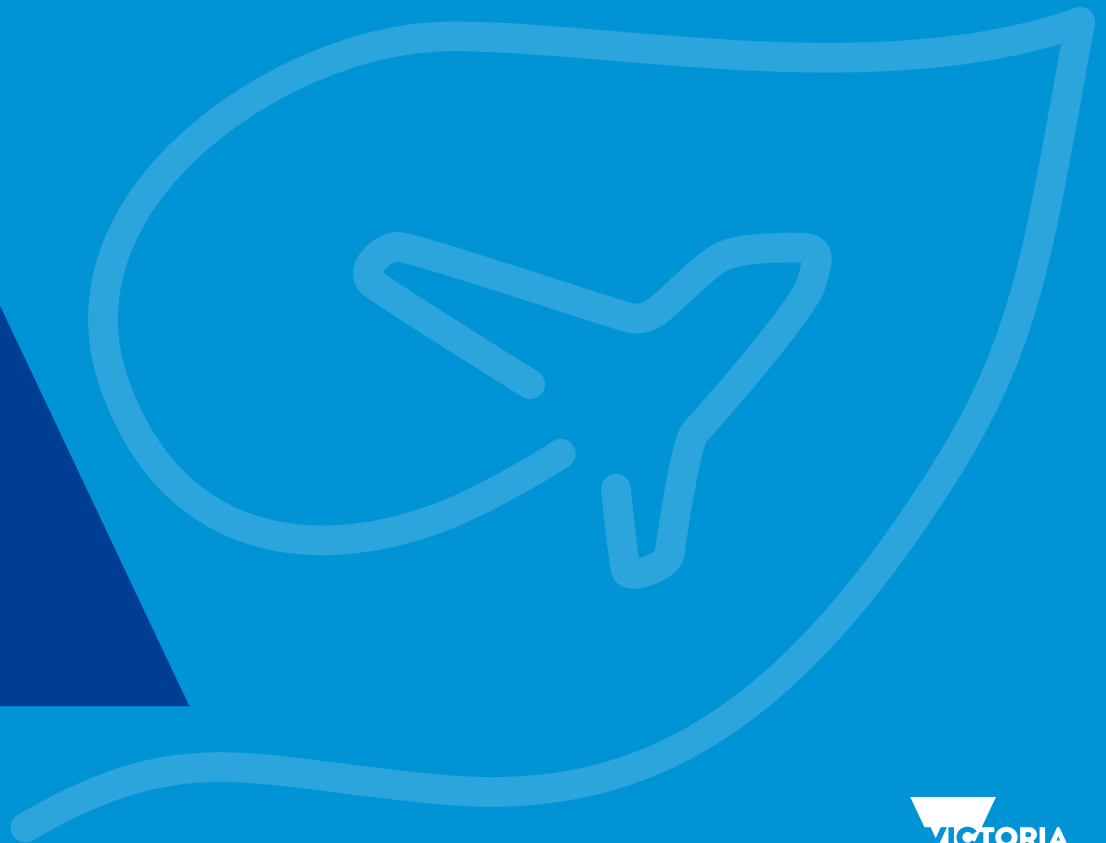


# Victorian Advanced Air Mobility Action Plan

Consultation Feedback Summary 2024





In September 2023, the Victorian Government released the draft Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Action Plan for public consultation to seek input from industry and the community.

The AAM Action Plan articulates a range of whole-of-Victorian Government activities and associated timings to support the development and adoption of AAM and other zero-emission aviation technologies that promises significant economic, environment, industrial, and societal benefits.

**Participants were invited to provide feedback on the AAM Action Plan between 19 September and 15 December 2023 to ensure the actions are fit-for-purpose, align with industry expectations and will support the implementation of Victoria’s zero-emission aviation vision.**

39 responses were received during the consultation period covering key themes including land-use planning and transport integration, industry development, access to skills and capability, community engagement, leveraging Government procurement frameworks and appropriate action monitoring and evaluation.

Overall, 97% of the participants were fully or partially supportive that the short-term actions identified in the AAM Action Plan will support the transition to AAM, drones and zero-emission aviation. Additionally, 95% of the participants were partially or fully supportive of the identified long-term actions proposed.

Submissions were received from a range of international and domestic stakeholders, including AAM and drone developers/OEMs, vertiport developers, metropolitan and regional airports, local government, industry associations, academia, aircraft operators and Uncrewed Aircraft System (UAS) service providers.

A summary of the feedback received during the consultation period has been summarised in the next section.

## People Reached

**2,225**

Page views

**234**

AAM Action Plan document downloads

**39**

Responses received

# Key Feedback Themes

## THEME 1

### Land Use Planning and Transport Network Integration

- = Flexible land-use planning frameworks that accommodate existing drone and future AAM operations are critical for attracting investment and creating appropriate market pathways to commercialisation. Current Victorian planning regulations do not clearly articulate a clear pathway for future vertiport planning and development efforts, resulting in barriers to investment.
- = Actions associated with the development of guidance material to support assessment of drone delivery operational sites and future vertiport applications will need to articulate how these operations are appropriately integrated into existing transport networks within the Victorian regulatory planning framework, including delineation of responsibilities between local and State Government during the planning assessment process.
- = Long term actions associated with land-use and development regulations to support vertiport planning infrastructure and development should consider public amenity, community needs and expectations, design, integration with existing infrastructure as well as noise, privacy and safety regulations, noting some of these are the purview of the Australian Government. Additionally, clear alignment between the Victorian planning framework and local government planning policies will be critical.
- = Effective monitoring and review tools should be established between State and local Government to support the co-design and co-development of appropriate policies and regulations supporting planning assessment.

## THEME 2

### Industry Development

- = Fostering partnership opportunities and research and development (R&D) clusters can accelerate industry development of the AAM sector in Victoria. Mechanisms should be introduced that highlight local industrial capabilities and tertiary education expertise to foster partnership and collaboration and strengthen local industry development efforts.
- = Strategic market signals should be developed that encourage investment and uptake of AAM, drone and zero-emission aviation in Victoria. These may include consideration of electric charging and hydrogen storage and refuelling infrastructure at airports to support uptake of zero-emission aviation in Victoria, undertaking research on potential passenger and freight market demand and financial modelling to support early commercialisation of emerging aviation technologies, particularly across regional Victoria.
- = Flexible government programs and incentives should be considered that can support pilot programs, novel trialling and testing activities, research and development (R&D), manufacturing and investment as the sector scales. Incentives that stimulate market activity in a way that generates future revenue opportunities to offset the incentives could also be considered.
- = Flexible aerospace precincts that support innovation, R&D, testing and trialling of emerging aviation technologies through 'test and evaluation sandboxes' can accelerate development and commercialisation of the sector.
- = The development of such precincts can encourage the emergence of cluster-based ecosystems of critical technologies and capabilities, encourage advanced manufacturing and support flexible graduated pathways to commercialisation.
- = Avenues to undertake flexible flight-testing across Victoria will also become increasingly important as technologies develops towards commercialisation.

## THEME 3

### Community Engagement

- = Early, considered and sustained community engagement that highlights the societal and economic benefits of AAM, drones and zero-emission aviation is required across all levels of Government, and will become increasingly important as the sector matures.
- = Novel testing and trialling of AAM and zero-emission technologies can be leveraged to evaluate public needs and expectation of the industry.

## THEME 4

### Access to Skills and Capability

- = Access to skills and talent is perceived to be a significant barrier to the development of an AAM and zero-emission aviation sector in Victoria. Clear training pathways will be increasingly important to ensure the right skills, training and capability are available to support a highly specialised workforce required for new zero-emission technologies coming onto the market.

## THEME 5

### Government Procurement

- = The Victorian Government could consider utilising procurement frameworks as a demand signal to encourage adoption of AAM and other zero-emission aviation platforms and foster investments in local critical technology R&D and manufacturing in the State.

## THEME 6

### Action Tracking

- = Noting that the AAM Action Plan will be reviewed every 18-24 months, a tracking mechanism should be developed to highlight progress against the actions. Mechanisms to monitor action progress will provide opportunities to measure action outcomes, highlight opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of actions and ensure outcomes continue to be fit-for-purpose, proportionate and align with overarching government policy.

### Other Feedback

- = Participants provided feedback on a range of themes which are the responsibility of Australian Government agencies. These include the need to accelerate regulatory reform to support permission-based testing and trialling of AAM aircraft and systems; and support for a national strategic implementation plan for future airspace design to accommodate emerging aviation technologies.

# Next Steps



Your feedback has been valuable in helping us understand the key barriers to industry development and new investment into Victoria. A summary of the feedback has been provided to the Victorian Government for consideration and will inform future policy strategy work. Where appropriate, changes have also been incorporated into the final AAM Action Plan.

In recognition of the evolving nature of the AAM and zero-emission aviation sector, a review of the Action Plan will occur every 18-24 months to ensure actions remain consistent with the needs of industry and the community.

The Victorian Government will also consult and engage with relevant stakeholders as appropriate during the development and/or implementation of the actions identified.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your input in this consultation.

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### **Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to this land and we pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future

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