

Thursday, 9 June 2022

Statement**Building Smarter Communities for Victoria****Australian Smart Communities Association's (ASCA) 2026 Victorian Election Priorities**

Victoria faces growing pressures from population growth, housing demand, climate change, workforce shortages and increasing service expectations. Smarter use of technology, data and innovation can help governments deliver better outcomes, improve productivity and build more resilient communities.

ASCA calls on the next Victorian Government to:**1. Adopt a Victorian Smart Communities Statement: A shared vision for a smarter Victoria.****Priority actions:**

- Establish a clear statewide vision, principles and common outcomes.
- Align government, industry, academia and local government.
- Provide a framework for innovation, digital transformation and community resilience.

2. Establish a Victorian Smart Communities Partnership: Connecting capability across the state.**Priority actions:**

- Bring together State Government, Local Government, ASCA, industry and universities.
- Share knowledge, reduce duplication and accelerate proven solutions.
- Strengthen collaboration on common challenges and opportunities.

3. Create a Smart Victoria Fund for Local Government: Investing in capability, not just technology.**Priority actions:**

- Support pilots, testbeds and innovation programs.
- Build digital capability and inclusion across communities.
- Enable councils to test, prove and scale innovative solutions.

Victoria has the opportunity to become Australia's leading Smart State by connecting, supporting and scaling the innovation already happening across our communities. ASCA has developed a detailed implementation roadmap and stands ready to partner with government to turn vision into action.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Australian Smart Communities Association acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.