

Submission form: Victoria's draft 30-year infrastructure strategy

Your details

Name:	██████████
Organisation (if applicable):	Victorian Catholic Education Authority
Position (if applicable):	██
Email:	██████████████████████████████████████
Phone:	██████████

About you

Please tell us which best describes you:

Victorian resident

Victorian business owner/operator

Industry professional

Community organisation representative

Local government representative

State government representative

Researcher

Other (please specify): Click or tap here to enter text.

Your focus areas

Select the topics or regions you are providing feedback on (select all that apply):

Topics	Regions
<input type="checkbox"/> Across sectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Victoria
<input type="checkbox"/> Circular economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban growth areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Cities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melbourne
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate change	
<input type="checkbox"/> Community infrastructure	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Freight	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health	
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure for Victoria's First Peoples	
<input type="checkbox"/> Transport	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water	

Your feedback

Add as many sections as you need to provide all your feedback in this submission.

Topic/area:	Learning for Life
Recommendation name:	Decide and Plan Education Infrastructure Now
Recommendation number:	3
1. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In part
2. Tell us why	<p>The Victorian Catholic Education Authority (VCEA) is the peak body for Catholic school education in the State of Victoria, representing 494 Catholic schools and their proprietors, which together education 218,900 students.</p> <p>VCEA believes that the assumptions made by Infrastructure Victoria in the draft 30-year Infrastructure Plan and the Learning for Life publication are sound. We concur that ‘children will keep attending government and non-government schools in the same proportions as today’.</p> <p>We support the recommendation, but only ‘in part’, because it overlooks the important role played by Catholic schools in the provision of education in growth areas.</p> <p>Catholic education is an important partner in the provision of education in Victoria. Our sector’s schools educate around 1 in 5 of every Victorian student. As well as ensuring that Catholic families have access to an affordable faith-based education for their child, the contribution made by those families saves the Victorian Government millions of dollars.</p> <p>We are committed to continuing our partnership role, and as such have delivered new schools across the state’s growth areas to meet increasing demand in those areas. Given the forecast strong increases in the school-aged population in those areas over the medium and long terms, we expect the demand for places at Catholic schools to continue. Catholic education is prepared to make substantial investments to meet this, with plans to establish more than 50 new schools in growth areas by 2050.</p> <p>However, Catholic education faces challenges in building the new schools required to keep pace with enrolment demand in growth areas that we believe should be included in, and potentially addressed by, government.</p> <p>Investment in upgrading and building new school facilities is largely funded by our school communities. Over 80 per cent of Catholic school capital works are funded by parents and Catholic education faces ongoing challenges raising the capital needed to service demand. While Catholic education is grateful for the contributions made by the Victorian and Australian Governments, this needs to be increased.</p>

	<p>Additionally, acquiring suitable land is a significant challenge for Catholic education, due to the land designation for non-government schools in Precinct Structure Plans. Non-government schools can only be built in the General Residential Zone, which is based on the highest and best use – typically a residential development and subdivision – meaning the Catholic sector is competing with residential property developers. This increases land values by approximately 20 per cent.</p> <p>This has hindered our sector’s capacity to acquire strategically located sites for education purposes, with residential developers able to offer significantly more based on residential development valuations. To alleviate this issue, in growth areas a designated zone for the purpose of establishing of non-government schools should be considered.</p> <p>Finally, the School Resourcing Standard funding model does not recognise school capital needs and there is no agreed resourcing standard for infrastructure and facilities. With no agreed resourcing standard for capital, many of our low-fee schools receive no government capital funding at all, even though they have many pressing infrastructure needs.</p> <p>The recommendations of the report do not address these challenges or suggest meaningful ways to alleviate these strains on Catholic school communities.</p>
<p>3. Share any supporting evidence or examples</p>	<p>Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>4. Include proposed changes and improvements</p>	<p>The draft strategy recommends that the Victorian Government allocates \$5.7 billion over 10 years towards planning and delivering expanded and new schools to accommodate the government school sector’s share of enrolment growth.</p> <p>The recommendation ignores the significant investment required by the Catholic school sector towards meeting our share of enrolment growth, which would amount to between \$1.9 and \$2.7 billion over 10 years, based on Infrastructure Victoria’s estimate for the government school sector.</p> <p>As Catholic schools must spend significantly more on land acquisition, as detailed above, this estimate may not be sufficient to maintain the Catholic sector’s share of enrolment growth.</p> <p>VCEA proposes that a designated zone for non-government schools be created, to signal to the development market that education provision in residential growth corridors remains a key priority.</p> <p>VCEA also proposes that the Victorian Government contribute additional capital funding to support the Catholic school sector to build the required number of schools in growth areas to maintain our existing share of enrolments and to ensure that families in those areas have access to an affordable faith-based option.</p>

Topic/area:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Recommendation name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Recommendation number:	Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
6. Tell us why	Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

Topic/area:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Recommendation name:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Recommendation number:	Click or tap here to enter text.
9. Do you support this topic or recommendation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In part
10. Tell us why	Click or tap here to enter text.
11. Share any supporting evidence or examples	Click or tap here to enter text.
12. Include proposed changes and improvements	Click or tap here to enter text.

More feedback (optional)

Tell us about infrastructure challenges, gaps or opportunities not covered by the draft strategy. This can include things you think we should add to an existing recommendation, or suggestions for a new recommendation.

Please provide evidence for your suggestions. This can include data, specific examples, cost benefit analyses, surveys, or program evaluations. Also, explain how your suggestions align with the objectives of our draft strategy (see page 11 of the draft strategy).

Suggestions for new recommendations should point towards infrastructure opportunities that can deliver long-term benefits for Victorians. They should also be areas where the Victorian Government has a leading role.

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

