

Victoria
walks

Making Victoria's Growing Communities Walkable

Victoria Walks 2026 Victorian Election Priorities



Building safer, healthier and more connected communities through walking.



Making Victoria's Growing Communities Walkable

1

Invest in Safe Connections

\$150 million Safe Connections Fund

Deliver the pedestrian crossings needed to create safer, more walkable communities.

2

Strengthen Victoria's Walking Capability

Invest in Victoria Walks as the State's Independent Walking Peak Body

Provide \$200,000 per annum to ensure Victoria has an independent centre of expertise to support evidence, policy, councils and implementation.

3

Embed Walking in Government Decision-Making

Policy and Planning Reforms

Ensure walking is considered in transport, investment, planning and infrastructure decisions.

Why this proposal?

Victoria has committed to increasing active transport to 25 per cent of all trips while halving road deaths by 2030. At the same time, significant housing growth is planned through new Activity Centres, urban renewal and growth areas.

Achieving these ambitions will require more than encouraging people to change their behaviour. It will require sustained investment in the infrastructure, expertise and policy settings that make walking safe, convenient and accessible.

Walking underpins almost every active transport journey, including access to public transport. It is also fundamental to creating successful Activity Centres, supporting healthy communities and reducing dependence on private vehicles for short local trips.

Victoria Walks' Strategic Plan 2026–2030 reflects this shift by focusing on the systems, infrastructure and investment decisions that enable people to walk safely in their everyday lives.

Victoria Walks is calling on all political parties to commit to three practical actions that will help make Victoria's growing communities more walkable.





1 Priority One Build Safe Connections

Establish a \$150 million Victorian Safe Connections Fund

Victoria Walks is calling for \$150 million over the next term of government to be allocated from Victoria's transport infrastructure investment to establish a Victorian Safe Connections Fund.

The fund would support road authorities and councils to deliver priority pedestrian crossings that improve access to:

- schools
- public transport
- Activity Centres
- neighbourhood destinations
- high-risk pedestrian locations

Why?

Victoria Walks reviewed active transport strategies from councils across metropolitan and regional Victoria.

Approximately 1,000 priority pedestrian crossing projects have already been identified.

The challenge is no longer identifying where crossings are needed.

The challenge is funding their delivery.

Safe crossings improve road safety while supporting housing growth, active transport, accessibility, public transport use and community wellbeing.



2 Priority Two Strengthen Victoria's Walking Capability

Invest in Victoria Walks as the State's Independent Walking Peak Body

Victoria Walks is calling on the Victorian Government to provide \$200,000 per annum in ongoing funding through the Department of Transport and Planning to support Victoria's independent centre of expertise on walking and walkable communities.

Victoria Walks plays a unique role in supporting government, councils and communities by:

- providing independent, evidence-based advice;
- translating research into practical policy solutions;
- identifying infrastructure priorities;
- supporting councils with walkability and accessibility expertise;
- amplifying the voices of people who walk;
- helping embed walking into transport, planning and infrastructure decisions.

Why?

As the Victorian Government seeks to increase active transport to 25 per cent of all trips, improve road safety and create more walkable communities, dedicated expertise on walking should sit alongside investment in infrastructure.

Ongoing funding through the Department of Transport and Planning would recognise walking as a core transport mode and ensure government has continued access to independent expertise that supports the successful delivery of its transport objectives.



3 Priority Three

Embed Walking in Government Decision-Making

Walking should be considered from the earliest stages of planning, transport and infrastructure investment.

Victoria Walks is calling for the Victorian Government to:

- require walking access to be considered in all major transport investment business cases;
- embed safe walking connections within Activity Centre planning and implementation;
- strengthen integration between walking and public transport planning;
- publicly report progress towards the 25 per cent active transport target, including walking outcomes;
- ensure walking and accessibility are considered in major transport and urban renewal projects.

Why?

These reforms have the potential to deliver lasting system change with little additional cost.



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