



It is in local governments' best interest to step forward and take a more active role on behalf of their communities.



Local Government Role

What is the role of Local Governments'?

Local governments have a long established role in the provision, management and maintenance of a certain amount of transport infrastructure, as follows:

- Local roads
- Roadside management
- Parking
- Road safety works
- Footpaths
- Provision for taxi ranks and bus stops
- Bicycle network
- Access for all abilities
- Community transport
- Traffic management for local roads

Many decisions that affect the use of transport are made well beyond local government boundaries, sphere of influence or communication mechanisms.

However impacts can be evident locally, such as

- Parking pressures
- Social exclusion
- Road accidents
- Excessive traffic volumes
- Inactivity
- Environmental damage
- Noise
- Emissions

Local governments have an overriding mandate to act in the best interest of the community and seek outcomes consistent with broad goals of community well-being, equitable access to services, environmental protection and sustainable and liveable communities.

Integrated transport offers local governments a means to understand the real impacts of transport provision on the community and how to influence decisions made elsewhere to improve local outcomes in line with broad community goals.

So while the day to day role of local governments may be limited by budget and sphere of responsibility, there is a real value for local governments to engage with wider transport issues.

The role of local governments in transport is explored in the following:

- Auslink
- Growing Victoria Together
- Melbourne 2030
- Transport Connections

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Further Reading

For further reading on these issues refer to:

[The Role of Local Government in Integrated Transport](#)

Presentation by Emmerson Richardson, Senior Executive Transport Planning, Sinclair Knight Merz, 2001.

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