

City of Greater Geelong Submission: 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:	Victorians have good 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	<i>Consistently invest in new social housing to provide more Victorians on low incomes with access to a secure and affordable home.</i> Social and affordable housing is critical to meeting housing demand for all Victorians. The City of Greater Geelong has Victoria's highest housing targets under the Plan for Victoria of 128,600 new homes by 2051. The proposed 15-year program targeting a build of 60,000 social housing units to increase the Victorian average to be on par with national average of 4% is ambitious, and needs to be aligned with regional housing targets to be realised. We recognise that the Victorian government budget is facing significant pressure, and acknowledge it is therefore important to establish the funding source at both a Victorian and Australian government level to support realisation of social housing targets. A clear plan for how Victoria will reach the national thresholds will be critical to ensure this recommendation is accepted and acted on immediately. A mandated <i>Social and Affordable Housing Contribution</i> would be desirable to generate revenue for this specific form of housing, particularly where government funding is contributing to housing developments.
3. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The <i>Geelong Social Housing Plan 2020-2041</i> documents the City of Greater Geelong's goal to increase the supply of social housing from the current 3% of total households to 7% by 2031, which translates to an estimated increase of 6,000 dwellings. By 2041, the goal is to further increase this to 10%, adding another 6,000 dwellings. Social housing represents only 2.8% of all homes in Victoria, compared with a national average of 4.1%. This is particularly concerning given that over 63,000 households are currently waiting for social housing, and over 36,000 people on the priority waitlist. The number of applications increased by 9.1% in the last 6 months. The <i>City of Greater Geelong's Plan for Victoria</i> submission called for a consistent state-based approach to social and affordable housing delivery, noting the lack of such an approach in the current planning scheme. Since the scrapping of the 1.75% social housing levy, an alternate mechanism has not been identified.

	In 2021, the City of Greater Geelong established the Geelong Affordable Housing Trust, which can be used for Council-owned land identified for social housing. The use of surplus government land for social housing is seen as a key opportunity. The current approach of individual councils trying to get a voluntary contribution through policy aspirations or encouragement in ordinance leads to uncertainty and delays. The City currently tries to negotiate a section 173 agreement for a percentage affordable housing contribution as a transfer of dwellings to a Registered Housing Association, or a monetary contribution to a Registered Housing Association to the value of the housing contribution or a combination of both. The <i>City of Greater Geelong's Plan for Victoria</i> submission included several key recommendations for the Victorian Government to enhance social and affordable housing. These recommendations include collaborating with local governments to create a state-based approach for planning and delivering social and affordable housing, ensuring that these housing targets are integrated into overall housing supply targets, and investing funds from the Social Housing Growth Fund into local communities. Additionally, our submission suggested mandating social and affordable housing targets in the planning scheme through mechanisms like inclusionary zoning, utilising government-owned land for social housing, and considering incentives such as density bonuses or fast-tracking processes to encourage social housing provision. Read with feedback to Recommendation 7 for information about inclusionary zoning to support affordable housing. References: City of Greater Geelong, (2018) <u>Social Housing Plan 2020-2041</u> City of Greater Geelong, (2024) <u>Plan for Victoria Submission</u>. <u>New figures reveal surging demand for social housing in Victoria - Council to Homeless Persons</u> <u>Victoria rock bottom of Australia's public and community housing rankings - Council to Homeless Persons</u> <u>Social housing developments – Department of Transport and Planning</u>
4. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victorians have good 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	<i>Facilitate markets for private and not-for-profit investment in kindergarten infrastructure. Share regularly updated information about the demand for and supply of kindergarten places. Publish priorities for government investment to deliver kindergartens in communities that will have the greatest need.</i> Victoria needs around 900 new kindergartens, and the Victoria Government is expected to be responsible for between 300-600 of these facilities. Local government, not for profit and private operators can fund the rest. Relying on co-investment models could result in insufficient funding if private and not-for-profit sectors are unable or unwilling to invest in the required scale of infrastructure, especially in high-risk or low-demand areas. A more balanced funding model is required. Local government have historically stepped in where kindergarten markets are underserved or unserved. To meet community needs, planning and financial incentives are vital to encourage private sector investment in these areas. Effective government collaboration is needed to create lasting changes that promote a competitive, inclusive, and resilient market.
7. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Children access their kindergarten programs through sessional kindergarten, which will be free for all. Additionally, children can access subsidised kindergarten through childcare. In 2024, 6189 children in our region accessed funded Kindergarten: • approx. 70 % accessed it via sessional programs • approx. 30% accessed it via integrated programs Infrastructure planning should consider the need for kindergarten infrastructure within sessional kindergartens. Future funding to support the necessary level of infrastructure development is crucial to achieving the goals of the Best Start Best Life Reform. To accomplish this, the recommendations should eliminate the expectation that local government, non-profit, and private operators should fund up to two-thirds of new kindergartens. Removing this expectation will ensure a balanced funding model with a clear government commitment, particularly in high-need and growth areas, and allow flexibility in adjusting investment plans as needed.
8. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Invest in adaptable kindergarten infrastructure that aligns with regional needs. Facilitate and incentivise private and not-for-profit investment in kindergarten facilities through clear regional targets. Regularly collect and disseminate updated information on the demand for and supply of kindergarten places.</i>

Topic/area:	Victorians have good 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	<i>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.</i> Both small and large schools have unique challenges that require tailored strategies to ensure they can provide high-quality education to their students. Larger schools as proposed in this recommendation carry additional challenges relating to overcrowding, complex resource management, ensuring student engagement, costly infrastructure maintenance, and catering to diverse student needs. Critical in any plans to expand built capacity in any existing school is the need for consideration for open space and transport needs.
11. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The City of Greater Geelong acknowledges the need for more school places, especially in growing regions. However, recent Australian data reveals that smaller schools often have higher student achievement and lower dropout rates. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), smaller schools create supportive learning environments, leading to better academic outcomes and a stronger sense of community. Smaller schools also report lower rates of violence and vandalism, fostering stronger relationships between students and staff, thus contributing to a safer environment. Additionally, students in smaller schools are more likely to engage in extracurricular activities, enhancing their overall school experience and sense of belonging. These findings suggest that while larger schools may offer financial advantages, smaller schools often provide a more supportive and effective learning environment for students – both should be considered. References: Schools, 2024 Australian Bureau of Statistics The tiny Australian schools making a big impact on their local communities - EducationDaily Size not an issue for small schools - SchoolNews - Australia Open space in schools Open space in school grounds is essential for promoting physical health through activities, enhancing mental well-being by reducing stress and improving mood, and fostering social skills through peer

	interactions. It also boosts cognitive development with exposure to natural light and outdoor environments. Overall, open spaces contribute significantly to the holistic development of students, encompassing physical, mental, social, and cognitive aspects. Existing school expansions should not be at the expense of open space. References: Why do School Grounds Matter? - Urban Green Design Enabling infrastructure and Transport impacts for larger schools Enabling infrastructure including electricity, gas, water, sewerage and stormwater, transportation and telecommunications impacts needs to be considered when seeking to increase capacity in existing schools or build new schools in growth areas. Communities near government schools in Geelong can face significant challenges due to parking issues and limited public transport options. Parking congestion is a common problem, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times, leading to illegal and unsafe parking practices such as blocking driveways, parking on nature strips, and double parking. In 2024, 321 patrols were conducted across greater Geelong schools resulting in 958 Infringement Notices being issued. Approximately 10% of schools have what is recognised as known and ongoing parking issues. This not only disrupt traffic flow but also poses safety risks for students and residents. Additionally, the lack of adequate convenient parking and timely public transport options exacerbates these issues, as more parents rely on private vehicles to transport their children to and from school. This reliance on cars increases traffic congestion and parking demand, further straining the available infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires a coordinated approach, including improving public transport services, enforcing parking regulations, and developing safer and more efficient traffic management strategies around schools. This needs to be considered in any expansion to existing schools or building of new larger schools. References: Improving mobile connectivity Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Parking, the road rules and you - City of Greater Geelong City of Greater Geelong Parking Infringement Data
12. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Identify schools for expansion and determine areas that will require new schools. Allocate funds for expanding existing schools and plan for the establishment of new schools, considering open spaces and necessary infrastructure to support increased density and access requirements.</i>

Topic/area:	Victorians have good 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	<i>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.</i> Outside of metropolitan Melbourne, the greater Geelong municipality is the most populated region in Victoria, with an estimated resident population of 282,809. Over the past decade, the population of the municipality has experienced significant growth in the western and eastern corridors. Population is forecast to grow to 396,388 by 2041. Due to its size and location, the City makes a significant contribution to the state's housing supply, economy, transport, and freight network, and has the largest proposed housing target for the state. There is a critical need to address skills shortages to meet Geelong's ambitious housing targets. A coordinated approach to workforce planning, involving close collaboration between the Victorian Government, suppliers, industry, and educational institutions is required. To meet future housing demand it is critical that a steady pipeline of skilled workers, including tradespeople, is available regionally to support the increased demand for housing construction. Without planning and investment now, the success of the housing targets will be limited, as poor pipeline planning could escalate procurement costs and delay construction due to a lack of necessary human resources required, especially in regional locations.
15. Share any supporting evidence or examples	In the Geelong region, trade training is available through The Gordon, which offers apprenticeships and traineeships in industries such as construction, automotive and engineering and the Geelong Industry Trade Training Centre, offering trade training through a school's program critical for creating a workforce pipeline. These institutions provide comprehensive support and resources to help individuals pursue careers in various trades. A capacity building approach which only targets investment for TAFE does not ensure broad reach of training delivery, nor does it meet the learning style of all learners. Victoria has a strong network of training providers which includes, TAFE, Community Colleges, Community Based Adult Education Providers and Registered Training Providers The Victorian Government can enable broader training opportunities to support statewide (including regional) reach by ensuring future training needs lists which include all skills shortages are linked to training provider incentives and hourly funded rates for delivery that fairly represents the investment by training providers into all skill

	shortage training delivery – maximising potential for uptake by all recognised and qualified training providers not just TAFE providers. Working collaboratively with industry training bodies and training providers to maximise the statewide reach including such training providers as Master Builders, Master Plumbers, ETU Centre for U as necessary for ensuring trade training delivery across the state. References: Geelong Industry Trade Training Centre The Gordon Training Needs List vic.gov.au VET funding contracts vic.gov.au
16. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Expand TAFE campuses for skills shortage VET in regional and metropolitan areas, and incentivise private and community training providers to address skills gaps in construction, energy, and health.</i>
Topic/area:	Victorians have good 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	<i>Fund councils to plan and build libraries and aquatic recreation centres in Melbourne's growth areas.</i> As highlighted, the Victorian Government funding for libraries has significantly decreased over the past 10 years impacting the ability to deliver this critical infrastructure in growth regions and manage aging infrastructure that no longer meets the changing needs of established communities for active and engaging spaces. We therefore welcome the inclusion of this recommendation. In the City of Greater Geelong's 2025 State Budget submission the City supported the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) advocacy for commitments from the Victorian Government to \$20 million over four years to expand the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, recognising that libraries are essential hubs that support the social, educational, and economic wellbeing of the community. Noting that any delays in new builds impact the social cohesion of growth areas while lack of investment to maintain or update existing facilities negatively impacts the sustainability of service in established areas. We therefore position that it is not only Melbourne growth areas that need this investment by government but all areas with housing and

	population growth demands. We believe the funding ask should explicitly state the need for investment in new builds and renewal of existing facilities. We note that developer contributions can also be used to support local government and Victorian government contributions to this social infrastructure need.
19. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Social infrastructure plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life, especially in regional locations such as Geelong. It includes facilities and services such as healthcare, education, libraries, recreational centres, and community spaces. Research by Infrastructure Victoria demonstrates the importance of social infrastructure especially in growth areas for community health, education and belonging. The City provides over 865 indoor and outdoor community places and spaces with growing demand in growth areas, including sporting facilities, playgrounds and parks, leisure centres, community halls, libraries, neighbourhood houses and much more, highlighting that investment in libraries and aquatic centres is one that is important for all growth areas not just metropolitan growth areas. Additionally, we wish to highlight that beyond infrastructure funding the Victorian Government needs to ensure that appropriate operational costs are factored into the state budget to ensure operational sustainability. The City supports the MAV's advocacy work which sought commitment from the Victorian Government to index recurrent annual public library funding to Cost Price Index (CPI) for all local governments, plus an additional allocation made for population growth. References: Infrastructure Victoria Social infrastructure in Melbourne's growth... Social Infrastructure Plan - City of Greater Geelong City of Greater Geelong – State Budget Submission 2025-2026 Library Campaign MAV
20. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Fund councils to build libraries and aquatic centres in growth areas and to ensure sustainability of existing facilities in established areas.</i>
Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Make government infrastructure more accessible
Recommendation number:	6
21. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part

22. Tell us why	<i>Complete priority public transport stop upgrades to meet legal accessibility requirements and fund further upgrades. Provide better public information on accessibility in government buildings.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation, emphasising the importance of access and equity in all public transport services and infrastructure, including the state's regional transport lines and facilities.
23. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
24. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Rezone locations near existing infrastructure for more home choices
Recommendation number:	7
25. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
26. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> This recommendation could be enhanced to also recommend affordable housing be mandatory as part of any rezoning. It also maximises the use of existing infrastructure by locating new communities nearby, which we support in principle. Population growth in established suburbs needs evaluation to ensure adequate open space, social infrastructure and services. local government input is critical for rezoning decisions.
27. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The City of Greater Geelong's Settlement Strategy and Housing Diversity Strategy identifies increased housing density areas. These documents provide guidance on where housing density should be and are critical examples of the importance of local government input into any decision making. References: Geelong Settlement Strategy Geelong Housing Diversity Strategy

	We also propose a state-level framework for inclusionary zoning to ensure affordable housing be considered in development applications, and as part of strategic planning and rezonings. Mandatory inclusionary zoning can ensure affordable housing provision, unlike the current negotiation-based framework. A mandatory approach, already used elsewhere in Australia and globally, should be part of a visionary 30-year strategy and must be a part of any recommendation to rezone land close to services. Visit What is Inclusionary zoning, and how does it help deliver affordable housing AHURI for examples of application of inclusionary zoning in Australia and overseas - The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI).
28. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Collaborate with local government to implement zoning which will enable liveable cities with increased housing provision, including mandatory affordable housing, supporting realisation of Victoria's housing targets.</i>
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
29. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
30. Tell us why	<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> See Recommendation 7
31. Share any supporting evidence or examples	See Recommendation 7
32. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Collaborate with local government to develop mandatory inclusionary zoning which will ensure affordable housing provision, and enable realisation of Victoria's housing targets.</i>

Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Run faster bus services, more often, in Victoria's largest cities
Recommendation number:	9
33. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
34. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> While the City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle, the suggested target that 80% of people will live within 800 metres of a public transport service that arrives at least every 20 minutes, from a regional city perspective we feel is not achievable in all settings. Not all regions will have the same population density or urban layout, meaning that it may be more challenging to achieve this target in an effective manner, we therefore propose that the target could be determined by population density. We also highlight the critical importance of direct and timely public transport services to support uptake for employment and education purposes.
35. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Buses play a crucial role in public transport, providing dedicated transport between suburbs and employment precincts or CBDs. The degree of timetable integration between buses and other modes of public transport (like rail) significantly influences total bus patronage. Well-integrated systems can enhance the efficiency of direct routes to employment areas. Availability of dedicated infrastructure, such as busways and transitways, can improve the efficiency and attractiveness of bus services, making them more viable for direct routes to employment precincts. Increased service frequency and better-integrated ticketing and fare structures can boost bus patronage, making express routes to employment precincts more effective. However we recognise that factors like fuel prices, parking costs, and population growth will also affect bus patronage, which in turn influences the success of direct routes to employment areas. Local example: St Leonard's to Geelong CBD is a 30-minute drive, public transport timetables for this region currently makes the use of public transport for work unviable. However, at the same time cost effective parking or free parking is limited in the Geelong CBD. Currently to arrive in Geelong CBD by 8:30 AM from St Leonards, you would need to catch the Route 60 bus. Based on the current timetable, you would park and catch the bus departing St Leonards at 6:45 AM. This bus arrives in Geelong CBD at approximately 8:15

	AM, giving you enough time to get to work. For your return trip, if you finish work at 5:30 PM, you can catch the Route 60 bus departing Geelong CBD at 5:45 PM. This bus will get you back to St Leonards at around 7:15 PM. A direct service in this example would certainly be beneficial for those wanting to use public transport for getting to Geelong CBD employment in a timely manner. Regional context is critical for ensuring the right services are implemented in all Victorian cities, including regional cities. References: the-future-of-transportation-work.pdf Home - Mcharrys Buslines
36. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Deliver a statewide bus network that meets the employment and social needs of Victorians. In stages, improve existing bus routes so they are fast and direct.</i>

Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Extend metropolitan trains and run more services in Melbourne's west
Recommendation number:	11
37. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
38. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong support this proposal in principle noting that faster and more frequent trains between cities can encourage more people to use public transport for employment and social purposes. This could lead to economic benefits like increased tourism, business activity and job creation. Duplication of tracks on the Geelong Line will allow for faster v/line service for Geelong.
39. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The Plan for Victoria and the Victoria Big Build include significant upgrades to the Geelong train line to improve service frequency, reliability, and accessibility. Key projects include the duplication of

	approximately 8 kilometres of track between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds, and station upgrades at Waurin Ponds, Marshall, and South Geelong. These upgrades will feature new station buildings, additional platforms, and improved accessibility. Additionally, level crossings at Fyans Street and Surf Coast Highway will be removed and replaced with elevated rail bridges to enhance safety and traffic flow. Once completed, these improvements will enable five train services per hour during peak times and three per hour during off-peak times between Marshall and Waurin Ponds. A new train maintenance and stabling facility near Waurin Ponds Station will support the increased services. These enhancements are part of a broader effort to support the growing population in the Geelong region and provide more efficient and reliable public transport options. It is important that continued funding is prioritised for the Geelong line upgrade and Geelong Train Station Precinct as per Victoria's Big Build which seeks to achieve more frequent and reliable services for passengers. References: About the Geelong Line Upgrade - Victoria's Big Build Geelong Line Upgrade - Victoria's Big Build
40. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Run more bus and coach services in regional Victoria
Recommendation number:	12
41. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
42. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Geelong agrees in principle that a direct coach route between Geelong and other regional areas has the potential to create further employment opportunities and encourage tourism while servicing education and healthcare needs in a cost-effective manner. The service would also support regional tourism and events enabling public transport to also support for social activities. Increased delivery should consider integration with local public transport delivery to support local service connectivity for improved access to jobs, education, healthcare and social activities.

	Victoria's Bus Network Reform completed in 2023 included community consultations across Mildura and Melbourne's northeast and northern suburbs. Delivery of bus reform is required in all towns and cities and should be modelled on regional data and research which consider all regional needs. We also highlight that increased V/Line coach services should not be at the expense of increased direct and fast rail services between regional cities and Melbourne. Refer Recommendations 9 and 11.
43. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
44. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
Recommendation name:	Make off-peak public transport cheaper and simplify regional fare zones
Recommendation number:	13
45. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
46. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle, recognising the need for all Victorians to have access to cost effective public transport options.
47. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
48. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Make local streets safer for children and communities
Recommendation number:	14

49. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
50. Tell us why	<i>Reduce speed limits to 30km/h on local streets, starting in places that children often visit including around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and kindergartens.</i> The City of Greater Geelong recognises the need for lower speed limits to manage risk to population and road trauma in built up areas and that a reduction to 30km may be appropriate in some locations, particularly in precincts where children are playing and moving. While this recommendation aligns with our road safety strategy a blanket reduction on local streets does not consider regional context, local government are well placed to identify where such options as flexible speed zoning policy would enable them to implement customised solutions that address local conditions. This approach would also enhance the protection of vulnerable road users and contribute to a reduction in fatalities and injuries. Streetscape design can also contribute the safety of active transport users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, creating barriers to vehicles and increasing safety for all users, especially children.
51. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Streetscape design can significantly enhance safety for active transport users, such as pedestrians and cyclists, by incorporating several key elements. Dedicated lanes for cyclists and pedestrians, along with well-marked crosswalks and midblock crossings, help reduce the risk of accidents. Traffic calming measures, including speed humps, narrowed lanes, and adequate street lighting, improve visibility and slow down traffic. Green infrastructure, such as street trees and bioswales, not only enhances aesthetics but also provides safety buffers. Street furniture like benches and bike racks make the environment more comfortable and encourage walking and cycling. Engaging the community in the design process ensures the streetscape meets the needs of its users. By incorporating these elements alongside speed zone restrictions, streetscapes can become safer and more inviting, promoting a healthier and more sustainable urban environment. This approach aligns with our road safety strategy, Vision Zero Geelong which has an action to trial a 30 km/hr speed zone and school zone safety treatments. References: Design Guide Best practices for urban intersections and other active travel infrastructure in the ACT ACT Government Safe Active Street Interim Design Guidance WA Government Vision Zero Geelong: Safe Local Travel 2022-2027 - City of Greater Geelong
52. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Reduce speed limits to 30km/h in places that children often visit including around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and</i>

	<i>kindergartens. Provide funding to local government for the delivery of speed reducing streetscape to reduce road trauma risk on local roads.</i>
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Build safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities
Recommendation number:	15
53. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
54. Tell us why	<i>Continue building protected and connected cycle corridors across Victoria. Publish updates to the strategic cycling corridor network.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation which aligns with our active transport priorities which seek safe and connected active transport routes for Geelong residents and visitors. We further support Infrastructure Victoria's observation of the need to fund local governments to build safe cycling paths between local destinations and any new cycling corridors, this connectivity is critical for safe and secure use of these routes and should be costed into the recommendation as it enables the connectivity sought.
55. Share any supporting evidence or examples	This recommendation aligns with our road safety strategy, Vision Zero Geelong, to deliver safe cycle projects. We propose that this recommendation should be widened to include routes on the Strategic Cycling Corridor and the Principal Bicycle Network (PBN). This will allow local governments a greater opportunity to apply for funding for projects that provide a benefit to the community. We also support the addition of wayfinding, community has told us that they are not aware of where to cycle, and there is no online platform or wayfinding signage to find safe cycling infrastructure options. Regional data will be critical to inform delivery of this recommendation. In greater Geelong 50% of the Strategic Cycling Corridor is accessible for all ages and ability while in the case of the Principal Bicycle Network it is 30%. However, the missing links occur in the most dangerous locations with higher levels of motor vehicle traffic which greatly impacts take up of active transport daily. The City of Greater Geelong is currently consulting with community on an Integrated Transport Strategy which will inform future work to address this issue. The City of Greater Geelong is currently working on a joint project with Surf Coast Shire to complete an options analysis for a safe cycle corridor from Geelong to Torquay, a project which is in keeping with this recommendation. We would be happy to provide further

	information on this place-based response to creating new cycling corridors between local destinations, as a case study, to support Infrastructure Victoria's final strategy. Funding to support local responses to active transport paths, trails and connectivity will be critical to deliver on this recommendation. References: Integrated Transport Strategy Have Your Say Vision Zero Geelong: Safe Local Travel 2022-2027 - City of Greater Geelong Safe Cycling Connection - Torquay to Geelong Have Your Say
56. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Help Government schools share their grounds.
Recommendation number:	16
57. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
58. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation recognising the community benefit that could be achieved through sharing of sport and recreational fields and facilities.
59. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
60. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe

Recommendation name:	Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities
Recommendation number:	17
61. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
62. Tell us why	<i>Develop and fund 5-year priorities for Victorian Government investment in community health facilities.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports the recommendation recognising the need that sits within communities for health infrastructure.
63. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Regional cities must meet the growing health needs of its population and requires investment by the Victorian and Australian Governments to achieve this. Currently the City of Greater Geelong needs health infrastructure to support the physical and mental health and wellbeing of its communities. Vital health infrastructure identified by Barwon Health for the Geelong Region: - Barwon Health has proposed the development of a Geelong Health Innovation Precinct. This is an economic development initiative that leverages University Hospital Geelong as an anchor institution. The precinct would be aligned with the Greater Geelong Economic Development Plan 2024-2034. Anticipated budget \$5 million. - Barwon Health has funding for specialised mental health service delivery in Corio but no facility. The proposed Corio Mental Health Hub would provide a “one-stop, walk-in service” open seven days a week and capable of providing the full range of services needed to support the growing region. Anticipated budget \$10 million. References: <u>Geelong on the Rise a Clever and Creative International City - 2024-2034 - City of Greater Geelong</u> <u>City of Greater Geelong - Priority Projects</u>
64. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Build more residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities

Recommendation number:	18
65. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
66. Tell us why	<i>Plan and start building residential rehabilitation and withdrawal facilities to meet the demand for alcohol and other drug treatment.</i> The Cit of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle with consideration to the integration of new facilities with existing health services and precincts. Read with feedback to Recommendation 17.
67. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
68. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victorians are healthy and safe
Recommendation name:	Invest in digital healthcare
Recommendation number:	19
69. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
70. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong recognises that an increased digital healthcare solution is being proposed to increase efficiencies. Any proposed increase in digital health cannot be proposed as having a direct correlation with quality care without first addressing issues with data privacy and security, the digital divide, the integration of digital health systems into existing healthcare frameworks and training of staff. Equity of access, infrastructure and capacity of workforce is critical for ensuring that every Victorian can employ the tools required to use digital information and services, without this any increases in digital health services that are not supported by place-based services will create a digital divide which places those most vulnerable at risk of negative health outcomes. Digital healthcare is about improving access to qualified practitioners and services not improving quality of services. The quality of services cannot be guaranteed solely by increased digital

	healthcare as the quality is dependent on the provider at the end of the digital interaction. The delivery of digital health services should complement place-based services by enhancing accessibility and convenience without replacing the essential human interactions and localised support that place-based services provide or reducing equitable access. Digital health services can offer remote access to resources, streamline processes, and provide timely information, making it easier for individuals to receive assistance regardless of their location. However, place-based services are crucial for addressing specific community needs, fostering personal connections, and providing hands-on support that digital platforms cannot fully replicate. By integrating digital and place-based services, the state can create a more comprehensive and effective health system that leverages the strengths of both approaches.
71. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare highlights several challenges with digital health, including issues related to data privacy and security, the digital divide, and the integration of digital health systems into existing healthcare frameworks. Evidence supporting digital health shows that it can improve healthcare accessibility, efficiency, and patient outcomes by enabling better data sharing and real-time decision-making. However, addressing these challenges is crucial to fully realising the potential benefits of digital health technologies. The limited use of remote monitoring technologies in Australia's home-based care programs, despite the funding from the Better at Home initiative, can be attributed to several factors. One significant barrier is the technological infrastructure required for these systems. Reliable internet connectivity and advanced digital infrastructure are essential for effective remote monitoring, but these are not uniformly available across all regions, particularly in rural and remote areas. This disparity in infrastructure can hinder the implementation and effectiveness of remote monitoring technologies. Privacy and security concerns also play a crucial role in the limited adoption of these technologies. Patients and healthcare providers may be wary of the potential risks associated with data breaches and the misuse of sensitive health information. Ensuring robust cybersecurity measures and compliance with regulations is essential but can be challenging, adding another layer of complexity to the adoption process. Additionally, there is a lack of awareness and training among healthcare providers and patients regarding the use of remote monitoring technologies. Effective utilisation of these tools requires proper training and education, which can be resource intensive. Without adequate support and understanding, both patients and providers may be hesitant to adopt these new technologies, limiting their widespread use. Financial constraints further contribute to the limited adoption of remote monitoring technologies. While the Better at Home initiative provides funding, the costs associated with implementing and maintaining these technologies can be prohibitive for some healthcare services. These financial barriers, combined with the other challenges, explain why the use of remote monitoring technologies in

	home-based care programs remains limited, despite their potential benefits. References: Digital health - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Remote monitoring Virtual care in practice guide Delivering World Class Care For Victorians At Home Premier Better At Home – More Support To Recover At Home Premier Better at Home initiative
72. Include proposed changes and improvements	Expand digital healthcare to improve access to quality 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 and compliments in-person care.

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
73. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
74. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle and the consideration to self-determination and consultation.
75. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
76. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

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
77. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
78. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle and the consideration to self-determination and consultation, with consideration to the integration of new facilities with existing health services and precincts. Read with feedback to Recommendation 17.
79. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
80. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a thriving natural environment
Recommendation name:	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure
Recommendation number:	24
81. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
82. Tell us why	<i>Adopt carbon values and measure carbon in infrastructure projects to reduce emissions</i> While the City of Greater Geelong agrees in principle with this recommendation, we highlight the comment by Infrastructure Victoria that: “In Victoria, infrastructure cost benefit analyses do not always include consistent carbon values. Project teams have little incentive to reduce emissions. They tend instead to focus on reducing monetary costs.” Noting that future investment into funding of infrastructure works, where there is a requirement to adhere to a carbon reduction outcome, must recognise the cost to achieve this.

83. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
84. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a thriving natural environment
Recommendation name:	Advance integrated water management and use more recycled water
Recommendation number:	25
85. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
86. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation which aligns with Barwon Water priorities and focus.
87. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Barwon Water already has a goal to turn 100% of the region's wastewater, and much of its stormwater into valuable resources, with major economic, social, environmental and cultural benefits. This goal is part of their broader vision for sustainable water management and cannot be viewed in isolation. Currently, 26-billion litres of recycled water is discharged via ocean outfall each year and even greater volumes of stormwater, which will continue to increase as our region grows. The achievement of this goal will support a thriving economy through job growth, community wellbeing through green open spaces, and healthy river flows. The goal aligns with government policy and is supported by Victoria's Central & Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy. \$22 million is required to deliver on this goal. The Barwon South West Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy also currently aims to ensure a reliable water supply amidst increasing variability in rainfall patterns including developing alternative water sources such as recycled water and stormwater to reduce reliance on traditional water sources. References: Barwon South West Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy City of Greater Geelong State Budget Submission 2025 Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy 2022 Major projects - Barwon Water

	<u>Alternative Water Grid - Barwon Water</u>
88. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Better prepare infrastructure for climate change.
Recommendation number:	27
89. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
90. Tell us why	<i>Fund high-priority, cost-effective infrastructure adaptation actions when climate adaptation action plans are updated in 2026. Produce an energy sector adaptation plan.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation recognising the increasing level of infrastructure that requires adaption and investment to meet the impacts of climate change, specifically flood mitigation works.
91. Share any supporting evidence or examples	As highlighted by Infrastructure Victoria climate change seriously threatens infrastructure, including buildings, roads and power lines, however it also impacts aging water infrastructure. The <i>City of Greater Geelong Stormwater Services Strategy 2020–30</i> establishes a 10-year program focused on improving long-term management of floods, protecting the environment from stormwater pollution, and increasing stormwater reuse through integrated water management. Investment by governments into stormwater infrastructure to build their capacity to deal with changing climate impacts is required and must be considered in the 2026 adaption plans and the updates to regional Adaption Strategies. The Barwon South West Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy currently aims to ensure a reliable water supply amidst increasing variability in rainfall patterns. This involves improving water infrastructure to cope with changing conditions, promoting water efficiency among households, businesses, and agriculture, and developing alternative water sources such as recycled water and stormwater to reduce reliance on traditional water sources. References: <u>Understanding stormwater in our region COGG</u> <u>Barwon South West Regional Climate Adaptation Strategy</u>
92. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Use new flood maps to revise planning schemes
Recommendation number:	28
93. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
94. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation. During the 2022 floods 63 of Victoria's 79 local government areas were affected, mapping however is only the first part of the works required. Mapping is required to identify risk areas and address rezoning requirements, investment by governments is required to update stormwater systems that are no longer fit for purpose. Read with feedback to Recommendation 27.
95. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Mapping is not all that is required, local governments need financial assistance to address infrastructure deficits that limit their ability to manage and mitigate flood risk. As cities grow, it's essential to balance development with sustainable stormwater management to reduce flooding, protect water quality, and boost resilience. Without direct government funding, these infrastructure limitations undermine water security, impacting households, commercial industries, and vital agricultural sectors, which are crucial to Australia's economic stability. The City's flood mitigation priorities in Geelong West, Clifton Springs and Lara require an investment of an estimated \$110.4 million. This work is required to address ineffective control of stormwater by the current drainage and complete infrastructure upgrades to minimise flooding to communities. No local government has the capacity to meet this type of response to climate change. MAV in their Submission to Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria highlighted the need for implementation of a consistent state-wide planning approach to flood and coastal inundation, like the current bushfire arrangements, with the Minister for Planning made responsible for implementing best-available flood and inundation data into planning schemes. Noting that this approach must be supported by ongoing review, the provision of clear policy direction, updating of state-wide flood,

	inundation and sea-level rise benchmarks and updating of overlays and planning provisions to ensure development is appropriate to current and future risk. In looking at this the City highlights the need for a Central Geelong Stormwater Management Strategy which would help the City and relevant authorities better understand and manage flood risks, address stormwater quality impacts on local waterways, and explore alternative water supply options for the region (\$65 million estimated cost). A recent stormwater catchment study has identified 25 infrastructure upgrade opportunities that can minimise flooding for the community. One project has been delivered by the City in the previous financial year with further work to be done in this area (\$38 million). References: The City of Greater Geelong Budget Submission 2025. Submission-to-Parliamentary-Inquiry-into-the-2022-Flood-Event-in-Victoria.pdf
96. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Update flood studies and maps using the latest climate data to create standard flood projections. Apply these in planning, identify investment areas, and minimise building in high-risk flood zones.</i>
Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Coordinate faster delivery of key energy infrastructure
Recommendation number:	29
97. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
98. Tell us why	<i>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</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation. Providing continued investment for the integration of renewable energy sources like solar and wind, is important to ensure localised power and reduce dependency on centralised power plants can be achieved. Additionally, transitioning from gas to electricity is essential to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change. Electrification, combined with the use of renewable energy sources, helps decrease reliance on fossil fuels, which are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. This shift not only supports environmental sustainability but also promotes cleaner air, improved public health, and long-term economic benefits through energy

	efficiency and reduced maintenance costs. Investment by the Australian Government is required to support this transition. Commitment to funding targeted to build social licence is required, it is essential that it includes the need to consult with and support communities through a just energy transition from gas to electricity, prioritising support for high energy users as well as local governments who hold a large asset portfolio that requires consideration.
99. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The upfront costs of converting gas-powered systems to electric ones can be significant. This includes the cost of new electric heating systems, installation, and any necessary upgrades to the electrical infrastructure. Financial support helps offset these initial expenses, making the transition more feasible for local governments and pool operators Of particular importance to local government is the financial support required to enable conversion of regional swimming pools from gas to electricity, which carries substantial cost and if required for the state for delivery of the Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap to net zero emissions and ensuring reliability of service delivery. References: Victoria's Gas Substitution Roadmap
100. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Improve environmental assessments and site selection for energy projects
Recommendation number:	30
101. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
102. Tell us why	<i>Reform environmental assessments and help energy project proponents select good sites.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation, highlighting, as noted by Infrastructure Victoria, that large-scale renewable energy projects face complex planning and approvals processes. Any reform to environment approvals legislation and guidance should not be to the detriment of community and should ensure environmental impacts are minimised. It is important to reinforce the need for alignment with Plan for Victoria's Sustainable Environments expectations to conserve the natural values of our regional and rural areas by setting clear directions for the careful use of our renewable energy and natural

	resources and to enable regional Victorian communities to attract and benefit from investment in renewable energy – wind, solar and battery storage – projects.
103. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
104. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Reform environmental assessments and help energy project proponents select sites that conserve the natural values of our regional and rural areas.</i>

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
105. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
106. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation and is actively working towards achieving a transition to a zero-emissions future. We welcome investment in big batteries for regional locations to support this work. Recognising that funding for local government and incentives for private sector investment will be required to achieve the outcome sought.
107. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The City of Greater Geelong is actively exploring the potential of community batteries as part of its commitment to renewable energy and sustainability. Community batteries, also known as neighbourhood batteries, are larger than home batteries and can store and distribute energy for a small neighbourhood. This initiative is being led by Geelong Sustainability, with funding from the Victorian Government's Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to conduct a feasibility study. The feasibility study aims to assess how community batteries can benefit the region by supporting the electricity grid, enabling more solar power to be connected, and allowing residents to store excess energy and use it when needed. This can help reduce energy costs and improve the reliability of the local power supply.

	Geelong Sustainability has been engaging with the community through surveys and webinars to gather input and address any concerns. The feedback from these activities will help shape future projects, funding, policies, and structures for community batteries in the Greater Geelong area. This commitment to community batteries is part of a broader effort to transition to a zero-emissions future, enhance energy security, and support the local economy by creating jobs and promoting sustainable practices and needs government investment to realise. References: <u>Community Battery Feasibility Study - Geelong Sustainability</u>
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108. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
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Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Determine long duration energy storage needs
Recommendation number:	32
109. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
110. Tell us why	<i>Determine the most efficient policy or investment options to provide enough long duration energy storage to meet Victoria's needs.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation as necessary if Victoria is to enable the climate-resilient urban planning outcomes sought under the Plan for Victoria and to deliver the reliable energy required to meet the anticipated future housing demands.
111. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
112. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

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

113. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
114. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation, acknowledging local government's role in renewable energy transition and regional planning. Investment is needed to ensure a fair transition and clear financial compensation for local government efforts alongside incentives for homes and businesses.
115. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Barwon South West region has developed a comprehensive plan to guide the transition from fossil gas to renewable energy while ensuring the reliability of energy supply. This plan is outlined in the Barwon South West Renewable Energy Roadmap. Key Components of the Roadmap: Renewable Energy Generation: The roadmap emphasizes the development of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, and bioenergy. This includes identifying suitable locations for renewable energy projects and encouraging investment in these technologies. Community Engagement: The roadmap highlights the importance of involving local communities in the transition process. This includes engaging with stakeholders to understand their needs and concerns, and ensuring that the benefits of renewable energy projects are shared with the community. Energy Storage Solutions: To maintain a reliable energy supply, the roadmap includes plans for energy storage solutions such as batteries. These storage systems can help balance supply and demand, ensuring that energy is available when needed. Infrastructure Upgrades: The roadmap outlines the need for upgrading existing energy infrastructure to support the integration of renewable energy sources. This includes modernising the grid and enhancing the capacity to handle variable renewable energy inputs. Policy and Regulatory Support: The roadmap calls for supportive policies and regulations to facilitate the transition. This includes incentives for renewable energy projects, streamlined approval processes, and measures to ensure a fair and competitive energy market. Economic and Social Benefits: The roadmap aims to create economic opportunities and social benefits through the transition to renewable energy. This includes job creation in the renewable energy sector, support for local businesses, and initiatives to improve energy affordability for residents. The Barwon South West Renewable Energy Roadmap aims to achieve a sustainable and reliable energy future for the region,

	aligning with broader state and national goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting renewable energy. Reference: Barwon South West Renewable Energy Roadmap
116. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
Recommendation name:	Speed up household energy efficiency and electrification
Recommendation number:	34
117. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
118. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation noting however that factors which impact alternative energy supply and distribution must be addressed first. Plan for Victoria calls for climate-resilient urban planning where ‘homes and buildings are designed and built to be more energy-efficient and environmentally sustainable, making them more comfortable to live and work in and cheaper to run’.
119. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Alongside the cost impact of energy efficiency upgrades there are currently several factors impacting the supply and distribution of alternative energy to homes, these need to be addressed to enable this recommendation to be achieved: • The existing electrical grid infrastructure requires significant upgrades to handle the increased load and variability associated with renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Modernising the grid involves substantial investment in new technologies, such as smart grids and energy storage systems, to ensure reliable distribution. • Government policies and regulations play a crucial role in promoting or hindering the adoption of renewable energy. Supportive policies, such as subsidies, tax incentives, and renewable energy mandates, can accelerate the transition.

	Conversely, regulatory barriers can slow down the deployment of renewable energy projects. • The efficiency and cost-effectiveness of renewable energy technologies are continually improving. However, ongoing research and development are needed to address challenges such as energy storage, grid integration, and the development of new materials and technologies. • One of the biggest challenges with renewable energy is its intermittent nature. Energy storage solutions, such as batteries, are essential to store excess energy generated during peak production times and release it when demand is high. Advances in storage technology are critical to ensuring a stable and reliable energy supply. • The willingness of consumers to adopt renewable energy technologies, such as solar panels and electric vehicles, significantly impacts the transition. Education and awareness campaigns, along with financial incentives, can encourage more households to switch to alternative energy sources. • The availability and efficiency of renewable energy sources can vary significantly based on geographic location and climate. For example, solar energy is more effective in regions with high sunlight exposure, while wind energy is more viable in areas with consistent wind patterns. • The production and distribution of renewable energy technologies depend on the availability of raw materials and components. Supply chain disruptions, such as those caused by geopolitical tensions or natural disasters, can impact the availability and cost of these technologies. Addressing these factors requires a coordinated effort from governments, industry, and communities to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to alternative energy sources. References: Renewables energy.gov.au Energy supply - DCCEE australian energy update 2024.pdf
120. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Prepare and publish infrastructure sector plans to shape Victoria's cities
Recommendation number:	35
121. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part

122. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong agrees in principle to this recommendation, recognising however that if we plan together rather than sectors undertaking planning in isolation, we can help avoid duplication of services and provide greater opportunities for investment in infrastructure and services that are integrated, We note that the proposed planning is projected for 15-20 years however Plan for Victoria housing targets are projected for 30-year outcomes. Alignment of planning timelines would better service achievement of outcomes over time.
123. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Planning that enables integrated hubs are generally more valuable to communities. They offer a holistic approach to service delivery by combining multiple services under one roof, making it easier for individuals to access comprehensive care. This integration improves accessibility and convenience, especially for those with limited mobility or transportation options, leading to better overall outcomes. Additionally, integrated hubs foster better collaboration and communication among service providers, ensuring that all aspects of an individual's needs are addressed effectively. They are also more cost-effective, as shared resources and facilities reduce operational costs, allowing more funds to be directed towards service delivery. Furthermore, integrated hubs serve as community focal points, fostering a sense of belonging and support through community events, educational programs, and support groups. This engagement strengthens community ties and promotes a supportive environment. Research has shown that integrated service delivery models lead to better health and social outcomes, improving overall well-being and quality of life for community members. Integrated hubs can only be achieved when planning is done in partnership with government departments and community and not in isolation. References: Community hubs What is place-based social infrastructure PlaceConnect Child and family hubs: an important 'front door' for equitable support for families across Australia
124. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy

Recommendation name:	Reform infrastructure contributions
Recommendation number:	36
125. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
126. Tell us why	<i>Simplify Victoria's infrastructure contribution schemes to cover all types of housing developments and reflect the cost of infrastructure in different development settings.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports the simplifying of the schemes in principle, subject to co-design of a new scheme with local government and informed by local government data and expertise.
127. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The City of Greater Geelong supports MAV's advocacy on this matter which asks that any new scheme must provide local government with enough revenue to build local infrastructure for current and future needs. Local government lack alternative revenue sources to cover funding gaps from an inequitable scheme. References: https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/planning-building
128. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Improve asset management of all government infrastructure
Recommendation number:	37
129. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
130. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle. Any impacts to local government in revision of asset management strategies should involve consultation with local government. Any

	impost on local government for asset management reform because of this review should be funded.
131. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
132. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure
Recommendation number:	38
133. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
134. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports the need for the Victorian Government to plan statewide for waste and recycling infrastructure to support the circular economy. Such planning should involve local governments and communities to preserve the characteristics and attributes of towns and landscapes across Victoria.
135. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
136. Include proposed changes and improvements	<i>Identify locations for new recycling and waste infrastructure and include them in the next update of the Victorian Recycling Infrastructure Plan. In collaboration with local government authorities, develop plans for waste and recycling sites alongside other commercial and industrial areas, and support adjustments to planning regulations to accommodate necessary facilities.</i>

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Use digital technologies to better design, build, operate and maintain government infrastructure

Recommendation number:	39
137. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
138. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle. The implementation of digital technologies for major infrastructure and housing projects should include consultation with local government. Any costs incurred by local government resulting from the pilot delivery of these digital technologies should be funded.
139. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
140. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Use modern traffic control technology for efficient and safe journeys
Recommendation number:	40
141. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
142. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle, noting that any regional city roll out should be done in consultation with local governments.
143. Share any supporting evidence or examples	The City of Greater Geelong utilises Data from the Sky for real-time/post-recording evaluation of traffic situations. Modern traffic controls support the collection of publicly accessible transport data. Such data is invaluable for future planning and traffic management.

	References: <u>Data from the Sky</u>
144. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Make rail freight competitive, reliable and efficient
Recommendation number:	41
145. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
146. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation for an integrated rail freight network plan and investment to shift freight from road to rail. However we wish to highlight that the additional cost burden placed on local governments to manage local roads connecting rail freight routes with supply chain needs to be factored and funded to ensure its sustainability.
147. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
148. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Plan for more efficient and sustainable urban freight
Recommendation number:	Future option
149. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part

150. Tell us why	<i>Develop a network of urban freight delivery precincts in Melbourne to improve freight productivity and reduce emissions.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation and highlights the potential for future consideration of regional cities Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat as trial cities. Highlighting the need for all vehicle types to be included.
151. Share any supporting evidence or examples	
152. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.
Topic/area:	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
Recommendation name:	Create and preserve opportunities for future major infrastructure projects
Recommendation number:	43
153. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ In part
154. Tell us why	<i>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.</i> The City of Greater Geelong supports this recommendation in principle.
155. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
156. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

More feedback (optional)

The following three points have been included for holistic considerations when finalising Victoria's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy

1. Alignment with Plan for Victoria

Overall The City of Greater Geelong supports that the v recommendations should closely align with expectations of enabling outcomes defined within the Plan for Victoria strategy.

Strong alignment between Victoria's draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy and the Plan for Victoria is essential to ensure cohesive and effective development across the state. Both documents share a vision of creating a vibrant, accessible, and sustainable Victoria, and aligning their goals and initiatives helps to streamline efforts and resources. This alignment ensures that infrastructure projects are not only well-planned but also support broader state-wide objectives such as economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity.

Moreover, aligning these strategies helps to address the unique needs of both metropolitan and regional areas. By ensuring that infrastructure development is consistent with the overarching vision of the Plan for Victoria, the state can better manage population growth, enhance connectivity, and improve the quality of life for all residents. This integrated approach allows for more efficient use of resources, reduces duplication of efforts, and fosters collaboration between various stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and the private sector.

Ultimately, strong alignment between these strategies is crucial for building a resilient and prosperous future for Victoria. It ensures that infrastructure investments are made strategically, supporting long-term goals and adapting to changing needs over time. This coordinated effort is key to achieving a balanced and inclusive development that benefits all Victorians.

References: [Plan for Victoria](#), [Infrastructure Victoria](#) | [Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure...](#)

2. Regional Context

The City of Greater Geelong's Plan for Victoria submission emphasised that regional context is crucial for its success. It highlighted that the City of Greater Geelong, being the most populated region outside metropolitan Melbourne, plays a significant role in the state's housing supply, economy, transport, and freight network. The submission stressed the need for the Victorian Government to consider not only housing targets but also the planning, design, and delivery of the required infrastructure, including social infrastructure, to support this growth. It also called for clear identification of the resourcing required to deliver on such aspirational targets and how supply will be ensured. The submission recommended that the Victorian Government recognise the importance of regional context and specifically the strategic importance of the Greater Geelong region and develop a dedicated plan for Geelong within the new Plan.

Likewise when considering finalising recommendations made under the draft strategy it is important to consider regional context, especially when looking at targets.

Recognising that the draft strategy emphasises the importance of addressing regional needs to ensure balanced development across the state, we note that the strategy highlights several key points regarding the regional context:

- Enhancing transport links between regional areas and metropolitan Melbourne to support economic growth and access to services.
- Investing in infrastructure that boosts local industries, such as agriculture, tourism, and renewable energy.
- Ensuring regional communities have access to quality healthcare, education, and recreational facilities.
- Implementing measures to protect regional areas from climate change impacts, such as extreme weather events and water scarcity.

The draft strategy however does not align targets with regional context, rather it sets or seeks statewide targets which may not be achievable. In finalising the strategy regional context must be embedded in the recommendations as appropriate.

References: City of Greater Geelong Submission to Plan for Victoria (2024)

3. Financial Contributions

Victoria's draft 30-year Infrastructure Strategy outlines several key points regarding financial contributions:

- The strategy emphasises the need for substantial government investment to support infrastructure projects across the state. This includes funding for transport, health, education, and environmental sustainability.
- The strategy encourages collaboration between the public and private sectors to leverage additional funding and expertise. Public-Private Partnerships are seen to deliver large-scale projects more efficiently.
- The strategy explores alternative financing models, such as value capture and user-pays systems, to generate revenue for infrastructure development
- The strategy highlights the importance of securing federal funding to complement state investments and ensure the successful delivery of major infrastructure projects.

These financial contributions are crucial for achieving the draft strategy's goals of enhancing connectivity, supporting economic growth, and improving the quality of life for all Victorians. However, in setting these contributions it is critical to consider the current economic environment and the demands on all levels of government and developers / investors which has the capacity to constrain investment over the coming years.

For example, the expectation on local government and private businesses to meet the projected demand for kindergarten places because of Victorian Government policy to increase kindergarten hours and placements. When the Victorian Government partners with Local Government to deliver on policy it needs to ensure that this does not result in cost shifting. Recommendation 2.

Targeted government investment is needed in growth and infill areas where social infrastructure and services need to be delivered to meet housing targets.

References: [Infrastructure Victoria | Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure...](#)

Declaration

- ☒ I agree to Infrastructure Victoria's [privacy collection statement](#).
- ☒ I give permission for Infrastructure Victoria to publish my submission on its website:

☒ with my name **or**

☐ anonymously (identifying personal information will be redacted).
- ☐ I do not give permission for Infrastructure Victoria to publish my submission.
- ☒ I would like to receive updates from Infrastructure Victoria about the strategy and our research program (about 6 emails a year).

Signature:	DocuSigned by: <i>Ali Wastie</i> CF66AB9636714B3...
Date:	16/04/2025