



Appendix three – Victoria’s 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy

Recommendations on sharing of facilities

Public space utilisation. Activate and open-up State government land and facilities for wider community use by undertaking an audit to identify underutilised assets and reviewing and removing barriers to their use within 0-5 years. The initial focus should be on opportunities to utilise the estimated 2,400 hectares of school grounds across metropolitan Melbourne outside school hours, provide land for community use in areas where land is in high demand and increase green infrastructure. The findings of the audit should be published to show where opportunities for better use of government assets exist currently and where they are likely to be in the future.

Community space shared use agreements. Better support the sharing of state facilities by local government, service providers and community organisations by standardising shared use agreements and providing supporting tools and guidelines within 0-5 years. As a first step, there should be a review of the effectiveness of existing agreements and barriers to the use of these agreements.

Community space refurb/rationalisation. Create an incentive fund with clear criteria to assist local government, service providers and community organisations to refurbish or rationalise community assets (such as kindergartens, sports facilities and parks) over 0-30 years to better meet the needs of the community, while ensuring financial sustainability. A reasonable level of funding would be required as an incentive, with local governments and other organisations placing bids to government on the basis of demonstrating a significant service gap, refurbishment requirements, resource constraints and efforts to divest surplus or ineffective assets.

Public libraries. Provide additional support to local government for the delivery of 21st century municipal libraries (new or upgraded) over 0-30 years. Even a limited increase in state government funding would better recognise the cost of these facilities, which perform a crucial role in supporting lifelong learning, providing communities with access to digital technology and meeting multiple community needs. In some instances, it may be appropriate to integrate municipal libraries with schools.

Schools as community facilities. Transform state schools into community facilities over 5-30 years. This could involve integrating kindergartens, long day care and other family services, providing spaces for community education, and sharing arts facilities, sports facilities and libraries, depending on the needs of the local community. The focus would be on designing all new schools as community facilities and progressively transitioning existing schools during major scheduled upgrades. As a first step, funding, governance and planning arrangements for these facilities would need to be reformed. This would include an increased role for local government and other co-investors in schools as partners in the management of these shared assets.

Government service/infrastructure planning. Formalise an area-based, whole-of-government, integrated service and infrastructure planning and investment prioritisation process within 0-5 years to improve coordination and minimise siloed decision-making. Initially this would focus on mechanisms to make state government departments plan services and infrastructure better together. Once state government has become more integrated, it will be critical to include local and federal government in this process to enable more effective integrated land use and infrastructure planning.

School investment pipeline. Publish, on an annual basis, 5-year investment priorities for new and upgraded government schools, alongside the planning data that shows demonstrated need, within 0-5 years. This transparency will communicate to communities how priorities are made, provide greater certainty and lead times to enable co-investment to occur and reduce the need for community advocacy.