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Aligning infrastructure investment with regional population growth

How do we align infrastructure investment with regional population growth? The Victorian Planning Authority approach.

The Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) is a statutory authority with an independent board reporting to the Minister for Planning. Over the past 12 months the VPA's remit has included a stronger involvement in Victoria's major regional cities and peri-urban areas. As a strategic place based planner – the VPA plans for population growth and aligning this with infrastructure provision.

This presentation will detail the past 15 years of growth in the state, and the increased role of the regions in accommodating part of this growth. In doing so, it will outline the role of the VPA, current case studies in regional Victoria and in projects currently in planning phase.

It will touch on challenges facing our regional cities and towns in attracting staff, employment and better place making. It will acknowledge that in this sometimes volatile environment, governments must still provide for services and opportunities in education, training, health and amenity.

Responding to rapid population growth across the state has many challenges. The presentation will conclude that while the VPA is not a silver bullet it has a necessary role and function to plan great places aligned with infrastructure delivery.