

THE CITY OF
GREATER GEELONG

SUBMISSION TO VICTORIA'S DRAFT 30-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

APRIL 2025

Executive Summary

A Victorian 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy is crucial for shaping the future of our community and ensuring that the infrastructure needs of our growing population are met.

By providing detailed feedback and recommendations the City of Greater Geelong seeks to influence the development of a comprehensive and sustainable infrastructure plan that will address the unique challenges and opportunities within the Greater Geelong region.

This collaborative approach allows us to advocate for essential projects, secure necessary funding, and ensure that our community's voice is heard in the planning process. Ultimately, we seek to create a more liveable, connected, and resilient city for current and future generations.

Where a recommendation relates specifically to Melbourne metropolitan or urban infrastructure no response has been provided.

Housing and Social Infrastructure

The *City of Greater Geelong's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy Submission* emphasises the critical need for social and affordable housing to meet the growing demand in Victoria.

The submission supports the recommendation to build more social housing, highlighting the ambitious target of 60,000 social housing units over 15 years to align with national averages.

The City of Greater Geelong has set its own goals to increase social housing from 3% to 10% by 2041, recognising the importance of a consistent state-based approach and the use of surplus government land for social housing. Calling for collaboration 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.

The submission also supports the need for a balanced funding model for kindergarten infrastructure, advocating for government collaboration and financial incentives to encourage private sector investment.

The City of Greater Geelong supports the expansion of TAFE campuses to address skills shortages, particularly in construction, energy, and health sectors, and meet the region's ambitious housing targets. Highlighting the needs to consider policy enabling non-TAFE providers to contribute to meeting this growing demand as well.

Education and Community Facilities

The submission partially supports the recommendation to plan and deliver expanded and new schools, emphasising the need for tailored strategies for both small and large schools. It highlights the importance of open space and transport needs in school expansions while proposing that the benefits of smaller schools in creating supportive learning environments should not be overlooked.

The City of Greater Geelong also supports the recommendation to build libraries and aquatic centres, advocating for investment in both new builds and the renewal of existing facilities to meet the needs of growing communities.

The submission underscores the importance of operational sustainability and the need for government funding to support these facilities.

Transport and Accessibility

The City of Greater Geelong supports recommendations to improve public transport and accessibility. This includes running faster and more frequent bus services, extending metropolitan trains and connections to regional cities, ensuring public transport meets the needs of both metropolitan and regional Victorians.

The submission highlights the importance of direct and timely public transport services for employment and education purposes and the need for regional context in setting targets.

The City of Greater Geelong also supports making off-peak public transport cheaper and simplifying regional fare zones to ensure cost-effective access for all Victorians, emphasising the importance of access and equity in all public transport services and infrastructure.

Health and Wellbeing

The submission supports various recommendations to improve health and wellbeing infrastructure. This includes investing in community health facilities, building residential alcohol and other drug treatment facilities, and expanding digital healthcare.

The submission emphasises the need for a balanced approach that integrates digital health services with place-based services to ensure equitable access and quality care for all Victorians, highlighting the need to consider the digital divide that exists.

The submission also supports the recommendation to make local streets safer for children and communities by considering an approach with combines reducing speed limits with improving streetscape design.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

The City of Greater Geelong supports recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from infrastructure, advance integrated water management, and better prepare infrastructure for climate change.

The submission highlights the importance of funding high-priority infrastructure adaptation actions and updating flood studies and maps to minimise building in high-risk areas. During the 2022 floods 63 of Victoria's 79 local government areas were affected, mapping is however only the first part of the works required.

The City of Greater Geelong also supports the recommendation to coordinate faster delivery of key energy infrastructure and invest in home, neighbourhood, and big batteries for more energy storage. The submission underscores the need for government investment to support the transition to renewable energy and ensure reliable energy supply.

Regional Context and Financial Contributions

The City of Greater Geelong submission emphasises the importance of regional context in planning and delivering infrastructure projects. It highlights the strategic importance of the Greater Geelong region and the need for regional context and consultation in a statewide strategy.

The submission also stresses the need for substantial government investment and collaboration with the private

sector to support infrastructure development. The submission calls for targeted government investment in growth and infill areas to meet housing targets and to ensure the sustainability of social infrastructure and services.

Overall, the *City of Greater Geelong's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy Submission* provides a comprehensive response to the draft 30-year infrastructure strategy, advocating for a balanced and integrated approach to planning and delivering infrastructure projects.

The submission underscores the importance of regional context, government collaboration, and targeted investment to deliver Victoria's infrastructure needs and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all Victorians.

We welcome the opportunity to be involved in any future dialogue to help inform the finalisation of Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy.

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