

\$210M IN SAVINGS, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF VICTORIANS

With the many planning and infrastructure projects underway across Victoria, the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) has achieved significant results in reforming and improving the planning system to speed up their delivery.

The VPA's program, Streamlining for Growth (SFG), has been designed to co-ordinate the efforts of all parts of the Victorian Government, local government and the private sector to deliver better outcomes for the fastest growing areas of the Victorian community.

In a report released today, the VPA said its program had been recognised providing savings of more than \$210 million both in better efficiency of Government investment and economic benefits to the community from better development outcomes.

Established in 2016, the SFG has accelerated the delivery of new affordable housing, jobs and infrastructure through grants and technical assistance for councils.

VPA CEO Stuart Moseley said the organisation had engaged highly respected economics and policy consultants ACIL Allen to undertake an assessment of the SFG program to ensure it was providing value to the state.

"The findings are very encouraging showing that for every \$1 of Government money spent on the program, the economy benefit was \$8. This has meant Victorians have increased employment and housing choice, diversity and affordability," Mr Moseley said.

"Better still, we sped up project delivery where the availability of funding and resources was an impediment to 54 projects across the state. We believe we have played a key role in coordinating and facilitating solutions to those problems delivering faster and better results", Mr Mosely said.

"We also played a key role in aligning the efforts of local councils and government agencies. We will continue to undertake work that shapes the cities and towns of tomorrow that define our quality of life," he said.

The report found that some of them financial benefits included;

- \$190 million in the reduced cost of land by speeding up the approval process
- \$69m red tape reduction
- 119 years of time saved in land development delivery.

The report can be viewed <u>here</u>

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