

# BUDGET 2019/20 FACT SHEET



## Barwon Regional Partnership

For almost three years, Regional Partnerships have been a cornerstone of how the Victorian Government has engaged with regional Victoria. Thousands of locals have attended Regional Assemblies in Barwon and have told the Barwon Regional Partnership what is important for this region; and, in turn, helped shape the priorities of the Partnership, and the Victorian Government.

Partnerships are now maturing. Recently, the Barwon Regional Partnership published its [Outcomes Roadmap](#), which outlines the key, long-term strategic areas of focus for the Partnership going forward, and where it is looking to make a real difference.

### The outcomes the Partnership is striving for:

**Transport Connectivity** - An integrated, accessible and progressive transport network

**Liveability** - vibrant, liveable cities and towns

**Climate Change** - Protected environments and prepared, resilient communities

**Business and Innovation** - A flourishing culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and growth

**Equity and Wellbeing** – Supported, fair and nurturing Barwon communities

**Education** – Strong education futures for our young people

**Tourism** – A thriving and sustainable Barwon tourism economy.

### Budget 2019/ 20:

The Budget provides **\$2.6 billion for the Government's *Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program*** which will provide a whole of Government focus on delivering for communities across the state. The program will improve public transport, country roads, tourism infrastructure and TAFE facilities, and provide critical health facility upgrades for regional and rural Victoria while supporting 4,500 jobs.

The ***Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria program* provides \$134 million** to create jobs and deliver priority projects, including the Government's election commitments, across rural and regional Victoria.

The Budget also provides **further tax relief for rural and regional businesses**. The **regional payroll tax rate will be reduced to 25 per cent of the metropolitan rate by 2022-23**, while eligibility for the tax rate will be expanded with the current 'business location test' removed from 1 July 2019. The payroll tax-free threshold will be increased to \$700,000 by 2022-23. **A land transfer duty concession will also be introduced for regional Victoria** to encourage regional businesses to relocate and expand in regional areas.

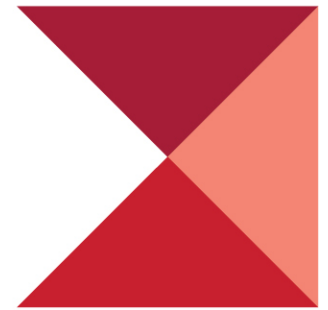


### Victorian Budget initiatives that support Partnership priority outcomes include:

- **\$18.8 million** increase in funding for the Geelong City Deal. The now more than \$370 million City Deal for Geelong and the Shipwreck Coast will help realise the economic potential of the tourism industry, boost emerging businesses and ensure Geelong and the broader region remain a great place to work, live and visit
- **\$1.6 million** for the Great Ocean Road action plan. This funding will establish a new statutory authority to manage and protect the Great Ocean Road, its land and seascapes
- **\$100 million for the Western Rail Plan** to facilitate the separation of regional and metropolitan services on the Geelong line to reduce crowding, support population growth and enable fast rail
- **\$2 million** for the design and scoping of the duplication of 11 kilometres of track between South Geelong and Wairn Ponds Station
- **\$13.5 million** from the Building Better TAFEs Fund to upgrade the Gordon Culinary School at the TAFE's Gordon City Campus – delivering state-of-the-art training facilities for cookery and hospitality students in Geelong
- **\$3 million for Victoria's Coastcare program**, supporting local volunteers and their important work across our coastlines

### Other significant 2019/ 20 Budget investments in the Barwon region include:

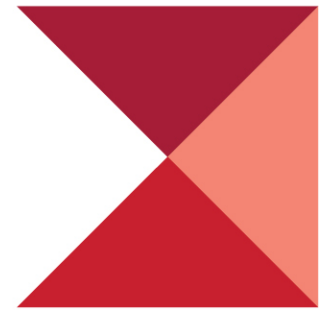
- **\$128 million** for the third and final stage of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre redevelopment. The project will deliver a new 500 seat theatre, new courtyard and experimental theatre space, new box office and refurbished back of house facilities
- **\$102 million** for the redevelopment of Kardinia Park
- **\$20 million** for the relocation of Barwon Health clinical facilities to the Geelong Hospital Precinct
- **\$1 million** towards establishing a permanent Community Hub in Barwon Heads
- Through the **Local Sports Grants**, the government has committed \$175 million to develop more than 65 community sports infrastructure projects across the State including
  - A masterplan for Portarlington Recreational Reserve
  - Drysdale Sports Precinct Stage 2 upgrade
  - Lighting for Barwon Heads Football and Netball Club and Barwon Heads Cricket Club; and
  - Upgrades for Geelong West Oval, Grinter Reserve in Moolap, Herne Hill Reserve, Osborne Park, Torquay soccer facilities and Thomson Recreational Reserve
- **\$0.4 million** for **upgrading the Barwon Heads** road including a new bridge over the trainline north of Marshall station
- Geelong will receive one of three **new regional parenting centres**



## Key investments in the 2019/ 20 Budget relevant to all Regional Partnership regions

The Barwon region will share in a range of significant state-wide investments including:

- **\$357 million** toward ongoing **regional road maintenance** to ensuring our highways and connecting roads are safe and well maintained
- **\$27 million** to ensure train **reliability and punctuality of services** is maintained and improved
- **\$340 million for 18 additional VLocity trains** to meet increasing demand across the regional network
- **\$136.2 million** for an **additional 500,000 specialist appointments** for rural and regional Victorians and an easy to access registry for General Practitioners to provide information on hospital waiting lists
- **\$0.4 million for Young Farmer Scholarships** to up-skill the next generation of farmers for continued growth and success of the agricultural industry
- **\$5.2 million** to boost Victorian wine exports through a range of activities trade missions, symposiums and international marketing campaigns to increase export capabilities and capabilities of our wine industry
- **\$5.7 million for collaborative Aboriginal cultural heritage management**, ensuring Aboriginal voices are at the heart of government decision making
- **\$3.2 million to make our farms safer** through continued support to the National Farmers Federation program to improve health and safety outcomes on farms
- A commitment to **upgrade to Campsites and 4WD tracks** across regional Victoria using **\$35.1 million** to improve amenity and support regional tourism
- **\$4 million** to continue the good work of the **National Centre for Farmer Health** to support tailored health promotion
- **\$11.2 million for front line services** in regional Victoria for on ground wild-life management services and minimise the impacts of wild dogs on biodiversity, primary producers and community health
- **\$0.5 million for the Country Women's Association** to support its advocacy and policy work in advancing the rights of rural women in Victoria from 2019 to 2022, and to assist with costs associated with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference hosted in Melbourne in 2019
- **\$2.6 million for the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme** to continue the provision of subsidies for rural and regional Victorians who are required to travel long distances for medical care



### **But not all initiatives take new money**

Partnerships have been effective in bringing different areas and levels of Government and others together to address regional issues. The Barwon Regional Partnership has been instrumental in attracting additional resources to the region to support local initiatives including:

- Championing the **Geelong City Deal**
- Advocating to raise the leaving age for **Out of Home Care** from 18 to 21. The Victorian Government has commenced an **\$11.6 million** trial to give young people the option of remaining with a carer until the age of 21

In 2019, as part of the natural evolution of Partnerships, the Barwon Regional Partnership will identify one or two key issues, mirroring the outcomes it is striving to achieve, where it will work with Government and stakeholders to make a substantial difference. It means in 2019, there will not be a large Regional Assembly, but smaller targeted meetings where the Partnership will engage with the community and stakeholders in a more decisive, focused and strategic way.

For more information on the Barwon Regional Partnership, go to [www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/barwon](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/barwon) or follow our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/BarwonRP/](https://www.facebook.com/BarwonRP/) . You can read our May 2019 newsletter [here](#)