



Victorian local government freight issues

Summary of survey responses

July 2020

Survey response

44 responses from 79 councils - 56% and reasonably representative compared to Victorian local government.

Freight plan

A quarter of councils, generally regional, are part of a regional freight plan. Around 30% consider freight as part of their overall transport plan. Around 40% don't have any sort of freight plan.

Most important freight issues

Top issues overall

- Supporting local industry including primary producers (4.50)
- Heavy vehicle impacts on roads and bridges (4.43)
- Available funding to maintain and upgrade important freight connections (4.39)
- Freight in general (4.20)
- Heavy vehicle permits for over dimensional vehicles (4.14)

Top metro (including interface)

- Supporting local industry including primary producers (4.13)
- Appropriate access for large construction sites (4.13)
- Adequate loading zones within commercial areas (4.06)
- Heavy vehicle permits for over dimensional vehicles (4.00)

Top rural and regional

- Heavy vehicle impacts on roads and bridges (4.75)
- Supporting local industry including primary producers (4.71)
- Available funding to maintain and upgrade important freight connections (4.68)
- Freight in general (4.39)
- Heavy vehicle permits for over dimensional vehicles (4.21)

(Rating score) is based on 1- 5 scale of 1=not important to 5=very important
e.g. 4.5 represents 64% saying very important and 25% saying somewhat important.

Impact of COVID-19

Only a few issues have increased in importance due to COVID-19

- Supporting local industry including primary producers
- Available funding to maintain and upgrade important freight connections

In metro areas, an additional issue of increased importance was

- Increased delivery and “white van” activities

Community members most engaged in freight issues

- Heavy vehicle operators (70%)
- Local industry concerned about freight access (52%)
- Local residents concerned about freight impacts (52%)
- Local farmers moving product to and from farm gate (50%)

The first three groups are engaged for both metro and regional areas with only regional areas engaged with farmers.

84% of councils consider freight issues are growing – this is even more so outside metropolitan areas.

Key opportunities

- Improved road funding (90%)
- Improved funding for first and last kilometre access (57%)
- Increasing mode share for rail freight (55%)

These opportunities are reasonably consistent across both metropolitan and regional areas.

Support desired to better manage freight issues

- Better data on heavy vehicles using our roads (82%)
- Improved asset information for key roads and bridges (64%)
- Support with managing heavy vehicle permits (50%)

These areas of support are reasonably consistent across both metropolitan and regional areas.

For further information, please contact:

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