

Wyndham City Council Response - Infrastructure Victoria's 30-year strategy

Summary:

Wyndham City Council (WCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback regarding Infrastructure Victoria's recently updated 30-year strategy.

On 4 March 2025, Infrastructure Victoria (IV) released the draft - [Victoria's 30-year infrastructure strategy update 2025-2055](#). This report details a roadmap of policies, reforms and projects that seek to deliver efficiency savings and productivity outcomes for Victoria's local communities, economy and the environment over the decades ahead. The report makes 43 recommendations that span across infrastructure sectors.

Wyndham City Council strongly endorses the release of this report and the ongoing work of IV to improve and plan infrastructure across the State. In responding to the report, Council notes some of the areas where we believe that the report's recommendations could be improved. However, we welcome the opportunity that this report offers to discuss competing infrastructure needs across the State.

Impact of IV's recommendations for Wyndham City Council:

This report makes 43 recommendations and multiple 'Future Options' to the State Government to consider. Council is pleased that the report indicates that there are potentially significant financial savings on infrastructure spending by undertaking longer term planning, increased use of digital technologies and better use of existing infrastructure.

Several of the recommendations are directly relevant to projects and infrastructure within the Wyndham area and have been recognised by Council as priorities. Council would like to respond to several of the recommendations.

Recommendation 4: Expand TAFE in Melbourne's growth areas – Wyndham City Council supports measures to ensure increased accessibility to training institutions. Council has continued to work collaboratively with institutions seeking to set up new locations within the Wyndham area and supports Infrastructure Victoria's efforts to keep attention on the higher education needs in growth areas.

Recommendation 5: Build libraries and aquatic centres for Melbourne's growing communities – Wyndham City Council endorses this recommendation, noting the important data that IV details for

around the provision of these community facilities. The report finds that residents in growth areas have poor access to aquatic centres and recommends the Victorian Government contribute up to a third (33 per cent) of the cost to build or expand core components of the facilities, such as aquatic centres, with local and Australian governments covering the rest. Council does express some concern around IV's recommendation of \$25 million grant allocations, particularly as our costings for a modern aquatic facility range closer to \$100-\$120 million. The development of new library and aquatic facilities form part of our ongoing advocacy to State and Federal Government and Council welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with IV in progressing these as priorities to the State Government.

Recommendation 6: Make government infrastructure more accessible - Council supports the completion of priority public transport stop upgrades. However, this strategy refers exclusively to bus and tram stops. Council supports the expansion of this recommendation to include existing train stations and interchanges such as the Werribee station and bus interchange that are not DDA compliant.

Recommendation 10: Build a new bus rapid transit network - Council supports IV's efforts to see bus improvements across the Metropolitan area. Wyndham City Council would like to be consulted on the proposed bus rapid transit route assessments to ensure the selection of the most optimal routes for Wyndham's community, ensuring appropriate attention is given towards local context, existing patronage, activity centres and access to employment.

Recommendation 11: Extend metropolitan trains and run more services in Melbourne's west – Wyndham City Council expresses partial support for this recommendation. The proposed solution within the Strategy will support congestion and transportation needs in the short term but does not reflect a long-term solution for the Wyndham area. Infrastructure Victoria should use the release of this report to demonstrate the need to electrify trains on the Wyndham Vale Line, including providing an extension to connect to the Werribee Line to provide the additional capacity and connectivity that our community needs. There are a finite number of trains that can operate on the Wyndham Vale V/Line corridor, limited by the 'train paths' in each hour of the schedule. The existing VLocity trains have limited capacity that is much lower than the capacity of Metro Trains' rolling stock which can carry around 30% more passengers on each train. Therefore, in future the High Capacity Metro Trains (HCMT) will need to be deployed on the Wyndham Vale corridor and they will be required sooner if the Werribee Line service frequency is not improved. To use HCMT on the Wyndham Vale corridor, the railway will need to be electrified between Sunshine and Wyndham Vale, or from Werribee to Tarneit. Finally, this Strategy doesn't include any discussion around proposed railway stations on the RRL such as Truganina, West Tarneit and Black Forest Rd Stations. These stations represent critical train station infrastructure for the West and for Wyndham City Council.

Recommendation 14: Make local streets safer for children and communities - Council supports the safe system approach of reducing speed limits on local streets starting around schools, playgrounds, childcare centres and kindergartens. Council is, however, asking that assessments be made before application to further locations. Further, Council supports funding for local government to upgrade footpaths, crossings and other infrastructure to slow cars down.

Recommendation 16: Help government schools share their grounds - Council supports partnering with State Government schools to provide additional access to community groups and clubs outside of school hours. Supportive funding would further assist Council in ensuring the proper management and maintenance required to support additional usage at school sites across Wyndham. Joint usage

agreements would need to be explored to support this initiative. Finally, Council welcomes the opportunity to engage directly with schools to ensure close relationships and trust are built between school communities and local government. Wyndham City Council already has ongoing arrangements with select schools, and we would welcome further State Government involvement to guide more of these arrangements.

Recommendation 36: Reform infrastructure contributions - Wyndham City Council expresses partial support for this recommendation. The introduction of a simplified contributions system for infill areas would be an improvement on the current situation for LGA's that do not currently have ICPs and DCPs or the expertise to prepare and manage contribution schemes. This benefit would also apply to the infill areas of Growth Area Councils, as both inner and outer areas each have established areas where redevelopment continues to occur, yet no such contributions systems operate. However, for greenfield settings, the current DCP and ICP systems should continue to operate in the same way, given the specific needs and requirements of greenfield Growth Area settings. This approach will also ensure that the current DCP and ICPs that are in operation are not undermined. Introducing a new greenfield contributions regime that attempts to be overly simplified to match a new infill setting is likely to undermine and probably underfund greenfield settings to the detriment of critical infrastructure delivery in these settings.

Recommendation 40: Use modern traffic control technology for efficient and safe journeys – Wyndham City Council supports this recommendation. Funding for road safety improvement projects is essential for protecting lives, reducing injuries, and enhancing overall community well-being however there is a lack of safety cameras in the west and safety infrastructure upgrades are not keeping pace. Council regularly monitors road safety data and to submit funding applications for safety improvements. Council made a submission for road safety cameras at key intersections, with the support of VicPol over 18 months ago to the Fixed Camera Site Selection Committee. A response was received recently but it now requires State Government funding to be allocated for new cameras. This lag in decision making and funding contributes to major safety risks in the community as motorists continue to run red lights and Council asks that the State Government review its fixed camera program to address these issues in the selection of locations for installation. Finally, Council recommends that this Smarter Roads technology extend to Council non-declared main roads, where it is also needed.

Recommendation 43: Create and preserve opportunities for future major infrastructure projects - Wyndham City Council supports this recommendation as creating and preserving opportunities to build major infrastructure projects such as those listed is commendable. However, this also needs to be expanded to include other forms of state infrastructure such as Police, Fire and Ambulance stations as well as Justice and Health infrastructure that services growth areas. The planning for these types of facilities is not adequately accommodated in Precinct Structure Plans and in current State Government planning. Adequate planning and preservation of opportunities for existing and proposed major waste facilities must also be appropriately created and preserved.

Other Recommendations: Wyndham City Council would like to express strong support for the below recommendations, but do not require any further comment.

- Recommendation 1: Build more social housing
- Recommendation 2: Facilitate markets and invest in kindergarten infrastructure
- Recommendation 3: Plan and deliver expanded and new schools
- Recommendation 15: Build safe cycling networks in Melbourne and regional cities
- Recommendation 17: Invest in maintenance, upgrades and expansions of community health facilities

- Recommendation 26: Better use government land for open space and greenery
- Recommendation 29: Coordinate faster delivery of key energy infrastructure
- Recommendation 31: Invest in home, neighbourhood and big batteries for more energy storage
- Recommendation 38: Prepare for more recycling and waste infrastructure

Conclusion:

Wyndham City Council is pleased to endorse the ongoing work of Infrastructure Victoria, and the release of the updated 30-year Strategy 2025-2055 demonstrates key areas of alignment in priorities and practical solutions.

Council looks forward to an ongoing dialogue with Infrastructure Victoria, building on the work of this report, and our combined efforts to ensure growth areas across Victoria can keep pace with community needs and expectations.