



MEDIA RELEASE

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VTA backs COVID recovery Victorian Budget

The Victorian Transport Association has thrown its support behind an unprecedented Victorian budget designed to kickstart the state's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, which has crippled economic activity for much of the past year.

The budget contains numerous measures to help improve productivity for Victorian freight operators, largely in the form of infrastructure works on the state's transport networks that will ease road congestion throughout Melbourne and across the state. Key measures include:

Road: A total of \$1.6 billion in road network and infrastructure initiatives, including \$2.5 million in the 'Summer Streets' program to provide traffic management during COVID safe outdoor events, \$117 million package of road and intersection upgrades across Melbourne and \$411 million to resurface, rebuild and maintain 1700 kilometres of roads

Rail: A total of \$2.2 billion on the Suburban Rail Loop, \$2 billion on Geelong fast rail, \$660 million for the next stages of upgrades on the Shepparton and Warrnambool line. The government will also spend \$276.5 million on the Dandenong corridor to allow for faster high-capacity metro trains to run and \$5.5 million on track works around Caulfield station to enable the separation of the Frankston and Dandenong lines

Trams A total of \$1.48 billion will be spent on building 100 new modern accessible trams to retire the ageing A and Z-class trams. What will be the largest tram order in decades will include an order for new E-Class trams and possibly another variety, will also go towards a new maintenance facility in Melbourne's north-west to support 1900 jobs

As announced on the weekend, Melbourne will finally get an airport rail connection with the Commonwealth and Victorian government each contributing \$5 billion towards a project that will dramatically ease pressure on road networks in the north and north west of the city.

A **Building Works Package** will also provide \$359 million for maintenance and repairs for transport infrastructure including resurfacing roads, maintaining rail and upgrading jetties and piers, with \$20 million to upgrade key freight routes and support agricultural supply chains.

"After a horror year, significant action was required to spur economic growth, recover jobs and restore Victorians' confidence in our state," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson. "The government is to be commended for initiating projects that will ease congestion on our transport networks, which will support freight and logistics operators in their ongoing quest to improve productivity and the service they provide their customers and Victorian consumers."

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