



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA welcomes Infrastructure Victoria board establishment

The Victorian Transport Association (VTA) has welcomed the state government's announcement of the board of Infrastructure Victoria, to be led by inaugural Chair Jim Miller, and is hopeful that Victoria can finally get on with planning and building the big transportation infrastructure projects that have been lacking for several years.

"The VTA has always supported the establishment of an independent body that can prioritise and plan for the big, long-term infrastructure needs of the state," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"Victoria hasn't initiated a new major road infrastructure project for ten years, and this is largely because politics have impeded the ability of successive state governments to make – and stand by – major road infrastructure decisions.

"We are hopeful that this independent body can fulfil its charter of providing fair, balanced and non-partisan infrastructure planning and advice so that we can start to tackle long-term infrastructure challenges that will only worsen as our state grows, and the population increases.

"We wish the board every success, and offer our assurance and willingness to contribute to transportation planning that will benefit our state and national economies, and the transport operators that keep our economy moving," he said.

Mr Anderson reiterated the number one infrastructure priority for the VTA is the North East Link connecting the Eastern Freeway with the Metropolitan Ring Road.

"The lack of connectivity of Melbourne's major freeway network has massive impacts on the productivity of operators and this is most apparent in the north east of Melbourne.

"There is no direct link between the Eastern Freeway and the Ring Road, and with curfews on trucks on arterial roads at night, the only alternative for drivers is to go around – which is costly and time-consuming, or use small roads – which is unsafe.

"We look forward to briefing the newly established Board at the earliest possible opportunity on what our industry sees as the major transportation infrastructure priorities," Mr Anderson said.

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