

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

## Your details

<b>Name:</b>	David Hallett
<b>Organisation (if applicable):</b>	Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia (Victoria Division)
<b>Position (if applicable):</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Email:</b>	██████████
<b>Phone:</b>	██████████

## 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Across sectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Victoria
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circular economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban growth areas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melbourne
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community infrastructure	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Freight	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure for Victoria's First Peoples	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transport	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water	

## Your feedback

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

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victorians have good access to housing, jobs, services and opportunities
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Build libraries and aquatic centres for Melbourne's growing communities
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	5
1. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
2. Tell us why	The DTP's <b>Plan for Victoria</b> sets housing development targets for all Victorian Councils and public infrastructure will need to be built or upgraded to ensure that new communities thrive.
3. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria</a>
4. Include proposed changes and improvements	Responsibility for the construction or upgrade of public libraries and aquatic centres falls to local government and funding support from the state government will be required.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victorians are healthy and safe
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Build safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	15
5. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
6. Tell us why	<b>Plan for Victoria</b> seeks to enhance active travel paths for walking and biking to support thriving and liveable suburbs and towns.
7. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria</a>
8. Include proposed changes and improvements	Responsibility for the construction or upgrade of active travel corridors falls to local government and funding support from the state government will be required.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victorians are healthy and safe
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities.
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	17
9. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
10. Tell us why	Liveable towns and suburbs require modern, accessible health facilities to support local communities.
11. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria</a>
12. Include proposed changes and improvements	Responsibility for the maintenance, upgrade and expansion of community health facilities falls to local government and funding support from the state government will be required.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victoria has a thriving natural environment
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure.
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	24
13. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
14. Tell us why	Emission-driven climate change is generating more frequent extreme weather events, resulting in an increased incidence of severe storms, flooding and bushfires. New and ageing infrastructure is a contributor to escalating greenhouse gas emissions and urgent action is required.
15. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
16. Include proposed changes and improvements	Local government is responsible for a significant proportion of Victoria's infrastructure (e.g. 80% of the road network) and its emissions. Support is required from the state government to share its insights and to de-risk construction innovation.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victoria has a thriving natural environment
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Advance integrated water management and use more recycled water
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	25
17. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
18. Tell us why	Click or tap here to enter text.
19. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
20. Include proposed changes and improvements	Local government is responsible for a significant number of Water Sensitive Urban Design initiatives (e.g. rainwater harvesting for tree and park irrigation, permeable paving, urban flood management etc). Support is required from the state government to share its insights and to de-risk construction innovation.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victoria is resilient to climate change and other future risks
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Better prepare infrastructure for climate change
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	27
21. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
22. Tell us why	Increasingly frequent extreme weather events like storms, floods and bushfire are decimating community infrastructure.
23. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.mav.asn.au/news-resources/campaigns/federal-election-2025">https://www.mav.asn.au/news-resources/campaigns/federal-election-2025</a>
24. Include proposed changes and improvements	<p>Local government is responsible for a significant amount of Victoria's infrastructure and is increasingly challenged to reinstate it after fire, flood or storm damage. Funding support from the state and/or federal government is required to ensure damaged infrastructure is 'built back better' rather than replaced on a like-for-like basis.</p> <p>The 'Build to Withstand' Fund proposed by MAV would identify and address the highest priority infrastructure for resilience upgrades; state support for this initiative would be welcomed. Funding is also required to develop resilient infrastructure standards for publication in Victoria's <a href="#">Infrastructure Design Manual</a> and <a href="#">Engineering Design and Construction Manual</a> for Growth Areas.</p>

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Prepare and publish infrastructure sector plans to shape Victoria's cities
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	35
25. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
26. Tell us why	<p><b>Plan for Victoria</b> is a community-led strategic land use plan for Victoria and Victoria's Local Government Act 2020 requires Councils to establish and maintain a 10-year <b>Asset Plan</b>; a strategic, public facing document that informs the community how municipal infrastructure assets will be managed to achieve the Community Vision and the Council Plan. Deliberative community engagement is a key requirement for the development of an Asset Plan.</p>
27. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria">https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/planforvictoria</a> <a href="https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/">https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/</a>
28. Include proposed changes and improvements	Integration of the proposed infrastructure sector plans with <b>Plan for Victoria</b> and municipal <b>Asset Plans</b> is vital in the interests of efficiency, productivity and clarity for all stakeholders.

<b>Topic/area:</b>	Victoria has a high productivity and circular economy
<b>Recommendation name:</b>	Improve asset management of all government infrastructure
<b>Recommendation number:</b>	37
29. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
30. Tell us why	<p>Sustainable, affordable service delivery from infrastructure assets is critical for the economic, environmental and social health of the state. IPWEA's <b>Best Practice Asset Management of Essential Public Infrastructure</b> White Paper makes ten recommendations to improve the capability and capacity of infrastructure asset managers. The following two will improve infrastructure asset management practices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That governments at all levels make a concerted effort to fund educational programs that raise the capacity and capability of the asset management profession and make a commitment to an industry-wide uplift of skills in Asset Management.</li> </ol>

	2. That the regulators require local government to report annually on the state of their infrastructure, using a nationally accepted methodology, such as the 'National State of the Assets'.
31. Share any supporting evidence or examples	<a href="https://www.ipwea.org/ipweacommunities/assetmanagement/amwhitepaper">https://www.ipwea.org/ipweacommunities/assetmanagement/amwhitepaper</a> <a href="https://www.landscapefoundation.org.au/">https://www.landscapefoundation.org.au/</a>
32. Include proposed changes and improvements	<p>This recommendation would be significantly strengthened by recognising green infrastructure as essential infrastructure requiring the same structured asset management approach as traditional built infrastructure.</p> <p>This alignment would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver economic returns of \$5+ for every \$1 invested in climate adaptation</li> <li>• Generate \$730+ million annually from assets like the Birrarung (Yarra River)</li> <li>• Save Victorian communities \$80-200 million annually in health costs</li> <li>• Support all Strategy objectives, particularly sustainability and climate resilience</li> </ul> <p>Without this explicit recognition, Victoria risks continued underinvestment in green infrastructure that is critical to long-term economic prosperity, community well-being, and environmental health.</p>

## 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.

*Victoria's infrastructure strategy would be significantly strengthened by explicitly recognising green infrastructure as essential infrastructure requiring the same structured asset management approach as traditional built infrastructure.*

**Green infrastructure** is a network of natural, green, and blue assets that work together to deliver ecosystem services such as stormwater management, urban cooling, biodiversity support, and improved community wellbeing. It complements traditional grey infrastructure by providing sustainable, nature-based solutions to urban challenges.

**Natural assets** are a subset of green infrastructure. They include ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, and rivers that function largely in their natural state and provide services like water purification, carbon storage, and wildlife habitat. In contrast, green assets (e.g., parks, street trees, green roofs) and blue assets (e.g., lakes, ponds, constructed wetlands) are often integrated into the built environment and require active management.

*This alignment would:*

- Deliver economic returns of \$5+ for every \$1 invested in climate adaptation
- Generate \$730+ million annually from assets like the Birrarung (Yarra River)
- Save Victorian communities \$80-200 million annually in health costs
- Support all Strategy objectives, particularly sustainability and climate resilience

*Without this explicit recognition, Victoria risks continued underinvestment in green infrastructure that is critical to long-term economic prosperity, community well-being, and environmental health.*

