Victorian Freight Plan update

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VICTORIA
State
Government | Department
of Transport
and Planning

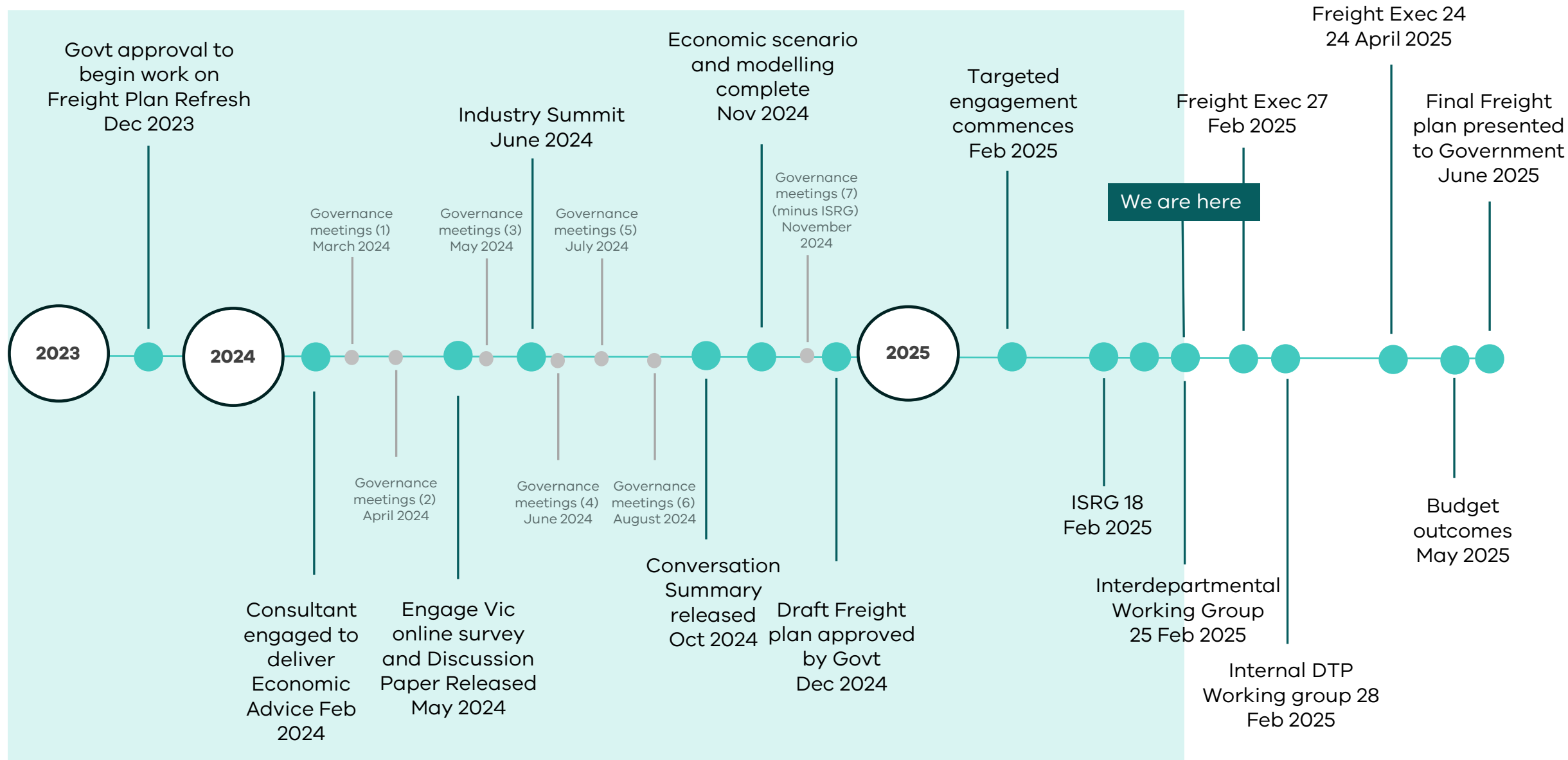# Purpose of the Victorian Freight Plan and why we are updating it

Purpose

- Analyses the growing freight task
- Identifies changes in the operating environment
- Prioritises investment and alignment with industry and community needs
- Defines government's role

Why it needs updating:

- Victorian Freight Plan: Delivering the Goods was published in 2018.
- Supply chain impacts from pandemic, global conflict and disruptions
- Growing momentum for decarbonisation
- Significant growth in population and expected doubling of freight volumes over the next two decades
- Technological innovation and improved data access
- Improvements to supply chain efficiency, safety and connectedness

Timeline for the updated Victorian Freight Plan

Govt approval to begin work on Freight Plan Refresh Dec 2023

Economic scenario and modelling complete Nov 2024

Industry Summit June 2024

Targeted engagement commences Feb 2025

Freight Exec 24 24 April 2025

Freight Exec 27 Feb 2025

Final Freight plan presented to Government June 2025

Governance meetings (1) March 2024

Governance meetings (3) May 2024

Governance meetings (5) July 2024

Governance meetings (7) (minus ISRG) November 2024

We are here

2023

2024

2025

Governance meetings (2) April 2024

Governance meetings (4) June 2024

Governance meetings (6) August 2024

ISRG 18 Feb 2025

Budget outcomes May 2025

Consultant engaged to deliver Economic Advice Feb 2024

Engage Vic online survey and Discussion Paper Released May 2024

Conversation Summary released Oct 2024

Draft Freight plan approved by Govt Dec 2024

Interdepartmental Working Group 25 Feb 2025

Internal DTP Working group 28 Feb 2025

Our stakeholder engagement strategy

Input from stakeholders is vital to this update and the Department of Transport and Planning is committed to authentic engagement.

ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Over 150 stakeholders engaged, including:

- 140 separate freight industry organisations – 58 at the industry summit and a further 82 at separate meetings
- 27 local government councils
  - 11 metropolitan
  - 16 regional and rural
- 86 responses to the discussion paper process including 55 industry submissions and 31 public online survey responses
  - Over 200 ideas for potential action

INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER REFERENCE GROUP
- Australasian Railway Association
- Victorian Transport Association
- Australian Logistics Council
- Port of Melbourne
- Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia
- Freight Trade Alliance
- Linfox

INTERDEPARTMENTAL WORKING GROUP
- Dept of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- Dept of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Dept of Treasury and Finance
- Dept of Premier and Cabinet
- Dept of Health
- Global Victoria
- Agriculture Victoria
- Resources Victoria
- V/Line
- VicTrack

DTP ENGAGEMENT
- Mobility and Insights
- Planning
- Chief Rail Planner
- Strategic Projects
- Freight Data
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Road Safety
- First Peoples Self Determination and Reform
- Plan for Victoria
- Major Projects

INDUSTRY, BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
One-on-one engagement, Industry Summit and discussion paper responses.

Led by Freight Victoria, these groups met regularly to advise on updated Freight Plan objectives, priority areas, actions and key performance indicators and provide feedback on economic analysis

Provided specific feedback on proposed actions to ensure departmental connectedness, context for potential industry and community impact, and perspectives for real-world application

INDUSTRY SUMMIT
86 representatives from industry and government discussed challenges across the freight system and potential actions and opportunities for improvement

DISCUSSION PAPER
Provided context on the changed freight system environment since 2018 and posed a series of questions to receive feedback on freight system priorities to be addressed in the update of the plan, the role of government and measures for success

ENGAGE VICTORIA ONLINE PLATFORM
A public engagement system that hosted an online survey and ability to upload feedback and submissions to the update

TARGETED CONVERSATIONS
Freight Victoria held one-on-one conversations with freight system operators, peak organisations, councils, researchers and businesses

What we heard

Theme	Challenge
Harmonisation	• Inconsistent regulation • Inconsistent taxes & fees • Inconsistent access controls
Infrastructure	• Mass restricted bridges • Costly/slow bridge assessments • Constrained rail infrastructure
Workforce planning	• Freight train crew shortages • Skills shortages • Ageing workforce • Adversarial IR system
Freight Task	• High route planning costs • First and last mile access • Congestion • Infrastructure growth potential
Supply chain performance	• Disruptions • Road/gateway productivity • Poor coordination across RIMs • Freight and passenger trains
Land Use Planning	• Lack of available well-located, industrial-zoned land • Insufficient planning protections • Lack of planning approval coordination • Increasing urban sprawl

Priority areas

Objective 1

Ensure availability of fit for purpose freight network and gateway capacity to meet current and future need

Strategic Priority Areas

- Support Victoria's gateways to meet the growing freight task
- Deliver stronger planning protection for the Principal Freight Network
- Deliver fit for purpose capacity of the freight network

Objective 2

Enable more efficient and productive freight and supply chains

Strategic Priority Areas

- More efficient network access
- Government driving greater industry collaboration
- Data and research improving supply chain performance

Objective 3

Manage the impacts of freight operations on communities and drive decarbonisation

Strategic Priority Areas

- Create certainty for industry to invest in decarbonisation
- Mitigating impact to surrounding communities

Objective 4

Enhance the safety and resilience of Victoria's Freight Industry

Strategic Priority Areas

- Improving resilience of our freight networks
- Improve safety outcomes across freight networks
- Supporting industry to source appropriately skilled workers

Thank you