

From: Peter Seamer
Sent: Friday, 2 May 2008 4:12 PM
Subject: A Brief Update on the Growth Areas Authority (GAA)
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Dear Colleagues

From time to time I send out a short email outlining issues affecting the GAA. I hope you find this useful but if you no longer wish to receive these please simply send a message to vicki.passmore@gaa.vic.gov.au

I attach our latest brochure outlining some of the issues that the GAA is involved in.

Also you will probably be aware the Premier has made some changes in the transport area and I've copied his email about who is doing what (below) in case you haven't caught up with the changes.

Finally I am pleased to welcome Lisel Thomas to the GAA. Many of you will know Lisel who has a strong background in statutory and strategic planning and comes to the GAA most recently from an 18 month stint with the Municipal Association of Victoria as the Melbourne 2030 Liaison Officer. Lisel will be working with the Infrastructure Coordination team to improve the planning and delivery of infrastructure and services in growth areas.

Cheers

Peter

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA, JOHN BRUMBY - NEW DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Today I can announce changes within Victorian Government Departments.

A new Department of Transport will be created from the Department of Infrastructure to deliver a stronger focus on the delivery of public transport improvements, as new projects come on line to increase network capacity and meet record growth in patronage. The Minister for Public Transport will be lead Minister of the new Department of Transport. The new department will also focus on the integration of public transport and roads, including the response to the Eddington Report, for which the Minister for Roads is the lead Minister.

Major Projects Victoria will now move to the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD) to ensure stronger links between industry and the delivery of major projects that are vital to growing Victoria's economy.

Mr Jim Betts, currently the Director of Public Transport, will be appointed Secretary of the new Department of Transport. Mr Betts was appointed Director of Public Transport in November 2004.

Mr Betts brings strong experience in running the public transport system across Melbourne and Victoria. He has extensive experience in commercial and policy development, particularly in public transport, with both the Victorian and UK governments. In 2003 Mr Betts led, as Deputy Director of Public Transport, the negotiation of new franchise agreements with Connex and Yarra Trams and the creation of Metlink.

Mr Warren Hodgson, the Secretary of DIIRD, today announced his retirement. Mr Hodgson served as Acting Secretary from March 2007 and was appointed Secretary in August 2007. He will be taking up advisory positions within Government over the next few weeks. Mr Hodgson has provided outstanding service to the Victorian Government and the people of Victoria - as a Deputy Secretary at the Department of Treasury and Finance and as Secretary of DIIRD. I thank him for his service.

Mr Howard Ronaldson, currently Secretary of DoI, will be appointed the new Secretary of DIIRD. Mr Ronaldson was appointed Secretary of DOI in December 2002. He brings vast experience to DIIRD in negotiating complex commercial arrangements between the private sector and government and providing strategic policy advice on key links between infrastructure and the economy.

At DIIRD, Mr Ronaldson will drive major infrastructure project delivery, alongside the broader goals of industry and regional development. Mr Ronaldson has held executive positions in DIIRD and the Department of Premier and Cabinet, and was previously the Director of Gaming, the Director of Crown Lands and the Director of Housing. He was the Chief Operating Officer of DOI from May until December 2002. Prior to this appointment, he was the Chief Executive and Under Treasurer of the Department of Treasury, ACT.

Current Coordinator-General Infrastructure, Ms Meredith Sussex, will be appointed the new Executive Director, Integrated Transport Planning, within the new Department of Transport. This position will have the key task of delivering the Victorian Government's response to the Eddington Report.

Ms Sussex led the delivery of the Commonwealth Games in 2006 in Melbourne as the Executive Director, Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination. The functions of the Coordinator-General, Infrastructure, will continue to be a key focus of the new Department of Transport, through the Office of the Secretary.

As I have previously said, with Victoria's population booming, our State faces challenges in enhancing liveability, increasing transport capacity, delivering sustainable and well-planned growth and providing appropriate services and infrastructure to Victorian families across the State.

This restructure of Government Departments will provide the appropriate structure and accountability to support the relevant Ministers in delivering the projects and services that will make Victoria the best place to live, work and raise a family.

JOHN BRUMBY MP
Premier of Victoria
