

# About the Civil Contractors Federation Victoria

For 80 years, Civil Contractors Federation Victoria has been the peak industry body representing and servicing the civil construction industry in our state.

Nationally, the Federation is the only Registered Organisation recognised as the peak body representing the civil construction industry for:

- Housing and community-enabling Infrastructure Policy totalling \$86.3 billion, including:
- Construction of all major roads, rail, bridges, ports, water, sewerage, utilities and civil subdivision;
- The renewable energy transition;
- Efficient and competitive procurement and infrastructure delivery and productivity;
- Training, workforce development, culture and diversity;
- Industrial Relations

Across Victoria, infrastructure projects remain the cornerstone of the state's communities and cities, including roads, bridges, pipelines, drainage, ports and utilities. Our members also play a vital role in the residential and commercial building industry by providing earthmoving and land development services including the provision of power, water, communications and gas.

Across Australia, the infrastructure sector is delivering a major public infrastructure pipeline valued at \$230 billion over five years, supporting our everyday way of life and every business. Civil construction is its foundation industry; without the civil industry, nothing is built.

## REFERENCES

Figure 1: ABS Population Growth Dec 2023 and ABS 8572 Building Activity Australia Dec 2023

Figure 2: Renewable projects are getting built faster - but there's even more need for speed, Thomas Longden ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions

Figure 3: ABS Engineering Construction Activity Dec 2023

Figure 4: Australian Infrastructure Budget Monitor 2023-24 Infrastructure Partnerships Australia

Figure 5: Infrastructure Market Capacity Report 2023, Infrastructure Australia

Figure 6: Build Skills Australia, 2024



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## Civil Construction The Hidden Link

**“You cannot spend a dollar in housing until you have invested a dollar in civil infrastructure.”**

Civil infrastructure is the foundation of Victoria's progress and prosperity. It plays a critical role in addressing our state's housing needs, supporting the transition to renewable energy and enhancing overall productivity. However, it remains the hidden link.

Before a government or private housing provider can commence work on a housing project, the civil industry is required to unlock the development with demolition, earthmoving and land development services; build the roads; connect the properties to utilities and lay the foundations for future development. Modern civil infrastructure ensures the development of sustainable, affordable housing; catering to a growing population and reducing the cost of living.

Infrastructure is vital to major projects: from solar farms in regional areas to developing our ports to get goods to and from international markets and laying the foundations for domestic manufacturing.

Australia's goals in cost of living and net carbon zero are best achieved when civil construction is the first principle for investment particularly in creating housing and low-cost living. Without addressing the current approach to civil construction, we will not have the skills, capital, and expertise to meet the Government's ambitious housing and energy targets. Investing in civil infrastructure is essential for a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous Victoria.

### Lisa Kinross

Chief Executive Officer  
Civil Contractors Federation Victoria

### CCF Civil Construction Priorities

- ▶ Increased Housing and Community Enabling Infrastructure investment and funding
- ▶ Transitioning to Net Zero through investment in infrastructure
- ▶ Efficient and competitive procurement
- ▶ Building the civil workforce

## Civil Matters in Victoria



Figure 1  
ABS DWELLING COMMENCEMENTS VS POPULATION GROWTH

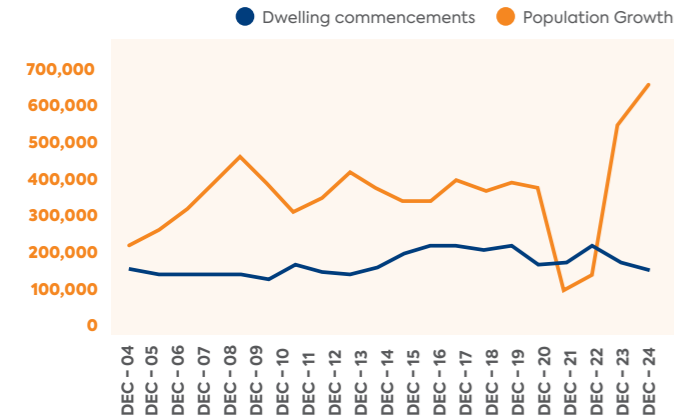


Figure 2  
TRACKING THE REDUCTION IN LEAD TIMES FOR ONSHORE WIND PROJECTS SINCE 2001

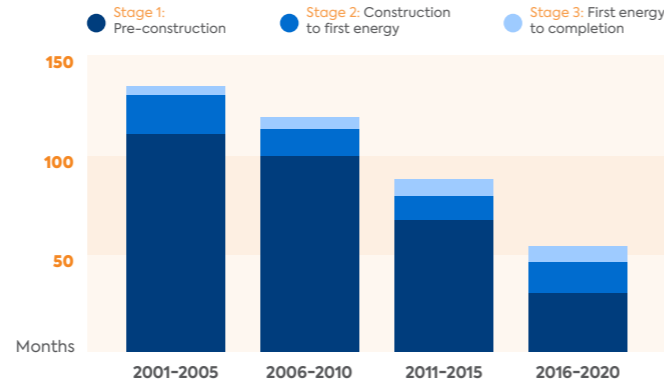


Figure 3  
COMMUNITY ENABLING INFRASTRUCTURE COMMENCED - ABS ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (\$'000)

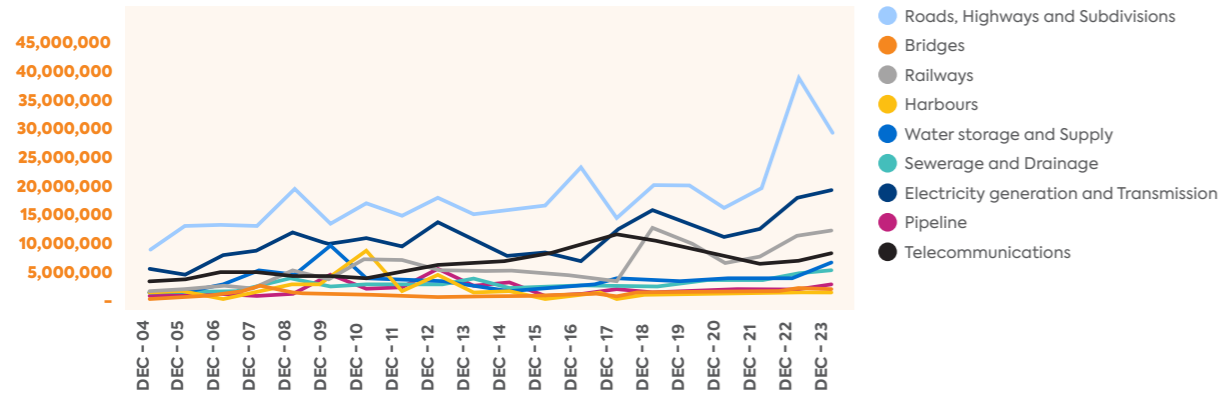


Figure 4  
2023-24 COMMONWEALTH INVESTMENT IN STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BY SECTOR

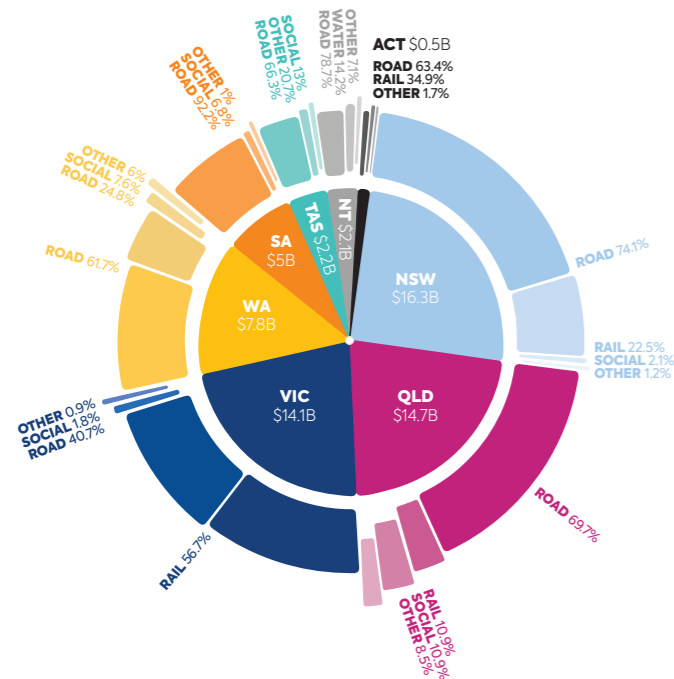
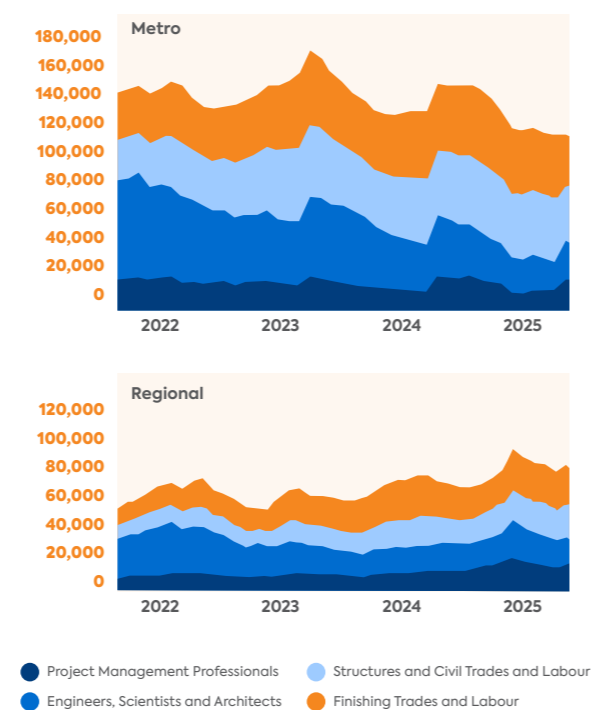


Figure 5  
SHORTAGE BY OCCUPATION GROUP WITHIN CAPITAL CITY AREAS VS OUTER REGIONS



## Increased Housing and Community Enabling Infrastructure Investment



Modern infrastructure is vital to support a sustainable, liveable, and productive Australia. Without investment in roads, utilities, and civil infrastructure, it will be impossible to meet our national and state housing targets. Currently, over 90% of Australian civil contractors have additional capacity, according to the 2023 CCF Civil Infrastructure Market Capacity Survey, showing that the industry can deliver more to unlock greenfield and brownfield developments. Sustained infrastructure investment over the long term is vital to meet Australia's housing, climate, and productivity targets.

**SOLUTION:** The Commonwealth can plan for a 20-year plan for sustained infrastructure investment with housing delivery and energy transition at its foundations.

## Energy Transition: Transitioning to a Green Economy through Investment in Infrastructure



We know the destination by 2050 is net zero carbon for Victoria. We also know the road to this destination requires civil infrastructure to be the bedrock, and we can't reach this destination without a concrete roadmap.

**SOLUTION:** The CCF will work with Australian Governments to ensure procurement and workforce reforms will mobilise the workforce required to deliver the energy transition. CCF will also drive a detailed long-term plan that aligns civil investment with sectoral transformation goals and provides clear guidelines and timelines for industry stakeholders.

## Efficient and Competitive Procurement



Infrastructure delivery can tend to focus on the largest tier 1 firms due to the nature of the pipeline and a risk mitigation mindset from procurers that fails to reach communities and accumulates larger multi-billion blow outs in the national infrastructure delivery pipeline. The promotion of smaller projects under \$500m does promote a 'Made in Australia' agenda and sees skills development and project delivery span to every community in Victoria. This ensures local content boosting local employment, in line with Victoria's Local Jobs First policy; appropriate risk allocation; upskilling of the local workforce, and; higher economic growth in local communities from all Commonwealth government contracts.

**SOLUTION:** Major projects should be disaggregated where possible to encourage expressions of interest from tier 2 and tier 3 companies and project allocation should be spread across all jurisdictions to ensure widespread community benefits, while enabling the full civil workforce to deliver the infrastructure of the next generation.

## Building the Civil Workforce



With the existing workforce at 177,000 employees, civil construction is a key driver of economic activity, particularly in regional Australia. Infrastructure Australia projects a shortage of 229,000 full-time infrastructure workers is predicted as of October 2023, with shortages expected.

**Shortage since 2021:** Bulldozer Operator, Excavator Operator, Road Roller, Linemarkers, Earthmoving Plant Operator

**Shortage since 2022:** Civil Engineer, Quantity Surveyor, Civil Engineering Technician, Crane Operator, Mobile Plant Operator, Driller, Truck Driver, Construction Rigger, Crane Chaser

Each of the trades require prioritisation to ensure we have the skills on the ground to provide the Community Enabling Infrastructure and build the energy transition.

**SOLUTION:** The inclusion of civil trades on the Australian Apprentice Priority List 2025 will allow the industry to compete with other options such as university. The Commonwealth Migration and Skills paths must depart from assessment via outdated and rigid ANZSCO classifications and support the skills and workforce the construction industry requires.

Figure 6  
HEAVY AND CIVIL SECTOR POWERING ON WEEKLY PAYROLL JOBS INDEX AUSTRALIA

