

# Victoria's Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy

Develop regional Victoria



Infrastructure Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy considers the infrastructure needs for all of Victoria.

The opportunities and challenges for regional and rural communities are different to those in Melbourne but we found that many infrastructure needs are shared across the regions.

Each region has unique attributes that can grow economies, create jobs and transform industries. Infrastructure investments that build on a region's existing competitive strengths or advantages are most likely to effectively deliver future economic growth. Infrastructure must also support communities during natural disasters and prepare them for long-term climate change.

Infrastructure strengthens wellbeing in regional Victoria by connecting people to essential resources and tackling disadvantage experienced by Victoria's most vulnerable communities.

Recommendations specific to the regions have been developed to address unique infrastructure needs for:

- \ Barwon
- \ Central Highlands
- \ Gippsland
- \ Goulburn
- \ Great South Coast
- \ Loddon Campaspe
- \ Mallee
- \ Ovens Murray
- \ Wimmera Southern Mallee.

The regions of Victoria



## Enhance market access and productivity

Regional Victoria is home to key local and export industries. Infrastructure plays an important role in connecting businesses with their markets, boosting productivity and supporting long-term growth.

The draft strategy recommends delivering funding certainty for regional roads maintenance and upgrades, and regional freight rail maintenance as well as continuing to address regional Victoria's digital connectivity gaps.

## Unlock regional economic growth opportunities

Drought, bushfires and the coronavirus pandemic have challenged Victoria's regional economies. Infrastructure investment can support local industries by building on economic strengths and unlocking economic growth.

The draft strategy recommends strategic power supply upgrades to support agriculture and manufacturing. It also recommends investing in nature-based tourism, allowing more long-term leases in national parks and by partnering with Traditional Owners to develop a Victorian Aboriginal tourism strategy.

## Connect the regions to help strengthen wellbeing

Regional Victoria has long distances between some support services, making it more difficult for people to access the services important to their wellbeing. Infrastructure can improve access to jobs, education, health and social services and reduce disadvantage.

The draft strategy seeks to improve access to services in regional Victoria by:

- \ reforming local public transport
- \ improving telecommunications infrastructure
- \ funding libraries to provide better internet access, and
- \ using rural schools for children's specialists and allied telehealth services.

## Foster regional Victorians' health, safety and inclusion

Transport and telecommunications infrastructure can support improved access to services in regional areas. Yet many health, education and community services still need personal interaction, face-to-face care and support delivered locally. This requires buildings to accommodate these services.

The draft strategy recommends regional Victorians have access to social services in community hubs, with multiple services available in the one location. The facilities should aim to meet the health, housing, senior and youth entertainment needs of local communities, as well as create a safer place to shelter during extreme heat and bushfires.

Infrastructure Victoria welcomes feedback on the draft recommendations.

We are particularly interested in hearing your views on:



### Tourism:

How can we support nature-based tourism recovery? What infrastructure is needed to support the tourism industry in the long term?



### Telehealth:

How is telehealth currently working in the regions? What is working and what are the barriers to uptake?



### Culture, community and education:

Many council facilities were built for a single purpose tailored for a specific need in time. What can we do to make these facilities fit for contemporary use?



### Housing:

Where is additional social housing needed in your region? What is important in considering new housing in certain locations?



To answer these questions and more, visit [infravic.com/30yearstrategy](https://www.infravic.com/30yearstrategy)

## How can we develop regional Victoria?

Extensive evidence, research and consultation has informed our recommendations to develop regional Victoria.

### 4.1 Enhance market access and productivity

#	Recommendations
77	Deliver funding certainty for regional road maintenance and upgrades
78	Revise the Murray Basin Rail project plan
79	Fund an ongoing regional rail freight maintenance program
80	Continue to address regional Victoria's digital connectivity gaps

### 4.2 Unlock regional economic growth opportunities

#	Recommendations
81	Upgrade power supply for agriculture and regional manufacturing
82	Plan for future investments in regional nature-based tourism infrastructure
83	Develop a Victorian Aboriginal tourism strategy
84	Boost tourism infrastructure by allowing more national parks to grant long leases

### 4.3 Connect the regions to help strengthen wellbeing

#	Recommendations
85	Reform regional public transport to meet local needs
86	Improve resilience of regional telecommunications infrastructure
87	Fund regional libraries to provide better internet access
88	Use rural schools for children's specialist and allied telehealth services

### 4.4 Foster regional Victorians' health, safety and inclusion

#	Recommendations
89	Deliver multipurpose shared social service facilities in the regions
90	Support regional councils to update, repurpose or retire outdated community infrastructure
91	Create climate-adapted facilities for rural communities
92	Build regional residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities
93	Fund more Youth Foyers in regional Victoria
94	Expand social housing in regional centres, in locations with good access
95	Make social housing suitable for changing local climates

## How can I take part?

The draft strategy is now ready for review. This is your chance to help shape Victoria's future.

We invite all Victorians to provide feedback on the draft strategy until Friday 26 February, 2021. Victorians can comment on all recommendations, or the parts of the draft strategy that are of interest.

Provide feedback by completing an online survey, making a submission, attending an online event or speaking with the team over the phone. It is part of Infrastructure Victoria's commitment to listen to the community and to hear a wide range of perspectives.

To have your say, visit [infraviv.com/30yearstrategy](https://infraviv.com/30yearstrategy)

## Keep in touch

To speak with the project team reach out via

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