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INFRASTRUCTURE VICTORIA: POSITIVE FOR LONG-TERM INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

“Master Builders welcomes today’s commitment by the Andrew’s government to establish Infrastructure Victoria,” Master Builders Association of Victoria CEO Radley de Silva said.

“Master Builders has been calling for the formation of Infrastructure Victoria, to ensure a long-term pipeline of infrastructure works is established for the benefit of the state.

“Master Builders is pleased that the Board of Infrastructure Victoria will determine its scope of reference and be able to consider a range of building and construction needs such as hospitals, schools and water in addition to roads and transport.

“Master Builders also welcomes the ability for the agency to release a 30-year Infrastructure Strategy for public consultation free from approval of government. This reporting independence will drive the transparency and accountability of the findings of the agency and in turn the planning and funding decisions of the government of the day.

“The importance of an independent body to assess the long-term infrastructure needs of our state cannot be underestimated. The difficulties associated with East-West Link demonstrate the need for a truly independent entity to remove short-term politics from important infrastructure decisions.

“Ensuring that the Board make-up consists predominantly of respected experts from the business, industry and community is essential for appropriate decision making on infrastructure priorities, business cases and funding options.

“It will be especially important to make the right appointments, when there are only four non-government positions available on the proposed seven member Board.

“We look forward to seeing the structures, including Board and staff appointments, to ensure that expert decisions can be made for the future of Victoria,” Mr de Silva said.

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