

APPENDIX A

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with the Department of Transport, and we considered their views when reaching our audit conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to the department and asked for its submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the department head.

Responses were received as follows:

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Department of Transport

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Mr Andrew Greaves
Auditor-General of Victoria
Victorian Auditor-General's Office
Level 31, 35 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Victorian Auditor-General's Office – Proposed Report – Integrated Transport Planning

Thank you for your letter of 9 July 2021 relating to the 'Integrated Transport Planning' performance audit and for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed report (the Report).

The Department of Transport (DoT) does not agree with all the conclusions and findings in the Report. The Department has an integrated transport planning approach and is meeting the requirements of the *Transport Integration Act 2010*.

The Department is therefore meeting both stated lines of inquiry for this audit and believes it has demonstrated this through the information it has provided to your office with comprehensive supporting evidence.

Bringing together VicRoads, PTV and Development Victoria with the Department of Transport, which includes the Major Transport Infrastructure Authority (MTIA), means for the first time Victoria has one central agency designing, planning and delivering an integrated transport system for all Victorians.

The Department is on a program of continuous improvement and development. We continue to improve work practices, provide greater role clarity and invest more effort in our priorities. In recognising the need to continue to strengthen integrated transport planning practice, organisational coordination and transparency to the Victorian community, DoT has already implemented a number of actions to further enhance integrated transport planning outcomes. Examples of these actions include:

- Government endorsement, adoption and DOT website refresh to present Victorian Transport Strategic Directions and publish work progressed under each of these;
- DoT's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 (fully aligned with the Transport Strategic Directions and focus areas for internal delivery against these);



- Victorian Living Transport Network Strategic Framework (VLTN Strategic Framework);
- Network Pipeline Framework;
- Divisional Business Plans;
- Capability uplift programs; and
- Further changes to organisational arrangements implemented on 31 May 2021.

We recognise the role of audits in supporting the Department's compliance with its legislative obligations. The Department has accepted five (5) of the recommendations outlined in the Report, partially accepted one (1) and not accepted one (1). The Department's action plan has been developed in response to the recommendations raised by VAGO.

The Department's action plan on the Report is attached for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



PAUL YOUNIS
Secretary
Department of Transport

20th July 2021

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Integrated Transport Planning

Proposed Action Plan

No.	VAGO recommendations	Action	Completion date
1.	We recommend that the Department clarify and publish a definitive listing and explanation of the documents and resources that contribute to the transport plan required by the <i>Transport Integration Act 2010</i> (the Act) and how these documents are linked and work together to satisfy the Act.	<p>Partially accepted</p> <p>The decisions around whether DoT approved documents are published lies with the Department and relevant Ministers, with timing being a matter for consideration in response to the context at the time and in a changing environment.</p> <p>The Department has published our Strategic Directions for Transport that sets out a long-term vision for our transport network considering social, economic, environmental, technological change and opportunities for innovation and partnerships. It seeks to make the most of the historic investment in new infrastructure by adding new services and recognises that infrastructure alone will not meet the travel needs of all Victorians into the future. This is outlined on the Department's website.</p> <p>The Department will make further changes to its website to improve understanding of the Department's integrated transport planning approach which meets the requirements of the Act.</p>	August 2021
2.	We recommend that the Department establish completion timelines for all outstanding priority transport plans and start tracking progress against them.	<p>Not accepted</p> <p>Whilst DoT has identified its priorities through its Strategic Plan 2020-2023 (which is fully aligned with the Transport Strategic Directions and focus areas for internal delivery against these), the timing for completion is a matter for Government.</p>	Not applicable

VAGO Proposed Report – Integrated Transport Planning - Action Plan

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No.	VAGO recommendations	Action	Completion date
3.	We recommend that the Department ensure any advice to ministers on whether individual transport plans or strategies should be published addresses and conforms with the Act's principles on transparency and integrated decision-making.	Accepted The Department does and will continue to ensure that its advice to Ministers conforms with the Act and other legislation that governs it. Formal Ministerial briefing templates will be updated to include consideration of relevant legislation.	June 2022
4.	We recommend that the Department complete the Victoria's Living Transport Network (VL TN) framework and underlying practice guidance to drive a consistent approach to integrated transport planning.	Accepted The VL TN Strategic Framework was endorsed by DoT Transport Executive on 13 July 2021.	Completed
5.	We recommend that the Department periodically review governance arrangements for transport planning to assess whether they remain fit for purpose in supporting integrated transport planning.	Accepted DoT is on a program of continuous improvement and development and continues to periodically review its governance arrangements to ensure these remain fit for purpose in supporting integrated transport planning.	Completed
6.	We recommend that the Department continue to emphasise, embed and monitor leadership and cultural change as it moves towards more integrated transport planning.	Accepted The Department acknowledges the Auditor-General Office's recognition of its achievements in this area through its demonstrated significant commitment to training programs and will continue to do so.	Completed
7.	We recommend that the Department ensure its approach to formulating advice to government on transport investment priorities demonstrates the results of integrated planning for the transport system.	Accepted The Department's investment approach through its network pipeline and supporting governance arrangements consolidates a systematic approach to linking integrated transport planning for the transport system with the prioritisation of potential transport initiatives. This forms the basis of the Department's advice to government on transport investment priorities.	June 2022

VAGO Proposed Report – Integrated Transport Planning - Action Plan

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