

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

Your details

Name:	Trevor Neill FORGE
Organisation (if applicable):	Click or tap here to enter text.
Position (if applicable):	Click or tap here to enter text.
Email:	████████████████████
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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:	Period of duration for strategy
Recommendation name:	Infrastructure Victoria functions
Recommendation number:	About Us
1. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
2. Tell us why	“About Us” explains that one of the functions of Infrastructure Victoria is “preparing a 30-year infrastructure strategy for Victoria, which we review and update every 3 to 5 years” This time period seems “out of sync” with other key planning tools and frameworks that are contained in various legislation
3. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Local Government Act Sections 91, 92 require Council’ s Financial Plans and Asset Plans to be in force for at least 10 financial years while Section 89 requires the Council Plan to be in force at least 4 financial years Planning and Environment Act Section 46AV requires a statement of planning policy to “set a vision for a period of at least 50 years”
4. Include proposed changes and improvements	Suggest that (1) the period of application for the Infrastructure Plan be extended from 30 years to 50 years, and (2) the review periods for the plan be fixed at 5 years (not every 3 to 5 years)

Topic/area:	Design
Recommendation name:	Use digital technologies to better design, build, operate and maintain government infrastructure
Recommendation number:	39
5. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ In part
6. Tell us why	Implementing a “standard” design framework for mandatory use across common project types will be expensive to determine and implement, costly to maintain and unlikely to provide cost or schedule efficiencies BIM technologies require extraordinary attention to detail and considerable auditing/review to ensure appropriate and proper application They are more appropriate for individual, bespoke solutions for a single organisation/project where change management and quality can be more easily implemented under a standardised delivery regime Application across multiple projects will be fraught with complex implementation requiring significant intervention and oversight by external parties to ensure compliance
7. Share any supporting evidence or examples	
8. Include proposed changes and improvements	Reframe the “digital” aspect of this recommendation (everything is now “digital”) so that instead of BIM solutions there are guidelines and examples that can be applied This will ease the training and implementation load yet address the need for common approaches across industry Examples of such “guideline” documents might include the DWELP/OVGA “Better Apartments Design Standards”, or the EPA’s “Urban Stormwater Management Guidance” Both are focussed on achieving outcomes that benefit communities and ensure compliance or deliver improvement over past practice

Topic/area:	Infrastructure Standards
Recommendation name:	Improve asset management of all government infrastructure
Recommendation number:	37
9. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
10. Tell us why	It is not sufficient to only identify and apply "standards" of performance Government must also regularly review the performance expectation and then subsequently update/alter the applicable standard to achieve the same performance while being subjected to external impacts like climate change, funding limitations, declining labour, supplier or manufacturer capacity/capability, legal/judicial review etc.
11. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
12. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Climatic conditions
Recommendation name:	Better prepare infrastructure for climate change
Recommendation number:	27
13. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ In part
14. Tell us why	A key element missing from this recommendation is the work needed to modify/update/resolve legal principles/precedents and out-dated protocols Climate change will bring a range of unforeseen risks and impacts that have great potential to disrupt property frameworks, financial arrangements and recovery pathways In turn, responsibilities for recovery are likely to change and societal obligations varied - without satisfactory resolution, the social-contract will be placed at risk Coastal inundation will change boundaries resulting in foregone insurance, abandoned properties and economic/financial turmoil for communities and property owners Government tax regimes will need to respond to more frequent turbulent weather systems if there is to be any hope of Government providing viable ongoing recovery measures that return communities to previous economic standards Increased monetary/financial support will be required by the State to implement improved or more resilient transportation routes, housing, education facilities, communication networks etc. “Retreat” and “Protect” pathways will drive discord and disquiet throughout communities unless carried out equitably and in a timely and planned manner Legal and financial structures must change as current models are not fit to manage rapid changes in community attitudes brought about by Government failure to disseminate information or prepare/cultivate resilient communities
15. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
16. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

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.

Click or tap here to enter text.

