Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts	**Meeting/Event Brief** **MB25-000021**

To: The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

MEETING: Victorian Ministers Gabrielle Williams and Harriet Shing

Timing: 3:30pm 20 February 2025

Venue: Victorian Parliament

Meeting with: Ms Gabrielle Williams, Victorian Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Minister for Public and Active Transport and Ms Harriet Shing, Victorian Minister for Housing and Building and the Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop.

Our Proposed Objectives:

1. To obtain a clearer understanding of the Victorian Government's infrastructure priorities.
2. To discuss key infrastructure projects with the new Victorian ministers.

Their Objective:

3. To obtain an understanding of the Australian Government's infrastructure priorities and to seek confirmation of the Australian Government's commitment to key Victorian Government priorities.

Key Points:

4. Infrastructure investment in Victoria is $19.5 billion over 10 years, most of these projects are progressing well. There are a number of priority projects that continue to warrant close monitoring; these are outlined below.
5. As at 13 February there are 9 PPRs from Victoria that the department is reviewing and 5 that are awaiting Ministerial approval. s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]
6. s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]
7. Victoria's funding requests in the 2025-26 Budget process are substantially unchanged from their funding requests at the 24-25 MYEFO and remain strongly focussed on securing additional funding for their Big Build projects, SRL s47B(a), s47B(b) in particular.

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8. Minister Shing is also Minister for Housing and Building. Information on the Housing Support Program is at **Attachment B**.

Priority Projects:

Melbourne Airport Rail Link (MARL) and Sunshine Station

9. s47B(a), s47B(b)

10.

11.

12.

13.

Road Safety Program

14. s47B(a), s47B(b)

15.

Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) East

16. On 3 February 2025, you signed the approval brief for the Australian Government's $2.2 billion commitment to the SRL East project, to be expended on the following:
    a. $2.006 billion towards land acquisition, including the voluntary purchase scheme
    b. $193.9 million for other early works, which will include:
        i. Geotechnical and development works
        ii. Upgrades to utilities

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17. The basis for allocating Australian Government funding to these scope items was to deliver tangible outputs that could demonstrate value for money.

18. s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]

Intermodal Terminals

19. The Victorian Government remains committed to the delivery of three Intermodal Terminal projects: Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal, Camerons Lane and Western Interstate Freight Terminal/Outer Metropolitan Ring Rail South. **Attachment D** provides further details.

Barwon Heads Roads Upgrade – Stage 2

20. In order to deliver the full scope of the Australian Government's election commitment, additional funding of $68.2 million for the Barwon Heads Road Upgrade – Stage 2 project was sought in the 2025-26 Budget. This will increase the Australian Government's commitment to $193.2 million towards the revised total project cost of $318.2 million. The additional scope includes a further 2.5km of infrastructure upgrades s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted] You approved this funding instrument in **MS24-001655** on 21 November 2024.

21. s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]

22. [redacted]

North East Link

23. At the 2024-25 Budget the Australian Government committed an additional $3.25 billion to the North East Link, bringing the total commitment to $5 billion. The release of this additional funding was conditional on Victoria addressing concerns raised by Infrastructure Australia.

24. At MYEFO 2024-25 Victoria updated the Total Project Cost (TPC) from $26.1 billion to $26.21 billion, due to a rounding error in the Victorian Government's contribution. The Australian Government commitment remains at $5 billion. Victoria continues to advocate for a 50:50 co-investment by the Australian Government for the full $26.21 billion project value.

25. On 22 January 2025 Victoria submitted a revised PPR for NEL for the value of $5 billion. The department and Infrastructure Australia are currently reviewing documentation supplied s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted].

Canterbury Road

26. At the 2023-24 MYEFO, as a result of the IIP review, the Australian Government announced that this project would be de-scoped to planning only, with the remaining funding reserved for construction pending completion of planning works.

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27. s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]

Consultation: Partnerships and Projects Division

Name: Andrew Bourne
Position: First Assistant Secretary
Division: Land Transport Infrastructure Division
Mob: s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]
Date: 14/02/2025

Contact Officer: Lachlan Wood
Section: Assistant Secretary
Ph: s22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]

Attachments:

Attachment A: s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]
Attachment B: Housing Support Program
Attachment C: Road Safety and Subprograms Summary, Victoria
Attachment D: Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division Summary Victoria

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s47B(a), s47B(b)

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s47B(a), s47B(b)

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Attachment B

Housing Support Program

- One of the biggest issues facing all levels of government is the housing crisis. The Australian Government has a range of measures designed to help achieve the National Housing Accord's (Accord) target of building 1.2 million new homes over the next five years.
- An important pillar of the Accord is the $1.5 billion Housing Support Program (HSP) which is designed to kick-start housing supply in well-located areas, and help meet housing targets.
    a. HSP 1 provides $49.8 million to projects across Australia, and is designed to increase planning capability, which may reduce the time required for planning decisions, so that housing construction can commence sooner.
    b. In Victoria 14 successful projects received funding under HSP 1, totalling $5.8 million.
- Successful projects under the HSP Community Enabling Infrastructure (CEI) stream were approved on 17 December 2024.
    a. This stream is designed to remove barriers to housing construction by ensuring enabling infrastructure and community amenities are in place.
    b. To date, the Australian Government has announced an $35.7 million in CEI funding for Victoria, with $426 million awarded for projects across Australia.
- Further, state and territory governments received a per capita allocation of $1 billion through a priority works stream of the HSP. Of this $1 billion, Victoria received $248.8 million.
    a. Funding from the priority works stream will support the delivery of large-scale enabling infrastructure projects, and social and affordable homes across Victorian regions.
- Future funding through the HSP is a decision for government.

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Attachment C

Road Safety Targeted Investment Program Summary: Victoria

Background

Annual road deaths in Victoria decreased by 5.1 per cent in 2024, down to 281 from 296 in the previous year. Annual deaths per 100,000 population also decreased by 7.3 per cent from 4.3 to 4.0 in the same period. These were both below the national rates, with national road deaths increasing by 3.3 per cent in 2024 and annual deaths per 100,000 population increasing by 1.2 per cent to equal 4.8 per 100,000. However, the average annual trend in total road deaths and annual deaths per 100,000 population have been trending upwards in Victoria since 2020, as have the national figures

The **Road Safety Program** is providing $2.94 billion to support the rollout of lifesaving road safety treatments across Australia that will contribute to a reduction in death and serious injury road crashes, and provide greater protections for vulnerable road users such as cyclists and pedestrians.

s47B(a)

The **Black Spot Program** assists in reducing road trauma across Australia by targeting locations where crashes have been occurring, or are at risk occurring. The Program funds treatments such as traffic signals, roundabouts, lighting, safety barriers, pedestrian safety treatments and line markings.

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s47B(a)

[redacted]

BACKGROUND on other subprograms

The **Roads to Recovery Program** provides direct funding for the delivery of priority local road repair, construction and maintenance projects. Over the current five-year funding period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2029, over $895 million is available to the 79 local governments and the Victorian Government Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to support these types of works.

The new **Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program** provides at least $200 million in funding per year for projects that address current and emerging priorities in road infrastructure needs. Focus areas include improving road safety, productivity, bridge renewal, road resilience, sustainability, and heavy vehicle rest areas. This program consolidates the former Bridges Renewal Program and former Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. Under the former programs since 2014-15, the Australian Government has committed more than $190 million to support over 260 projects in Victoria.

The new **Active Transport Fund** will provide $100 million funding for the design and construction of new or existing bicycle and walking pathways. The aim of the program is to encourage an increase in active transport through the upgrade of existing and construction of new bicycle and walking pathways across Australia.

The program has been created as part of the Australian Government's commitment, under the National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30, to improve road safety outcomes for bicyclists and pedestrians. The program also supports the Australian Government's commitment to reducing transport emissions and supporting active and liveable communities.

Applications for funding closed on 13 January 2025, and five applications were received from the Department Transport and Planning. Applications are currently under assessment with outcomes expected in February 2025.

The **National Land Transport Network Maintenance Program** provides an annual allocation to states and territories to assist with the maintenance of the National Land Transport Network. This has increased from $350 million per year to $460 million in 2024-25, with a commitment to 2.5 per cent indexation annually each following year.

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Attachment D

Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division – Victoria Summary

Rail Delivery

Network Investment Program

Key Points

- In the 2024-25 Budget, the Australian Government committed $540 million towards the Australian Rail Track Corporation's (ARTC) Network Investment Program (NIP), which includes $150 million towards the upgrade of the Maroona to Portland line in Victoria.
- The funding for this upgrade is expected to cover the replacement of sleepers, and other ancillary works, which will boost the line's efficiency and resilience, integrating it more seamlessly with the broader ARTC rail network.
- ARTC is currently working on developing a refined scope of works and updated project schedule for approval. The department is working closely with ARTC to progress this important piece of work.

Victorian Intermodals

Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal

Key Points

- National Intermodal Corporation (National Intermodal) continues to constructively engage with various Victorian Government agencies to obtain the necessary environmental and planning approvals to commence construction of the Beveridge Intermodal Freight Terminal (BIFT). National Intermodal formally delivered an updated BIFT Stage 1A Planning Submission on 1 November 2024. The required planning approvals from the Victorian Government for Stage 1A are expected to be finalised by early 2025 to allow for Stage 1A to be operational in 2026. Minister Kilkenny is the approver for the planning application.
- National Intermodal also continue to work closely with other relevant stakeholders including local councils (road interfaces), indigenous groups (cultural heritage), the Commonwealth Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (environmental) and the Australian Rail Track Corporation (rail connection) on the remaining approvals prior to the construction of BIFT.

Background

- The Australian Government has committed up to $1.62 billion in equity, fully funding National Intermodal to deliver the BIFT.
- Delivery of BIFT Stage 1A by National Intermodal in 2026, comprises a connection to the existing interstate rail network, sidings, hardstand and interim terminal facilities. Stage 1B integrated terminal precinct with warehousing is scheduled for operational commencement by the end of 2028–29. These timings are consistent with the delivery of the Inland Rail project.

Camerons Lane

Key Points

- The Victorian Department of Transport and Planning continue to engage on a Preconstruction Project Proposal Report (PPR) seeking $30 million for activities related to Camerons Lane including geotechnical and engineering investigations and land, planning and environmental investigations. A signed PPR was provided to the Department on 30 January 2025 which will now be considered further before any Ministerial approvals to progress payments are sought.

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- Work on the Camerons Lane Interchange Business Case continues, we understand Victoria have settled a preferred option around the best design for the intersection. The Detailed Business Case is now expected to be completed in February 2025 (was initially late 2024).

Background

- At the 2024-25 Budget, the Australian Government committed an additional $750 million (to the previously announced $150 million) to support the delivery of this project near Beveridge, Victoria.
- The new Australian Government commitment towards the project is now $900 million.
- The BIFT is in very close proximity to the Hume Freeway – a key road freight corridor. Australian Government funding will support the delivery of key road upgrades to ensure there is a direct and efficient connection from the Hume Freeway to BIFT, ensuring the Terminal can efficiently service double stacked 1.8km long Inland Rail trains.

Western Interstate Freight Terminal/Outer Metropolitan Ring Rail South

Key Points

- In May 2024 the Victorian Government, as part of their revised Interstate Freight Terminals Strategy, announced their support for the development of BIFT in the short term, an extension of the Dynon Rail Terminal Lease by 20 years from 2031 to 2051, and for a focus on protecting land at Truganina for the eventual construction of the Western Interstate Freight Terminal (WIFT).
- s47B(a), s47B(b)

Background

- The Australian Government has committed up to $740 million in equity funding for the delivery of WIFT and $920 million in grant funding for OMR Rail South.
- A land acquisition strategy is being developed as part of further scoping and development work currently underway.

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Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts	**Meeting/Event Brief** **MB25-000144**

To: Catherine King

MEETING: Minister C King meeting with Victorian Minister Harriet Shing

Timing: 25 June 2025

Venue: VIC Victorian Parliament

Meeting with: Ms Harriet Shing, Victorian Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop, Minister for Housing and Building, and Minister for Development Victoria and Precincts.

Victorian Minister Harriet Shing requested a meeting with you to discuss the Suburban Rail Loop.

Prior meetings: 20 February 2025

Our Proposed Objectives:

1. To discuss the next steps for Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) East.

Their Objective:

2. To seek additional funding towards SRL East in order to progress with the planned procurement for the project.

Key Points:

SRL East

3. On 3 February 2025, you approved the Australian Government's $2.2 billion commitment to the project, towards land acquisition and early works. This funding is expected to be paid over the next three financial years.

4. The Victorian Government has requested an additional $9.3 billion towards SRL East on a number of occasions, s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted]. This would bring the Australian Government commitment to one-third of the total estimated project cost.

5. Infrastructure Australia (IA) in their evaluation of the SRL East proposal concluded that they had low confidence in the cost estimate for SRL East, which presented a major risk to the SRL East project, and the SRL Program as a whole.

6. IA recommended that before committing any further funding, the Australian Government receives an updated cost estimate for SRL East (standalone), a more comprehensive funding and financing strategy with consideration of value capture, an analysis of SRL East's social, economic and environmental benefits and a detailed exit strategy in the event the project does not proceed as proposed.

7. s47C [redacted]

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s47C [redacted]

8. s47B(a) [redacted]

9. s47C [redacted]

Other issues that may be raised

10. Minister Shing may also raise other housing and development matters with you, including Fishermans Bend and the Housing Support Program (HSP).

11. According to the Victorian Government, Fishermans Bend is Australia's largest urban renewal project covering approximately 480 hectares in the heart of Melbourne. By 2050, it will be home to approximately 80,000 residents and provide employment for up to 80,000 people.

12. The Fishermans Bend Transport Link Feasibility Study will determine the best way to deliver public transport links into the heart of Fishermans Bend. The department understands that Victoria will complete the feasibility study in Q4 2025-26, s47B(a), s47B(b) [redacted].

13. The $1.5 billion HSP supports the delivery of increased housing supply by funding projects that seek to deliver enabling infrastructure, provide amenities to support new housing development or improve building planning capability.

14. The department estimates that the HSP will support the construction of more than 300,000 dwellings through planning, enabling infrastructure, community infrastructure and social housing delivery. The Government has approved funding of $248.8 million for priority work stream projects in Victoria and $41.6 million for 19 additional projects in Victoria.

Consultation: Partnerships and Projects Division.

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Date Cleared: 17/06/2025

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