

## **Transport Legislation Amendment (Transport Plan) Bill 2021**

The Transport Legislation Amendment (Transport Plan) Bill 2021 amends the Transport Integration Act 2010 to require the tabling of the Victorian transport plan, and the inclusion of a hierarchy of transport modes and targets for transport mode share, carbon emission reduction and pollution reduction within the plan.

### **Transport Integration Act 2010**

It is a requirement within the Transport Integration Act 2010 that the Department of Transport develop a transport plan for Victoria. The plan must include medium or long-term strategic directions or actions and a regularly updated short-term action plan.

### **VAGO Report**

Victoria does not currently have an integrated transport plan as required by the Transport Integration Act 2010. The Victorian Auditor General's recent Integrated Transport Planning Report found that the Department of Transport and its predecessors have not, over the past decade, demonstrated integrated transport planning and are yet to meet the Act's requirements for a transport plan.

The Auditor-General found 'the absence of a transport plan as required by the Act, during a decade of unprecedented investment in transport infrastructure, creates risks of missed opportunities to sequence and optimise the benefits of these investments to best meet Victoria's transport needs.'

### **Transport Plan for Victoria**

An integrated transport plan for Victoria is crucial to the future liveability and sustainability of our state.

Our transport network plays a vital role in the functioning and liveability of our state and our city.

It is crucial that new transport projects are developed in an integrated way that takes into account network connectivity, land use and the impact that projects will have on our climate and environment.

The Bill adds sections to the Act that require a copy of the transport plan be provided to parliament within 10 sitting days of that plan being received by the Minister from the Secretary. Currently the Act states only that the Minister 'may' publish the plan.

Without an overarching transport plan, the government is leaving easy-to-fix gaps in our transport network, despite the current levels of investment, and risks embedding rather than solving the current problems of congestion, pollution and carbon emissions.

## **Hierarchy of Modes of Transport**

Victoria must shift away from our reliance on polluting, single-occupant vehicles and towards more sustainable forms of transit like public and active transport.

That is why this Bill requires the transport plan to include and consider a hierarchy of modes of transport.

Prioritising sustainable forms of transport needs to be reflected in our transport planning and subsequent investment.

## **Carbon Emissions**

Around a quarter of Victoria's carbon emissions come from transport. It is our second biggest source of emissions outside of coal.

That's why the Bill mandates a carbon emissions reduction target in the transport plan.

Victoria needs to rapidly reduce transport emissions as a critical step to tackle the climate crisis

## **Air Pollution**

Transport is a significant contributor to air pollution in Victoria, which negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of our community, in particular children and vulnerable people.

The Bill requires targets for air pollution reduction be included in the transport plan.

## **Conclusion**

This Bill will ensure Victoria has a transparent transport plan which prioritises sustainable forms of transport and includes clear targets for the reduction of carbon emissions and air pollution caused by transport.

It's time that the government delivered the integrated transport plan for Victoria that it is obliged to by law.

By including in this Bill the obligation to table that plan before parliament, and adding the requirements to set targets for mode share, emissions and pollution reduction, our transport network can be developed in a way that helps make it easier for everyone to get around our state, cut congestion, cut carbon emissions, cut pollution and improve people's health.

I commend this Bill to the house.