



MEDIA STATEMENT

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VTA welcomes congestion-busting Victorian Budget

The Victorian Transport Association, representing the freight and logistics industry, commends the Victorian Government for listening to the needs of industry and the community, and delivering a budget that addresses the medium- and long-term needs of the fastest growing state in Australia.

Victoria is outpacing the nation on population, jobs and economic growth and it is encouraging that the budget contains a raft of measures to meet the future needs of business and the community.

We are especially pleased that significant funding has been allocated for roads and transport infrastructure that will ease congestion for freight operators, and improve productivity and efficiency throughout supply chains.

Chief among these measures are:

- \$2.2 billion for the Suburban Roads Upgrade in Melbourne's northern and south-eastern suburbs;
- \$941 million to upgrade and maintain regional roads and the establishment of Regional Roads Victoria;
- \$1.9 billion for public transport, including duplication of regional rail lines encouraging greater patronage of public transport rail networks;
- \$21.1 million to strengthen bridges across the state, including many on key freight routes that carry high-productivity freight vehicles;
- \$110 million to fast-track completion of detailed design planning for the North-East Link and
- \$75 million for the Mordialloc Bypass connecting the Mornington Peninsula Freeway with the Dingly Bypass

All up, the Budget contains \$13.7 billion for construction and upgrades to Victoria's transport networks, which is vital for the freight industry to move goods and keep the economy growing.

As an industry association that is working hard to attract young, professional people to the freight industry, we also welcome measures in the Budget to streamline the transition for qualified apprentices and tradespersons into the workforce.

It is incumbent on the Government to give Victorians future certainty with respect to jobs, training, infrastructure and growth, and we applaud them for handing down a budget that delivers on their commitments.

Peter Anderson
CEO, VTA

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