

Freight and Supply Chain Inquiry  
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development  
GPO Box 594  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Dear Sir or Madam,

## **INFRASTRUCTURE VICTORIA SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO NATIONAL FREIGHT AND SUPPLY CHAIN PRIORITIES**

Infrastructure Victoria recognises the important work of the *Inquiry into National Freight and Supply Chain Priorities*. We support the role of the Inquiry to better understand and improve the role of the freight and supply chain sector in supporting Australia's economic competitiveness by supporting importers and exporters.

Infrastructure Victoria made a number of freight related recommendations in *Victoria's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy* that was presented to the Victorian Parliament in December 2016. The Strategy identified 19 infrastructure-related needs to be addressed. The recommendations under Need 13 'Improve the efficiency of freight supply chains' will be of particular interest to the Inquiry. Need 13 is supported by the following strategic directions:

1. Introduce a transport network pricing regime to manage congestion and obtain the most efficient use of the transport network;
2. Prepare the road network and regulatory frameworks for the arrival of driverless freight vehicles;
3. Increase the capacity and optimise the use of freight terminals for interstate and international trade;
4. Improve the productivity of Victoria's existing freight transportation network; and
5. Increase the capacity and connectivity of Victoria's freight transportation network.

Some of the recommendations that deliver on these strategic directions include:

- introducing a transport network pricing regime (13.1.1);
- removing regulatory barriers to testing driverless freight vehicles (13.2.2);
- development of a port rail shuttle (13.3.1);
- identification and protection on freight precincts and intermodal terminals (13.3.2 and 13.3.3);
- regional highway upgrade prioritisation (13.4.1) and maintenance (13.4.4);
- regional rail gauge standardisation (13.4.2);
- supporting the deployment of High Productivity Freight Vehicles (13.4.3);
- further scoping and planning for delivery of the Inland Rail Project (13.5.1); and
- delivery of North East Link (13.5.2) and the Outer Metropolitan Ring Road (13.5.3).

The strategic directions and recommendations developed for Need 13 are relevant for consideration in the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. Further detail on the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy can be found at <http://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/30-year-strategy>.

In addition, Infrastructure Victoria has recently provided advice to the Victorian Government on *Securing Victoria's Ports Capacity*, focusing on the timing and location of a new container port. Infrastructure Victoria's advice is relevant to the work of the inquiry because ports are a major node in import and export supply chains. As part of its advice, Infrastructure Victoria also commissioned studies on Victorian supply chains and the impact of different port locations on future road and rail transport links, as well as the location of warehousing and distribution centres. This work is likely to be useful to the Inquiry in its deliberations.

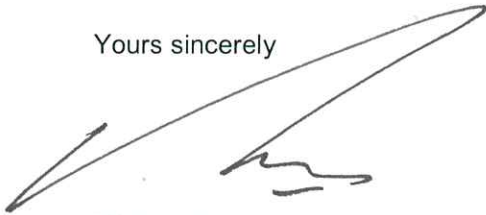
In preparing advice on the timing and location of a new container port, Infrastructure Victoria's advice contained 19 recommendations to the Victorian Government grouped in the following themes:

1. Monitor and publicly report on key port related indicators
2. Optimise the capacity of existing ports
3. Understand the variables that may alter planning timelines
4. Preserve long-term port options
5. Baseline and monitor environmental conditions
6. Optimise governance of Victorian ports

We believe these themes are relevant and applicable for consideration in developing the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. Infrastructure Victoria's advice, as well as all of the supporting technical documents and reports are available at <http://yoursay.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/ports>.

If you would like to discuss Infrastructure Victoria's ports advice in greater detail, or would like to discuss any of the freight related recommendations in Infrastructure Victoria's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy, please contact me or Edward Smelt, Principal Engineer and Transport Sector lead, on (03) 9936 1738.

Yours sincerely



**Michel Masson**  
Chief Executive Officer

18 / 08 / 2017

Attachments:

1. *Victoria's 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy*, December 2016
2. *Advice On Securing Victoria's Ports Capacity*, May 2017