integrated Water Management Forum, and working with South East Water in Pakenham to deliver recycled water to key growth areas and agricultural zones. Integrated water management plan Cardinia Shire Council
56. Include proposed changes and improvements	The Victorian Government should work more closely with the various Integrated Water Management Forums across the state. Council recommends that all future business plans for South East Water and other retailers require collaboration with these IWM Forums.

Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Better prepare infrastructure for climate change
Recommendation number:	27
57. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
58. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council supports Recommendation 27, which emphasises the need to better prepare infrastructure for climate change. Cardinia Shire regularly faces major bushfire and storm risks, as well as localised flooding. These risks are exacerbated by climate change, and Council welcomes a more proactive approach focused on adaptation and prevention in disaster recovery. Natural disasters experienced in Cardinia, such as bushfires and storms, have often left large numbers of residents facing prolonged power outages. An energy-sector specific adaptation plan would create greater regional certainty, clarify roles and responsibilities, and provide additional safeguards for these residents. Cardinia Shire's Dandenong Ranges townships are particularly vulnerable to storms and bushfires. Residents have been calling for preventative action to lower the risk and reduce recovery times. Council encourages the Victorian Government to better engage with local governments and regional alliances to properly integrate local insights when evaluating and updating its adaptation plans. This

	collaborative approach will ensure that adaptation strategies are tailored to the specific needs and conditions of each region. Many planned emergency resilience and mitigation actions are unable to be implemented by councils due to high co-contribution requirements of grant programs. This financial barrier limits the ability of local governments to effectively prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters. A coordinated coastal adaptation approach across all of Port Phillip and Western Port should be funded to remove inconsistencies in the planning framework. This will ensure a unified and effective response to coastal hazards and climate change impacts.
59. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<u>Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2022-33</u> <u>Municipal Fire Management Plan</u>
60. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should include the development of an energy-sector specific adaptation plan. This plan would address the unique challenges faced by regions like Cardinia Shire, where natural disasters often lead to prolonged power outages. It would provide greater regional certainty, clarify roles and responsibilities, and offer additional safeguards for residents. The recommendation should emphasise the importance of enhanced engagement with local governments and regional alliances. This approach will ensure that local insights and expertise are integrated into the adaptation plans, making them more effective and relevant to the specific needs of each community. The recommendation should call for a reduction in the co-contribution requirements of grant programs for emergency resilience and mitigation actions. Lowering these financial barriers will enable councils to implement necessary measures to prepare for and respond to climate-related disasters more effectively. The recommendation should advocate for a coordinated coastal adaptation approach across all of Port Phillip and Western Port. This approach will remove inconsistencies in the planning framework and ensure a unified and effective response to coastal hazards and climate change impacts. The recommendation should prioritise preventative actions in particularly vulnerable areas, such as the Dandenong Ranges townships. This includes measures to lower the risk of storms and bushfires and reduce recovery times for affected residents.
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Coordinate faster delivery of key energy infrastructure
Recommendation number:	29
61. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part

62. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council supports Recommendation 29 in principle, noting that the road to net zero relies on a coordinated and integrated approach across the sectors of electricity, gas, and transport. These sectors are particularly challenging to decarbonise in Cardinia, where they account for 21% and 22% of overall community emissions, respectively. The transition coordinator function would, in theory, break down siloes, increase transparency of reporting against net zero targets, and facilitate compatibility of decision-making across government departments. Cardinia Shire Council is currently planning two key infrastructure projects that will complement Victoria's energy plans if properly funded. Firstly, the redevelopment of Cardinia Life project aims to replace outdated and inefficient gas equipment with modern, fully electric versions. This transition will allow Council's largest source of emissions to prepare for net zero, significantly reducing the Shire's carbon footprint. Secondly, extending Thompsons Road from Clyde North to Pakenham will unlock the Officer South Employment Precinct, creating thousands of local jobs. This presents a major opportunity to plan for future-proofed energy infrastructure, ensuring that the commercial zone is a leading example of low emission technology, rooftop solar, and neighbourhood batteries. Both of these projects will require funding from the Victorian Government. The 'unified energy transition pipeline' must be developed in direct consultation with local government planning teams upfront to identify suitable sites and project types that consider the local context. This includes addressing conflicting land uses, co-location with existing industrial zones, avoiding areas in proximity to sensitive environmental features (e.g., Western Port) and flood-prone land, and future-proofing land use planning.
63. Share any supporting evidence or examples	
64. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should emphasise the importance of direct consultation with local government planning teams from the outset. This will ensure that the unified energy transition pipeline considers local contexts, such as conflicting land uses, co-location with industrial zones, and environmental sensitivities. The recommendation should include utilities (such as water corporations) in the consultation process. These entities may have their own scheduled plans and sites for renewable energy projects, and their inclusion will ensure a more comprehensive and coordinated approach. The recommendation should clarify how the transition coordinator function relates to the functions of the State Electricity Commission (SEC). Adding another agency or function could compound the already complex nature of the energy transition and energy regulation in Victoria if not carefully designed. The SEC's roles include: Investing in renewable energy and storage projects that accelerate the transition and deliver commercial returns.

	- Supporting households to go all-electric to reduce their energy bills and emissions. - Building the renewable energy taskforce required for the energy transition. The recommendation should consider funding key local projects, such as the redevelopment of Cardinia Life and the extension of Thompsons Road. These projects are critical for reducing emissions and supporting the local economy. The recommendation should emphasise the need for integrated planning and collaboration between local, state, and federal governments, as well as private and public sectors. This approach will ensure that energy infrastructure projects are effectively planned, funded, and managed to meet the specific needs of each community.
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Improve environmental assessments and site selection for energy products
Recommendation number:	30
65. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
66. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire's infrastructure and environment policies aim to protect the environment while supporting economic development and community wellbeing. As consideration is given to potential reforms to streamline environmental assessments, site selection and approvals for energy projects, it is crucial to ensure that these reforms do not compromise the integrity of our environmental protections. Robust environmental assessments, strategic site selection and planning remain essential to safeguard natural resources and biodiversity. While seeking to make the approval processes more efficient, we must maintain rigorous standards to evaluate the environmental impacts of proposed projects. This includes through environmental reviews, clear and consistent guidelines, and prioritising biodiversity protection for current and future generations of all Victorians. Improved environmental assessments' do not necessarily constitute reduced and expediated assessments that compromise environmental outcomes. If energy proponents are finding the approvals process complex to navigate, then alternate opportunities such as a dedicated taskforce or coordination function could be considered. This taskforce could provide proponents with the right information at the right time, support communication, offer expert guidance, and reduce rework. This model has been implemented to great success in the Victorian earth resources sector with the 'Resources Victoria Approvals

	Coordinator (RVAC) ¹ . A similar function could foreseeably sit within the proposed energy transition coordinator.
67. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
68. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should consider establishing a dedicated taskforce or coordination function to assist energy proponents in navigating the approvals process. This taskforce could provide timely information, support communication, offer expert guidance, and reduce rework. The recommendation should ensure that any reforms to streamline environmental assessments do not compromise the integrity of environmental protections. Maintain rigorous standards for evaluating the environmental impacts of proposed projects, including thorough environmental reviews, clear and consistent guidelines, and prioritising biodiversity protections.
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Invest in home, neighbourhood and big batteries for more energy storage
Recommendation number:	31
69. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
70. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council supports, in principle, recommendation 31, which calls for investment in home, neighbourhood, and big batteries for more energy storage. As council is progressing through the development of our Council Plan 2025-2029, Councillors have expressed interest in big batteries and solar for commercial and industrial areas of Cardinia Shire, particularly the new Officer South development. Cardinia Shire has a high proportion of detached family homes, making it ideal for rooftop solar uptake. This makes home and neighbourhood batteries, as well as virtual power plants, particularly relevant for the Shire. Supporting home batteries through financial incentives and policy safeguards is critical to unlock household electrification, support ongoing bill relief, promote energy resilience, and realise net zero targets at both the State and Local Government levels. Gas emissions in the community remain high in Cardinia at 21% of all municipal emissions. The Dandenong Ranges region often experiences blackouts due to storms, forcing communities to rely on generators. Additional battery options would allow for zero-emissions electricity to replace diesel generators in high-demand locations, such as relief hubs. Home or

	neighbourhood batteries would also allow for some power access for residents temporarily cut off from the wider grid due to storms. The recommendation makes reference to electric vehicles under the umbrella of consumer energy resources but is otherwise silent of this. For completeness, electric vehicle charging should have its own recommendation, noting council frequently receives resident enquiries. These typically cite the lack of local charging infrastructure and/or perceived disparity in government prioritisation to the inner city vs. outer metropolitan Melbourne and regions.
71. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Of residents who own their house, 45% have installed solar panels and a further 19% plan to do so within the next 2 years (2023 Cardinia Shire Liveability Survey). <u>Environmental sustainability in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
72. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should include a specific focus on electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This is essential to address the growing demand for EV charging stations in outer metropolitan areas like Cardinia Shire. Providing dedicated funding and support for EV charging infrastructure will ensure that residents have access to convenient and reliable charging options. The Victorian Government should consider whether different incentives are required for batteries and solar in commercial areas where electricity demand is higher, more consistent, and generally off-peak. Tailored incentives for commercial and industrial areas, such as the new Officer South development, will encourage businesses to invest in renewable energy solutions and contribute to the overall energy resilience of the Shire. The recommendation should emphasise the importance of financial incentives and policy safeguards to support the adoption of home batteries. These measures are critical to unlocking household electrification, supporting ongoing bill relief, promoting energy resilience and achieving net zero targets.

Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Determine long duration energy storage needs
Recommendation number:	32
73. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
74. Tell us why	This recommendation is supported, noting energy security is critical to support community liveability and the long-term achievement of State net zero. A secure energy supply is one that is diverse and not

	reliant on a single source, which this recommendation seeks to uphold.
75. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Cardinia Shire's Northern Region (Emerald, Cockatoo, Gembrook) often experiences blackouts due to storms, forcing communities to rely on generators. Additional long duration energy storage options would allow for zero emissions electricity to replace diesel generators in high demand locations, such as relief hubs. <u>Environmental sustainability in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
76. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation currently refers to investigating the need for these technologies, rather than delivery. Although some of the technology is in early stages, areas like the Dandenong Ranges may be ideal for testing as they experience localised blackouts semi-regularly. Consultation with communities and local government authorities is critical to create a shared understanding of existing, and future opportunities. Complementing this recommendation, energy storage at the consumer level (i.e. batteries for households and businesses) needs to be made more accessible and financially sustainable to promote self-sufficiency of energy supply. Government programs (e.g. Victorian Energy Upgrades which does not currently include battery energy storage solutions) should be reviewed with this in mind.
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Develop regional energy plans, guide transition from fossil gas and maintain reliable gas supply
Recommendation number:	33
77. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
78. Tell us why	This recommendation is welcomed, in-principle, with the potential to support regional planning, address funding needs and support a systematic review of the current barriers to electrification and energy security at all levels (household, industry and local government). Cardinia Shire is a major growth area with significant new housing developments. Any changes to gas connections or appliances in new homes would have an immediate effect. Officer South Employment Precinct is earmarked as a new manufacturing hub and may have high demand for electricity and gas. Any recommendations should take into account the impact on energy-intensive businesses and also consider the potential for large industrial rooftops to generate energy.

	Homelessness and housing stress are already major issues across Cardinia Shire. Any changes to residential gas supplies should take into account the potential impact on housing affordability and gas/energy bills.
79. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<u>Environmental sustainability in Cardinia Shire - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
80. Include proposed changes and improvements	The current recommendation relies on the Victorian government 'thoroughly investigating, analysing and consulting on these plans and strategies ' as outlined. Before any regional plans are considered, consultation needs to be undertaken with the relevant local government authorities and regional alliances to understand the extent of existing net zero strategy, investment attraction plans and projects building towards these plans. Otherwise, the risk is regional energy plans quickly become incompatible with other local and regional strategies/plans from the outset, rendering current projects (and investment) futile and resulting in misaligned communications with the community, significant rework and resource strain on local governments. The interface of any regional energy plans with Council's responsibilities to consider mitigation and planning for climate change risks under the LG Act 2020 also needs to be carefully considered.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Reform infrastructure contributions
Recommendation number:	36
81. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
82. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council is responsible for delivering much of the infrastructure within Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) areas. This responsibility, along with the financial burden of any funding gaps, falls on the Council if agreements with developers cannot be reached. The gap between available Development Contributions Plan (DCP) or Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) project revenue and the actual cost is becoming increasingly difficult to manage with general revenue. This shortfall significantly impacts the delivery of key infrastructure needed to support our growing communities. The current ICP and DCP systems are complex and inflexible, making it challenging to adapt to changes or new requirements. Infrastructure delivered by other agencies, such as the Department of Transport and Planning and Melbourne Water, can also be delayed due to underfunding and the lack of inclusion in State Budgets consistent with PSP implementation timeframes. This

	creates a significant burden on local governments, particularly in areas of significant growth like Cardinia, where there are substantial shortfalls in funding to deliver critical infrastructure to meet state government policies such as Plan for Victoria and housing targets, as well as jobs in new employment precincts such as Officer South PSP. Council suggests simplifying and speeding up the review process to enable changes to DCPs and ICPs more promptly. Currently, the process is complex, onerous, and lengthy, requiring Ministerial approvals that are resource-intensive and cannot be achieved promptly. These processes are a barrier to timely reviews and updates. Additionally, the administration and management costs of DCPs and ICPs should be allowed to be costed to the programs themselves. Funding these costs through general revenue is becoming increasingly difficult in a cost-constrained environment. As an example, in previous years, rough estimates indicated a difference of \$178 million between Council-delivered project costs and available DCP/ICP funds. This gap is now estimated at \$253 million. The ICP system for precinct structure plans is complex and burdensome for most interface Councils. For Cardinia, it has created significant financial risks and an unsustainable financial deficit. There is no consistent and transparent approach to determining how much a local council is expected to contribute (e.g., 5%, 10%, 20%) towards an ICP. Cardinia Shire Council requires the ICP system to be reviewed with the objective of reducing underfunded infrastructure and capping Council's contribution to the ICP to decrease the financial deficit.
83. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
84. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation must expediate the requirement to simplify and speed up the review process for DCPs and ICPs to enable prompt changes. This will help to address the evolving needs of growing communities for efficiently. The recommendation should permit the administration and management costs of DCPs and ICPs to be included in the programs themselves. This will alleviate the financial burden on general revenue in a cost-constrained setting. The recommendation should review the ICP system to establish a consistent and transparent approach to local council contributions. Implement a cap on Council's contribution to the ICP to reduce financial risks and deficits. The recommendation should ensure that infrastructure delivered by state agencies, such as Department of Transport and Planning and Melbourne Water, is adequately funded and included in state budgets consistent with PSP implementation timeframes

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Improve asset management of all government infrastructure
Recommendation number:	37
85. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
86. Tell us why	Asset Management is core function of Council to ensure assets are sustainably managed to service the needs of the community, now and future. Financial constraints coupled with increasing costs that are well above CPI are requiring reprioritisation of asset renewal and upgrade proposals, that will trend toward a reduction to levels of service. Inadequate asset management increases liability for the asset owner, shortens the asset's lifespan, and impedes proper use. This can lead to injury risks, underutilisation, decreased community satisfaction, and potential revenue loss from facility rentals.
87. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The material costs of renewal are generally higher than CPI. Indices for Construction of civil and building works have been increasing 4-> 10% per annum. Material costs increased more than 40% over the past two years. Maintenance and Renewal of existing assets have not been the priority. Ineffective asset management leads to increased costs due to asset failures and degradation. This results in long-term financial implications, heightened risks, and community dissatisfaction. Asset management policy Cardinia Shire Council
88. Include proposed changes and improvements	Supporting continued development of Asset Management systems and data to support optimized decision making. Increased Federal and State investment and grants that support renewal and upgrade to maintain community infrastructure service standards separate from new infrastructure investments. Supporting networking and knowledge sharing of Asset Managers to build resilience and consistency for service standards and interventions.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure
Recommendation number:	38
89. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No

	☐ In part
90. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire is still rapidly increasing in population and with a greater population comes a greater need to manage waste effectively and efficiently. Waste and Resource Recovery is a core business of Cardinia Shire Council and one that is heavily impacted by State and Federal Legislation. Increasing legislation and services expectations through Recycling Victoria Kerbside Reform and the Waste Act come at a cost to Council which then has to be passed onto the ratepayer. The further away the facilities required to service the community get the greater increase in cost to provide services. Investment in the local area will build the long-term sustainability and capacity for the South East of Melbourne to manage waste increase resource recovery through investment in innovation and technology. The last landfill on the South East side of Melbourne has an end of life of 2029. Waste Management facilities are core and significant services and community assets that need to be regulated and located appropriately. Existing facilities should be protected from residential encroachment for health and amenity of the wider community.
91. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Cardinia's population is growing by 4% year on year, with a commensurate increase in demand for waste management. Waste Data shows the Cardinia community produce an average of 22,700 tonnes of general waste, 10,500 tonnes of commingling recycling and 10,000 tonnes of food and garden waste, 4000 tonnes hard waste, plus dumped rubbish and public place waste previous 3 full calendar years, increasing as population grows and material increase. Victoria has a goal of zero household waste to landfill by 2035. This includes a 33% reduction by 2025 and a 66% reduction by 2030. The state is working to achieve this through initiatives like "Energy-from-Waste" projects and upgrades to recycling facilities. <u>Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy - Cardinia Shire Council</u>
92. Include proposed changes and improvements	Key considerations include: - Broaden investment and encouragement of new players into the recycling and recovery field to combat monopolisation. - Support and incentivise increased innovation in recovery of hard to dispose items such as polystyrene, soft plastics. - Build the capacity to manage e-waste for safe collection and recovery in Victoria. Major safety concern in transport and facility operations. - Support Advanced Waste processing options for non-recoverable waste.
Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy

Recommendation name:	Create and preserve opportunities for major infrastructure projects
Recommendation number:	43
93. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
94. Tell us why	Cardinia Shire Council is very supportive of long-term planning that protects land for key infrastructure projects that are identified many years in advance. This is particularly relevant in a growth area, where residential development outpaces infrastructure investment and can jeopardise sites that should be set aside for infrastructure that will be needed in future. South East Melbourne Airport (SEMA) has been identified by the Victorian Government as necessary by 2050. Council is currently advocating in partnership with GSEM for action to be taken to protect land from development and fund a business case to attract long-term investors. SEMA has been flagged in Plan for Victoria and the recently gazetted Officer South Employment PSP. This project should be included in the list of major long-term infrastructure priorities. This airport will serve as a major international passenger and freight hub, supporting the region's transformation into a key economic pillar of Greater Melbourne. Despite its strategic importance and recognition in the recently released Plan for Victoria, the South East Melbourne Airport has not been identified in this Draft Strategy as a key project requiring immediate preparation and planning. This omission is significant, as the airport is integral to enhancing connectivity, supporting local industries, and driving sustainable economic growth in the region. Over the next two decades, south east Melbourne will evolve into a multifaceted employment and population centre, and strategic infrastructure investments, such as the airport, will be crucial to this transformation. An airport for greater south east Melbourne is not just a stand-alone project; it is an integral part of a broader ambitious vision to make the region a significant Australian economic hub. This vision includes jobs, housing, community infrastructure, arts, culture, renewable energy industry, advanced manufacturing, and tourism. The development of a new airport and other key infrastructure projects requires a coordinated planning approach that supports private sector investment. The recently released Plan for Victoria highlights the South East Melbourne Airport as a critical component of the state's long-term vision. However, this strategic infrastructure project is not currently reflected in the Victorian Draft Infrastructure Strategy. The development of a new airport and other key infrastructure projects is a complex process that requires collaboration among all levels of government, the community, and the private sector. To realise the vision for another primary international passenger and

	freight airport for greater metropolitan Melbourne, planning must start now. This proactive approach ensures that the necessary planning and policy settings are in place to protect the feasibility of these projects into the future.
95. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Many of Council's top advocacy priorities were first identified over a decade ago. Without sufficient long-term planning, the problems have only become more urgent and the safety and quality of life for residents has been compromised as a result. The redevelopment of Cardinia Life, establishment of the Lang Lang Truck Bypass, and upgrade of dangerous intersections on the Princes Highway are all examples of projects that are long overdue and could have been completed in time to meet demand if more long-term thinking was employed in the past.
96. Include proposed changes and improvements	The recommendation should explicitly include the South East Melbourne Airport as a strategic project requiring planning and protections to preserve sites for future investment. Immediate first steps to deliver the airport should include: • The completion of a business case with detailed assessments, including a report on environmental conditions and triggers to develop the airport • Applying planning protections for the required land, including transport corridors and buffers to protect it from encroaching residential development The projects identified in the Draft Strategy will be necessary, but are not focused on growth areas in the outer suburbs. Long term infrastructure planning is needed to ensure that sufficient land and funds are set aside to deliver projects that government knows will be essential for these areas. More focus should be placed on identifying, planning, and delivering long-term growth area infrastructure now, before prices and population rise further. The extension of Thompsons Road from Clyde North to Pakenham is another example of a key regionally-significant piece of infrastructure that requires action. The new road will unlock the Officer South Employment Precinct and enable the creation of a major high-skilled jobs hub in addition to providing an alternative east-west arterial through the region that will take commercial traffic off the Monash Freeway. This project should also be included on the list of infrastructure priorities.

More feedback (optional)

Tell us about infrastructure challenges, gaps or opportunities not covered by the draft strategy. This can include things you think we should add to an existing recommendation, or suggestions for a new recommendation.

Please provide evidence for your suggestions. This can include data, specific examples, cost benefit analyses, surveys, or program evaluations. Also, explain how your suggestions align with the objectives of our draft strategy (see page 11 of the draft strategy).

Suggestions for new recommendations should point towards infrastructure opportunities that can deliver long-term benefits for Victorians. They should also be areas where the Victorian Government has a leading role.

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