

## TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE REFORM

# THE GREENS' PLAN TO CREATE A NEW MODEL OF TRANSPORT GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRATED PLANNING.



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The Greens will create a transport super agency to take responsibility for Victoria's transport system. The agency will develop a long term transport plan for our state and establish local transport groups to engage in meaningful consultation with local communities on local transport projects.

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The lack of a transport plan and disjointed transport agencies has resulted in a congested and heavily car-reliant city.

Companies like Transurban are taking over transport planning to build mega road projects for their own profit, instead of the public good.

Local communities aren't getting a meaningful say about transport projects in their areas.

The Greens will transform transport governance in Victoria by:

- Creating a transport 'Super Agency' that will be responsible for Victoria's transport system
- Developing an integrated transport plan as mandated by the Transport Integration Act 2010
- Bringing together the public transport and roads portfolios under a single Minister for Transport
- A parliamentary Inquiry Integrating land use and transport planning
- Establish local transport groups to involve local communities in the decision-making process.

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### TRANSPORT SUPER AGENCY

The Greens will fold all transport agencies into Transport for Victoria to create a single agency responsible for our transport network.

The recent creation of Transport for Victoria (TfV) has resulted in some increased co-ordination between agencies, however complex arrangements are continued with numerous independent authorities that oversee different elements of the transport network including VicRoads, PTV, V/line, and Rail Projects Victoria.

The Greens plan is based on successful agencies already implemented in cities like Vancouver, London, and Zurich.

Our Transport Super Agency will also include a Rail Freight and Logistics Unit in charge of delivering a balanced freight network and to move more freight onto rail.

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The North East Link and Western Distributor authorities will be abolished.

### TRANSPORT AND LAND USE PLANNING INTEGRATION

The Greens will conduct a Parliamentary Inquiry to assess the feasibility of merging the Transport and Integration Act 2010 and the Planning and Environmental Act 1987 into a new consolidated Act.

The Transport Integration Act 2010, requires full integration of transport and land use policies. This aims to maximise access to local services, develop an efficient transport system, and reduce the extent of travel and the reliance on private vehicles.<sup>i</sup>

Currently, planning and transport decisions are taken by different departments that work in silos, which has compromised having an integrated approach as mandated by the Act.

We will enhance the coordination mechanisms between departments to guarantee the integration of transport and land use policy.

### ONE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT

The Greens will create a single 'Minister for Transport' to responsible for our transport network.

This will create a balanced approach to the different elements of the transport network.

The transport network in our state is overseen by the Minister for Public Transport and the Minister for Roads and Roads Safety.

This model has historically favour the dominance of the roads' agenda and represents a barrier for having a

comprehensive approach towards an integrated transport network.

### A VICTORIAN TRANSPORT PLAN

Under the Transport Integration Act 2010, the state government is required to prepare and update the Victorian Transport Plan to set up the policies for the medium and long-term and to integrate land use policies.

The Greens will direct the reformed Transport for Victoria to develop an integrated transport plan to comply with the Act.

The last transport plan was developed in 2008 and was valid until 2011. Since then, there has not been an integrated plan that satisfies the requirements of the Act.

The absence of a transport plan has resulted in governments focusing on mega road infrastructure, overcrowding and congestion

The Victorian Transport Plan seek to achieve the transport system objectives outlined in the Act. This will include, promoting sustainable modes of transport, improve the reliability of services and coordination to provide seamless travel between modes, guarantee social inclusion, integrate transport and land use planning, promote safety and support health and wellbeing.<sup>ii</sup>

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Greens will establish transparent local transport groups to involve local communities and local governments in guiding the transport decision-making process.

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We will also establish a formal advisory Council to provide advice to the new Minister for Transport on a regular basis.

Victorians are frustrated by the lack of meaningful community participation in transport planning and projects. There is a critical need to enhance transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.

These problems contradict the principles of integrated decision making, and stakeholder engagement and community participation established in the Act, which seeks to encourage the participation of all levels of government and local communities. <sup>iii</sup>

The consultation will involve ongoing participation in all planning stages, from defining a strategic vision in the integrated transport plan to the assessment of implementation of particular projects in metropolitan and regional areas.

## COST

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The Greens policy platform will be fully costed and funded.

Final costings for this initiative will be subject to advice from the Parliamentary Budget Office.

Existing staffing levels will be guaranteed as part of the implementation of this initiative.

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<sup>i</sup> Transport Integration Act 2010, section 11.

<sup>ii</sup> Transport Integration Act 2010, sections 6 to 13.

<sup>iii</sup> Transport Integration Act 2010, sections 15 and 20.