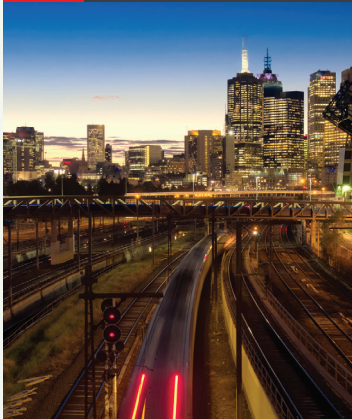


VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET PRIORITIES 2017-18

Tourism and transport are both critical pillars to Victoria's economy. While significant investment has been made by the Victorian Government in new tourism initiatives and public transport infrastructure, The Tourism & Transport Forum Australia believes that the 2017-18 Budget must address **six key areas** to ensure that Victoria remains a great place to live and to visit.

1 BUILD A RAILWAY LINE TO MELBOURNE AIRPORT



Build a heavy rail link between the Melbourne CBD and Melbourne Airport and introduce dedicated bus priority lanes on the Tullamarine Freeway to improve connectivity and travel times.

2 INCREASE FUNDING FOR VISIT VICTORIA



Increase funding to Visit Victoria from \$109 million to \$182 million for tourism, major events and international education marketing and provide a longer-term funding commitment for promotional activities.

3 SUPPORT BUSINESS EVENT INFRASTRUCTURE



Provide timetable commitments for the expansion of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to ensure that Melbourne remains a leading destination for international events and conferences.

4 INVEST IN CULTURAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES



Commit funding to the development of the NGV Contemporary and leverage opportunities associated with Scienceworks Melbourne to increase domestic and international cultural visitor numbers.

5 PRIORITISE NATURE-BASED TOURISM INVESTMENT



Increase funding for delivery and maintenance of nature-based tourism infrastructure, such as park facilities, redevelopment of Phillip Island Nature Park Visitor Centre and additional water storage facilities at Mt Buller.

6 ESTABLISH A TRANSPORT INNOVATION HUB



Establish a transport innovation hub to facilitate the research, development and trialling of innovative and emerging transport technologies to transform Victoria's future transport systems and networks.

KEY STATISTICS:

- Tourism directly contributes \$10.3 billion to the Victorian Economy
- Tourism directly employs 137,000 Victorians
- More than 533 million passenger trips taken by public transport each year
- Cost of traffic congestion expected to grow from \$4.6 billion (2015) to \$10.2 billion (2030)
- Victorian population expected to grow from 5.5 million to 7.7 million people by 2031