

INFRASTRUCTURE VICTORIA'S INDEPENDENCE

The *Infrastructure Victoria Act 2015* has a number of provisions which ensure Infrastructure Victoria is independent of the government.

Objective of Independence

Infrastructure Victoria's legislated objective is to provide independent and expert advice about Victoria's current and future infrastructure needs.

This independence strongly informs the organisation's culture and behaviour.

Independent Board

Infrastructure Victoria's board consists of seven directors. Four of these directors are appointed by the Governor in Council and must meet private sector knowledge and experience requirements.

Appointed board members cannot be removed without the agreement of the Governor of Victoria.

The Chair of the board cannot be removed without a statement of grounds being provided to Parliament.

Three of the board directors are Secretaries of Victorian Government departments. These Departmental Secretaries appropriately represent and inform Infrastructure Victoria.

While acting in their role with Infrastructure Victoria, all board directors have a legal duty to give priority to the best interests of the organisation.

No Ministerial Direction or Control

Infrastructure Victoria is not subject to direction or control of the Minister when it performs functions such as development of the 30-year infrastructure strategy, undertaking research or supporting development of sectoral infrastructure strategies.

A Departmental Secretary cannot be directed by a Minister in relation to his or her role as a director of Infrastructure Victoria.

Freedom to Publish

Infrastructure Victoria does not require the approval of the government to publish its 30-year strategy or research.

The 30-year strategy will be transmitted to the Parliament for all Victorians to see as soon as possible after it is completed.

Infrastructure Victoria's public annual report will include an assessment of the Government's progress in meeting identified infrastructure needs.

Independence of Advice

The Minister may request that Infrastructure Victoria provide the government with advice on infrastructure matters such as major infrastructure project proposals. The Minister cannot direct what Infrastructure Victoria's advice will be in response to such a request.

Infrastructure Victoria's public annual report will disclose the subject of any request for advice, when it was asked for and when it was provided.

Power to Obtain Information

Infrastructure Victoria has the power to request information from the public sector to perform its functions. This information must be provided in a timely and efficient manner.

Infrastructure Victoria also has the power to receive confidential information from anyone and not disclose it – even to the government – without consent.