



Developing Transport Infrastructure and Services for Population Growth Areas

Tabled 21 August 2013



The Victorian Auditor-General's Office

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- **Purpose** – assurance to Parliament on the accountability and performance of the Victorian public sector.
- **Legislation** – *Audit Act 1994* defines powers and responsibilities of the Auditor-General and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.
- **Mandate** – financial and performance audits of around 550 entities.



Background to the audit

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- Melbourne's population is growing rapidly, particularly in growth areas.
- This growth has created a major challenge to provide the transport needed to sustainably support these communities.
- Delaying and retrofitting required transport can significantly increase costs and impede mobility and accessibility.
- The cost of all infrastructure needed in greenfields is \$36 billion over the next 30 years—\$18 billion of this is needed in state funding.

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Audit objectives and scope

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Audit objective

To assess effectiveness of state agencies in planning and delivering transport infrastructure and services for population growth areas.

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Audit scope

Examined whether:

- planning is effective in identifying current and future needs
- implementation and funding strategies support delivery.

Agencies audited

- Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure
- Growth Areas Authority
- Public Transport Victoria
- VicRoads.



Conclusion

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- Over many years, the state has failed to deliver the transport needed to support rapidly growing communities.
- Inadequate public transport and growing gaps in the road network are creating:
 - barriers to accessing critical services, education and employment
 - increasing car dependence, pollution and traffic congestion.
- Funding to address the transport needs of growth areas can take more than a generation to materialise.
- Urgent whole of government action is required.



Findings—Current transport infrastructure and services

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- Significant investment of more than \$10 billion is required to address the current transport backlog including:
 - \$6.2 billion for rail works
 - between \$4.1 and \$5.1 billion for road works
 - \$197 million per annum to improve bus services across metropolitan Melbourne.
- Despite investment of around \$2.5 billion, most growth areas remain inadequately serviced.



Findings—Planning for infrastructure and services

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- Recent improvements in planning for greenfields provide a sound framework for identifying transport needs.
- However, the effectiveness of plans is limited by the absence of:
 - a supporting funding and implementation strategy
 - minimum service standards to guide planning for the frequency and directness of public transport services
 - effective arrangements to assure all required transport standards have been addressed.



Findings—Prioritising, funding and monitoring transport delivery

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- There is no statewide strategy to address the longstanding transport backlog in established growth areas.
- Insufficient action has been taken to address the longstanding challenge of funding transport infrastructure and services.
- There is no framework for evaluating, monitoring and reporting on whether the delivery of transport is timely.

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Recommendations

Recommendations	Accept
That the Growth Areas Authority, in consultation with state transport agencies:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">finalise the development of effective arrangements for transparently acquitting the Precinct Structure Plan guidelines and related transport requirements.	
That Public Transport Victoria:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">develops minimum service standards to guide planning for the frequency and directness of public transport services.	
That the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders:	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none">develop and implement a statewide framework for prioritising the delivery of transport infrastructure, including alternative financing options and an associated monitoring and evaluation framework.	



Contact

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