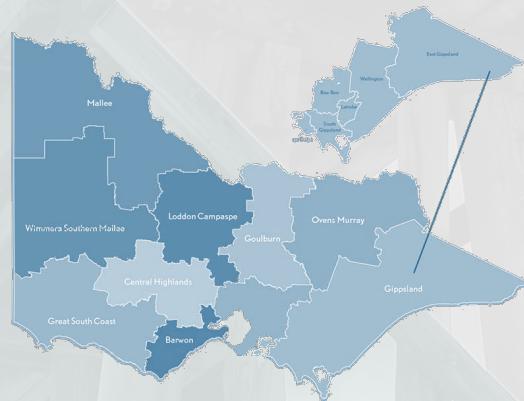


REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS GIPPSLAND



With a Gross Regional Product of approximately \$15.8 billion, Gippsland is one of the most diverse regions in Australia, and covers 33,000 square kilometres.

From unspoilt beaches to snowfields and rainforests, our region covers a vast range of stunning landscapes including the internationally renowned Wilson's Promontory National Park and one of Australia's best-known tourism experiences, the Phillip Island Penguin Parade.

Natural resources, leading to energy generation, agriculture, forestry and tourism, as well as manufacturing, have traditionally underpinned Gippsland's growth. The area produces around 90 per cent of Victoria's electricity and 97 per cent of the state's natural gas, a global shift towards a low-carbon economy has created opportunity to transform the energy sector and the region's economy.

The Gippsland region has approximately 260,000 people and includes six municipalities: Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire, East Gippsland Shire, Latrobe City, South Gippsland Shire and Wellington Shire.

We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Gunaikurnai people, and pay respects to their Elders past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the tradition and the culture of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The outcomes we are striving to achieve

People in Gippsland are successful, and have opportunities to realise their full potential now and in the future. Our region is striving to achieve the following long term social, economic and cultural outcomes for those who live and work in Gippsland. The roadmap overleaf outlines the challenges we face in achieving these outcomes, the actions we are taking and what success looks like for our region.



Our Outcomes Roadmap



Skills & Education

Gippslanders have increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in education at all levels.



Family & Community Wellbeing

Gippslanders are healthy and well and live in safe, stimulating and supportive environments.



Connectivity

Gippsland's transport network and digital technologies are current and well-functioning.



New Jobs & Industry

Gippsland has a strong economy with diverse local job opportunities.



Food & Fibre

Gippsland's food and fibre sector is a global leader in production, innovation and technology. The sector is open for new investment.



Energy & Resources

Gippsland has sustainable, secure and affordable energy and resources and considers new energy technologies.



Visitor Economy & Tourism

Gippsland's tourism industry is vibrant, thriving and delivers outstanding visitor experiences.

This roadmap reflects the views of the Gippsland Regional Partnership. The roadmap is a living document that will be updated regularly by the Regional Partnership.



What success looks like for Gippsland

Some key challenges we are facing

How our partnership is responding



The actions and key projects we are focussing on

Skills & Education

Gippslanders have increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in education at all levels.



People in Gippsland are prepared for life, and future life opportunities – experiencing success in learning and contributing positively to the learning environment.

Gippsland has significant workforce and educational attainment challenges. A high proportion of our workers attain only secondary or lower vocational certificate levels and rates of completion of year 12 are lower than the Victorian average. The community has identified access to post-secondary education and ageing infrastructure as large impediments.

The Partnership has advocated for better infrastructure to provide accessible and leading-edge educational facilities. We welcomed recent announcements to establish new facilities at Federation Training in Morwell and Sale and continue to advocate for priorities that will improve our attainment and completion rates.

- Advocating for improved mentoring and career counselling in secondary schools.
- Hi-Tech Precinct Innovation Centre
- Contemporary Secondary Colleges e.g. Bairnsdale Secondary – Stage 2.
- Digital technology hubs to connect students to education
- Programs that connect schools and industries e.g. Broadening Horizons
- Yarram Community Skills Centre (VCAL Program)

Family & Community Wellbeing

Gippslanders are healthy and well and live in safe, stimulating and supportive environments.



People in Gippsland will be healthy and well, living in safe, stimulating and supportive environments. Our children and young people will have the best start in life and will thrive socially, emotionally and physically.

Gippslanders experience high levels of family stress, mental health and family violence, all impacting on the health and wellbeing of our community. We have witnessed an increase of 62% of reported family violence incidents over the past 5 years. Social services are a challenge for the community to navigate.

A lot of Gippsland's health, social and economic stresses are long term and systemic problems that demand a coordinated and integrated approach. We have advocated for a number of health related priorities and believe the Gippsland Centre for Innovation and Research will improve the complex health and social problems faced by our communities.

- Extend the Youth Area Partnership
- Extend Youth Space Latrobe concept
- Develop a workforce strategy
- Extend funding for the First 1000 Days
- Establish the Centre for Innovation & Research
- Advocate for the West Gippsland Hospital
- Advocate for Latrobe Regional Hospital – Stage 3
- Fund a feasibility study for a Residential Drug Rehabilitation Centre in Latrobe Valley.

Connectivity

Gippsland's transport network and digital technologies are current and well-functioning.



Gippsland's transport network is truly integrated, accessible, well-functioning and meets people's needs. Digital technologies further enhance accessibility for our community.

Digital connectivity is fundamental to people's lives, however many communities in our region are disadvantaged when it comes to accessing digital infrastructure and services. The community continues to be concerned about the journey times to and from Melbourne, and across Gippsland.

Our focus is improving the journey times to and from Melbourne and across Gippsland. The \$535m Gippsland Line Upgrade will go some way to addressing the issue, however interim measures are being explored such as improved timetabling and more regular services. We are taking steps to reduce the digital divide through the Digital Connectivity Master Plan.

- Improve public transport connectivity from South Gippsland and Bass Coast
- Improve rail efficiencies
- Provision of flexible transport solutions for disadvantaged communities
- Princes Highway duplication, final 13kms
- Traralgon bypass
- Priority outcomes: Digital Connectivity Master Plan
- Sale Alternate Truck Route

New Jobs & Industry

Gippsland has a strong economy with diverse local job opportunities.



Improve the resilience and adaptive capacity of the region through new jobs and industry.

Job losses continue to be an issue facing the region, in particular Latrobe Valley. The closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and Mine impacted 450 employees and 300 contractors. Gippsland's unemployment rate as at March 2018 was 6.66% in comparison to the regional average of 5.31%¹.

The Partnership advocated for decentralisation and was pleased with the announcement of the GovHub that will bring 150 new jobs to Gippsland. The \$266m support package is also assisting to boost new jobs and expand businesses. The Partnership sees innovation and skills and education as important enablers to creating new jobs in Gippsland.

- Support the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC)
- Support Australian Paper's Energy to Waste Project
- Supporting the relocation Federal and State government services to our region

What success looks like for Gippsland

Some key challenges we are facing

How our partnership is responding

The actions and key projects we are focussing on 



Food & Fibre

Gippsland’s food and fibre sector, is a global leader in production, innovation and technology. The sector is open for new investment.

A productive, diverse and resilient food and fibre sector supported by innovation, with diverse employment opportunities and career pathways.

The Partnership believes that strong growth in food and fibre is an important enabler to improve our local economy. The sector is a key engine of the Gippsland economy. If we don’t continue to invest, adapt and grow we risk losing this contribution to the region.

At three Regional Assemblies participants have requested development of an Action Agenda; more prominent positioning of the sector in the regional economy and creation of a single gateway to services supporting growth. \$700,000 was announced in the 2018/19 State Budget to support this work.

- High level Food & Fibre Working Group created.
- Food Agility CRC value chain project completed identifying growth targets
- LVA Smart Specialisation project with food & fibre as lead sector.
- New Gippsland Tech School focus on food & fibre careers
- Design of “Food & Fibre Central” underway.



Energy & Resources

Gippsland has sustainable, secure and affordable energy and resources and considers new and emerging technologies.

To improve, adapt and diversify the region’s use of earth resources to include technological advances, including the Star of the South off shore wind farm and the feasibility study to explore opportunities in carbon innovation research.

We have seen a global shift towards a low-carbon economy which has created challenges and opportunities for the energy sector and the region’s economy. Climate change is impacting the region and long-term water security issues are important considerations.

Gippsland is positioning itself to benefit from its energy transformation to capitalise on new and developing technologies including renewable energy, energy storage, energy efficiency products and services as well low emission products from coal. Steps to protect our region’s water security and use will continue.

- Support the Carbon Innovation Research Centre
- Advocate for off-shore wind farm in the South East coast
- Support the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC)
- Progress New Energy Technology Centre (C4NET)



Visitor Economy & Tourism

Gippsland’s tourism industry is vibrant, thriving and delivers outstanding visitor experiences.

Gippsland has a wealth of natural and built visitor attractions that position us uniquely as a destination of choice. Our diversity of tourism attractions lead to an increase in length of visitor stays and deliver outstanding visitor experiences.

Gippsland lacks a Destination Management Plan to provide a long-term strategic vision for Gippsland. The lack of a holistic approach hinders our tourism development and visitor numbers.

Funding was awarded to Destination Gippsland to develop a Destination Management Plan that will provide the Gippsland tourism industry with insights in to significant tourism sites and infrastructure requirements to improve the visitor experience and boost tourism.

- Develop a Gippsland Destination Management Plan
- Re-develop the Croajingolong Coastal Wilderness Walk
- Undertake a business case for South Face Road
- Develop the Gippsland Trails Strategy

References

1 Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets data aggregated by RDV