

action 15: sustainable and efficient transport systems

The Government's recently released transport statement *Meeting our Transport Challenges* sets out an action blueprint for shaping Victoria's transport system into the future. Under this blueprint the Government will inject more than \$10.5 billion over ten years into our transport system. Amongst other initiatives it sets out a \$710 million investment over ten years for a range of projects to create more accessible communities by improving access to the public transport network, creating better community connections and increasing the number of park and ride facilities. These initiatives will make an important contribution to achieving the objective of creating sustainable and efficient transport systems.

What we will do

15.1 More transport choice

We will help an extra 100,000 Victorians make environmentally smart travel choices with a \$135 million expansion of the Travel Smart program over the next four years.

Travel Smart is helping change travel behaviour by assisting households, schools, universities, workplaces and local government to reduce their dependency on the car and choose sustainable alternatives. We will extend this approach to achieve broader community change.

The Government is pursuing integrated land use and transport planning through *Melbourne 2030*, the *Metropolitan Transport Plan* and *Meeting our Transport Challenges* to improve opportunities for walking and cycling, reducing the need for cars.

Meeting our Transport Challenges provides \$10.5 billion over the next 10 years to create a sustainable and efficient transport system, with:

- \$2 billion for rail network and service improvements;
- \$1.4 billion for a better cross-town public transport network;
- \$1.3 billion for new trains and trams;
- \$1 billion for rail safety and security;
- \$510 million for better public transport in provincial Victoria; and
- \$135 million to promote greater use of public transport and to encourage people to walk and cycle on shorter local trips in bike tracks. This funding boost will see up to a further 100,000 Victorians getting access.

15.2 Alternative fuels

We will require drivers of Government vehicles to fill up with ethanol blended petrol wherever it is available as part of supporting alternative fuels that reduce pollution, and provide \$100,000 to develop a Biofuels Action Plan.

Victoria will develop a Road Map for the alternative fuels industry to assess the viability of a biofuels industry in Victoria. As well as requiring drivers of Government vehicles to use ethanol blended petrol (E10) wherever it is available, practicable and cost-effective, we will trial the use of biodiesel (B5) in our heavy vehicles depot and work in partnership with International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives to promote the use of biodiesel in heavy vehicles in the local government sector.

A Biofuels Action Plan for Victoria will focus on building the capacity of the local biofuels industry to increase production capacity in response to Victorian and Commonwealth Government programs that will increase demand for biofuels.

15.3 Hybrid bus trial

We will provide \$500,000 towards a hybrid bus trial in Melbourne to demonstrate the capability of this new technology.

15.4 Greening our automotive industry

We will commit \$300,000 to work with Victoria's automotive manufacturing industry to develop fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies in locally-produced vehicles.

Victoria is the mainstay of Australia's automotive industry and a major part of our economy. The demand for fuel efficient, low greenhouse gas emitting vehicles is growing, and we need to play our part in reducing the impacts of climate change while supporting our industry to be leaders in the field. In the short-term this will require increased use of currently available alternative fuels and technologies. In the longer term it will necessitate the use of technologies capable of major reductions in emissions.

As part of this global industry the Victorian automotive manufacturing industry supplies both the Australian and export markets. The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development will work with the automotive manufacturing industry to develop a series of initiatives on the application of fuel efficient and low greenhouse gas technologies in locally-produced vehicles. These initiatives will be incorporated into a comprehensive Automotive Manufacturing Industry Strategy covering the period 2006-2015.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

Dr. Seuss