

## **SEATS REPORTS August 2016**

**Mr Harvey Dinelli**

### **Transport for Victoria**

The Victorian Government has announced that it is establishing Transport for Victoria (TFV), a new transport agency to coordinate Victoria's growing transport system and plan for its future. TFV will bring together the planning, coordination and operation of Victoria's transport system and its agencies, including VicRoads and Public Transport Victoria (PTV).

It will provide a single source for information about our road, train, tram, bus, taxi and freight networks, making it simpler and easier for Victorians to get information they need. TFV will also plan for the future of Victoria's transport system, ensuring it grows as the community, economy and technology changes.

A first task for TFV is to develop and implement an integrated network development strategy for the transport system. This network development strategy will be for all modes, across all regions of the State, with a focus on state significant movement corridors and places. The strategy includes a framework based on the principles of the *Transport Integration Act 2010* and will look at a spectrum of options to address challenges in the network, including reform, better use of existing infrastructure and investment in upgraded and new infrastructure.

### **Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund (AIJF)**

This fund will provide \$200 million to strengthen the performance and resilience of the agriculture sector under two funding streams – Infrastructure and Programs. Both will look at ways to improve farm productivity, maintain market access and grow exports and jobs through investing in projects and activities typically beyond the farm-gate.

#### "Better connections from paddock to port"

This fund seeks to address inefficiencies along the supply chain by working with industry to invest in infrastructure, build business capabilities to better access markets and build resilience within the sector.

AIJF will support practical projects and programs that predominantly benefit the agriculture sector. These will include transport, irrigation, and energy projects, as well as skills development programs and market access campaigns that will:

- move agricultural produce more efficiently to market
- improve water security
- improve connectivity with supply chains and access to markets

- give consumers greater confidence in Victorian produce as safe
- increase business level innovation
- enhance business capability to manage volatility and risk, and
- grow jobs in the agriculture sector and along the supply chain.

### **Regional Network Development Plan**

The Victorian Government released the Regional Network Development Plan in May 2016. The Plan sets out priorities for regional public transport services, infrastructure and investment over the next 20 years.

The Plan highlights the following Gippsland Region priorities:

#### **More train services**

- Two additional return off-peak services

#### **Better bus services**

- Regional bus service improvements for Latrobe Valley
- Upgrade coach interchanges in Wonthaggi, Leongatha, Anderson, Koo Wee Rup

#### **Station upgrades**

- Upgrade Traralgon to improve facilities for waiting passengers
- Investigate and increase car park capacity to meet demand at Morwell, Moe and Traralgon stations

#### **Upgrades on the Gippsland Line**

This will include planning for:

- Crossing Loops between Moe and Traralgon
- Duplicating the Bunyip river Bridge between Bunyip and Longwarry
- Replacing the Avon River Bridge

### **Gippsland Logistics Precinct**

The State Government has committed \$10 million from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund for Latrobe City Council to develop the Gippsland Logistics Precinct (GLP) and associated supply chain improvements.

The GLP is a 72 ha site generally consisting of vacant paddocks located adjacent to the Gippsland rail line at Morwell. DEDJTR has established a Project Control Group (PCG) which is meeting regularly. The PCG is providing high level technical advice to help shape the investment from a policy and operational perspective.