Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

#vcci

Pillar 2

Develop global industries and invest in digital tech and cyber security



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Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of this nation. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, of the lands on which the Victorian Chamber head office is located and extend this respect to all lands across the country.

We pay our respects to ancestors and elders, past and present, and support the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We endeavour to develop stronger and enduring partnerships with First Peoples and work together to achieve economic, social and cultural equity and prosperity across Victoria.

We are committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' unique cultural and spiritual relationships to the land, waters and seas and their rich contribution to society.

Victorian
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry

Pillar 2: Developing global industries and investing in digital tech and cyber security



Our resources and agricultural sectors along with service exports are critical to our competitive advantage, as is our ability to capture new markets in advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and critical minerals.

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The nation's future prosperity rests in our ability to build on our natural advantages, create new sectors and evolve the way we do business in line with emerging digital and cyber security technologies. The Victorian Chamber is hopeful that the Federal Budget will deliver further support to facilitate new critical minerals and mining projects in Victoria.

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Victoria is emerging as a major supplier of mineral sands and rare earths.

These industries offer global competitive advantage and the resultant opportunity to create renewable energy supply chains. Mineral sands and rare earths contributed more than $500 million into the Victorian economy in 2020-21 and are a major supporter of regional development and high-wage regional jobs.[1]

The 2023-24 Victorian Budget allocated $23.2 million in resources initiatives, largely aimed at supporting projects in the critical minerals industry.[2] This effort should be matched by the Federal Government.

Australia has been hampered by a poor track record of commercialisation or scaling up our inventions into global markets and a lack of sovereign capability in many key areas. This has resulted in insufficient private sector investment.

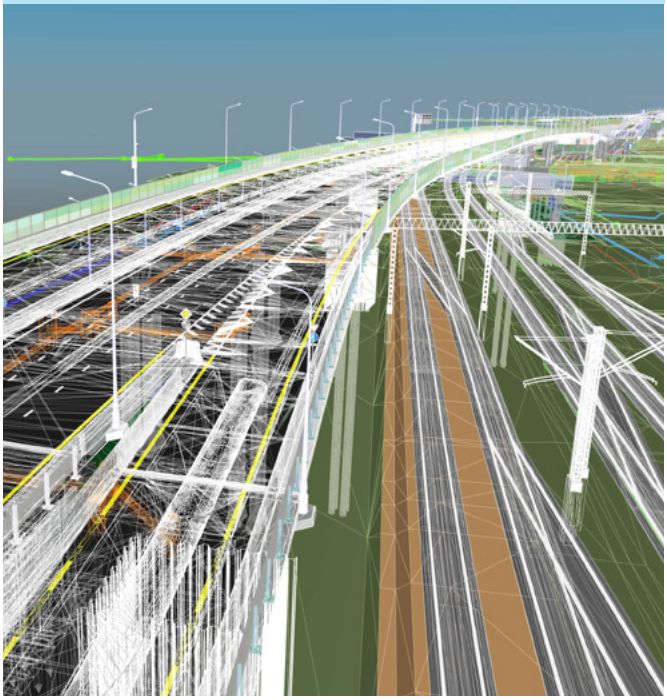
Federal and State Governments have a vital role to play as facilitators for that investment and innovation.

The Victorian Chamber believes regional Australia should be specifically targeted through our higher education system, given the regional development opportunities that sit alongside the critical minerals industry. The skilling and reskilling of local workers will be essential to the future local industries and communities.

Relatedly, there is a demonstrable need for coordination between the Federal and State Governments on industry policy. This is particularly important in sectors that are critical to our competitive advantage such as agriculture, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and critical minerals.

Digital innovation lifts productivity and living standards, and contributes to a stronger, fairer Australia.

If Australia is to remain competitive – both globally and within our region – governments, businesses and the community must not just embrace, but drive digitisation. Government needs a coherent digital strategy, with metrics to gauge success. It needs to set out its plans across a range of areas, including government structure, skills, adoption, regulation, and digital infrastructure.



1 Pre Budget-Submission 2023, Minerals Council of Australia Victoria Division, page3

2 Minerals Council of Australia Victoria Division, Media Release, 23 May 2023.
Website: Support for Victorian mining development welcome, but tax rises a concern - Minerals Council of Australia

Pillar 2: Developing global industries and investing in digital tech and cyber security

In order to become a vibrant and dynamic economy, we need to do more to support business to quickly adopt new practices and technologies. As a matter of urgency, the Federal Government should include an allocation in the Budget for programs such as the Technology Investment Boost and Skills Training Boost to help small businesses improve their digital capability and upskill their workforce.

Boosting business cyber security needs to be understood in the context of the increasing costs associated with doing business. Small business is the target of almost half of all cyber-attacks, at an average cost of $46,000 for each affected business.[3] They require affordable cyber security products and services to fend off cyber criminals.

Small business is looking for Federal Government leadership to support their implementation of cyber security measures that protect their business, employees and customers. According to a recent Victorian Chamber survey, 73 per cent of businesses would improve their data security if they received government support.[4]

Uplifting small business cyber security across supply chains must be at the forefront of the Government's agenda when implementing Australia's 2023-2030 Cyber Security Strategy. Federal funding to deliver cyber awareness training and a cyber concierge service to small, medium and family businesses would help strengthen business cyber capabilities across the board.



3 ASD (2023). *ASD Cyber Threat Report 2022-2023*. https://www.cyber.gov.au/about-us/reports-and-statistics/asd-cyber-threat-report-july-2022-june-2023

4 Victorian Chamber (2023). *Cyber Security and Scams Policy Position*. https://www.victorianchamber.com.au/policy-and-advocacy/initiatives/cyber-security-and-scams-policy-position





Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) is the largest and most influential not-for-profit business organisation in Victoria, informing and servicing more than 85,000 members and clients across the State.

Through our policy and advocacy work, professional development courses, workplace relations and consulting services, we help thousands of businesses every year to improve workplace performance and achieve business growth and success.

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This paper was prepared by the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. While the Victorian Chamber has endeavoured to provide accurate and reliable research and analysis, it will not be held liable for any claim by any party utilising this information.

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