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INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY WELCOMES CANBERRA'S VICTORIAN RAIL FOCUS – LOOK FORWARD TO DETAILS IN FEDERAL BUDGET

The national infrastructure sector welcomes today's announcement from the Commonwealth Government that it will inject \$5 billion into a rail link to Melbourne Airport, says [Infrastructure Partnerships Australia](#).

"It's very welcome to see the Commonwealth and Victorian governments partnering on major new projects in the State," said IPA Chief Executive Officer Adrian Dwyer.

"Major rail projects like the connection to Melbourne Airport cannot be paid for by ticket charges alone, so the key detail will be how much hard dollar funding is allocated in May's Federal Budget.

"Tullamarine Airport is Australia's second busiest, with passenger numbers expected to rise to 60 million by 2030.

"The rail link will provide Victorians with some degree of certainty that their trip between the Airport and CBD will be 30 minutes, with a train every 10 minutes, taking pressure off the CityLink/Tulla corridor.

"The reality is that Melbourne's population has grown by almost one quarter in the last decade, placing incredible pressure on Victoria's transport infrastructure.

"Last year's Federal Budget reduced infrastructure funding levels, so this is a very welcome sign that the Federal Government may be set to reverse that trend from 2018.

"The Victorian Government committed to build this project late last year, and alongside the Melbourne Metro, level crossing removals, and other transport projects, Victoria is making significant progress in dealing with Melbourne's massive congestion challenges."

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