

Gippsland Regional Partnership

At a glance

Our story so far

Since 2016, the Gippsland Regional Partnership has been listening to the voices of our community and to stakeholders from across our region.

Through three widely-attended Regional Assemblies and numerous smaller meetings across the region, the Partnership has heard what is important to people in Gippsland and it has taken these voices directly to Government.

Government has listened and, as a result of the Partnership's efforts, a range of projects have been funded.

For example, Federation Training received close to \$60 million in Budget 2018/19, while there was \$115 million for the Wonthaggi Hospital and support for rail upgrades in Gippsland. Each was a Partnership priority for which it, and others, had advocated.

In addition, a Gippsland food and fibre action plan is currently being developed, as is a Gippsland-specific destination management plan.

But the Partnership has achieved much more than simply winning funding.

As well as advocating for our region, the Partnership has also played an important role in bringing together diverse groups, as well as stakeholders from across governments, departments and sectors, to work together to address issues facing our region.

It has led to a focus on local issues and Government policies, and their impact, at the local place-based level.



Supporting Gippsland's visitor economy and tourism is a Partnership priority



Our priorities

Early in 2019, after hearing from hundreds of people from across our community, the Partnership published its first Outcomes Roadmap – a summary of the key, long-term strategic areas of focus for the Partnership moving forward. The Roadmap is a summary of where the Partnership is looking to make a real difference.

The long-term outcomes the Gippsland Regional Partnership is striving to achieve are:

Skills and Education – Gippslanders have increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in education at all levels

Family and Community Wellbeing – Gippslanders are healthy and well and live in safe, stimulating and supportive environments

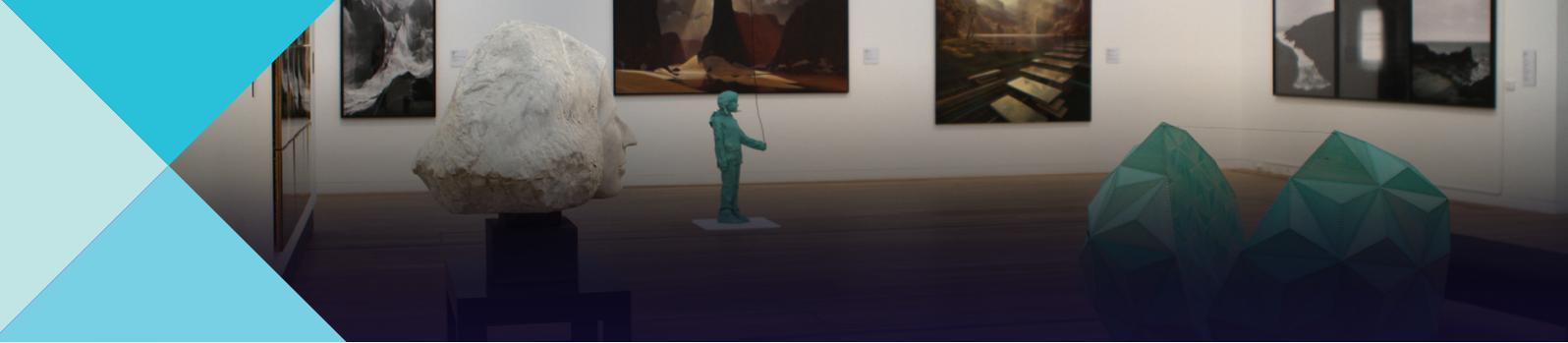
Connectivity – Gippsland's transport network and digital technologies are current and well functioning

New jobs and Industry – Gippsland has a strong economy with diverse local job opportunities

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

Energy and Resources – Gippsland has sustainable, secure and affordable energy and resources and considers new energy technologies

Visitor Economy and Tourism – Gippsland's tourism industry is vibrant, thriving and delivers outstanding visitor experiences



What difference is the Gippsland Regional Partnership making on the ground?

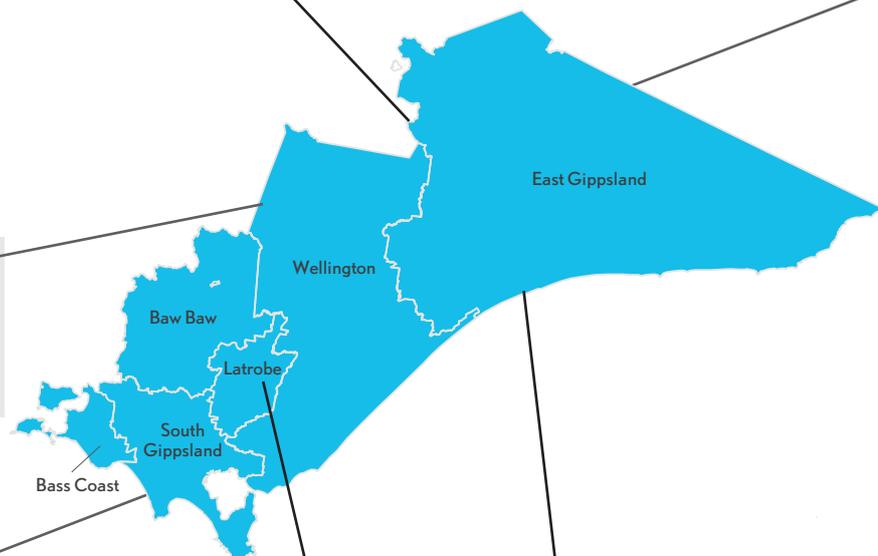
The Gippsland Regional Partnership has been involved in driving projects across our region.

This map shows a small selection of initiatives with which the Partnership is involved.

The Gippsland Destination Management Plan: Being undertaken by Destination Gippsland, this plan will identify priority projects and programs to drive further growth across the Gippsland visitor economy.

Raising aspirations in skills and education: The Partnership is tackling the issue of equity in accessing higher education through funding a research report to understand the challenges and trends across Gippsland. The Partnership has also sponsored a program for young women in Gippsland to expand their knowledge of careers and pathways in STEM related fields.

The future of food and fibre in Gippsland: The Partnership, having received \$700,000 to develop an Action Plan for food and fibre in Budget 2018/ 19, is helping drive this agenda across the region.



The Gippsland Digital Plan: The Partnership has been working with the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) to develop the Gippsland Digital Plan which highlights the region's current gaps in digital infrastructure and where our future demands may lie, bringing to light the areas where our efforts should be focused to bridge the digital divide.

New skills and training facilities: The Partnership welcomed \$60m in funding for the development of the Federation Training TAFE campuses in Sale and Morwell. Expanding and improving educational infrastructure and access were key priorities for which the Partnership advocated.

Improving the mental health and wellbeing of the community: The Partnership has funded a business case to establish a best practice Centre that brings together health and social service providers to solve complex, place-based problems faced by communities in Gippsland.



Sowing seeds for success: the future of Food and Fibre in Gippsland

Food and Fibre in Gippsland received a boost in last year's Victorian Budget with \$700,000 to develop an action plan to grow the sector in Victoria's south-east.

Since then, there's been plenty of work on the ground to make that action plan a reality.

"Food and fibre in Gippsland is a \$7 billion industry and a key engine of the local economy," explains Maree McPherson, Chair of the Gippsland Regional Partnership, who adds that the Gippsland community raised the need for an action plan for the local industry at each of the Partnership's three Regional Assemblies.

With funding from Government secured, the Regional Partnership established a Food and Fibre Working Group, made up of senior professionals from industry, Government, innovation, education and the community, to identify and drive forward regional priorities under this action plan.

Among the first initiatives was the launch earlier this year of Food and Fibre Gippsland, a single leadership entity to advocate for the industry and drive activity in the region. This new body was formed by bringing together Agribusiness Gippsland and the East Gippsland Food Cluster.

The Food and Fibre Working Group also commissioned Food and Fibre Gippsland to prepare a paper that establishes a definitive growth target for the sector in Gippsland.

This discussion paper, "Accelerating Growth in the Gippsland Food and Fibre Industry", authored by KPMG, sets a five per cent a year by 2025 growth target. Also included are six capability platforms that will underpin that growth.

Following the launch of the report in March, a co-designed workshop with key stakeholders from across the region is now being organised for later this year, to further develop the action plan for Gippsland's agriculture future.





Next steps

With clear long-term priorities identified in the Outcomes Roadmap, the Gippsland Regional Partnership is now entering a new phase.

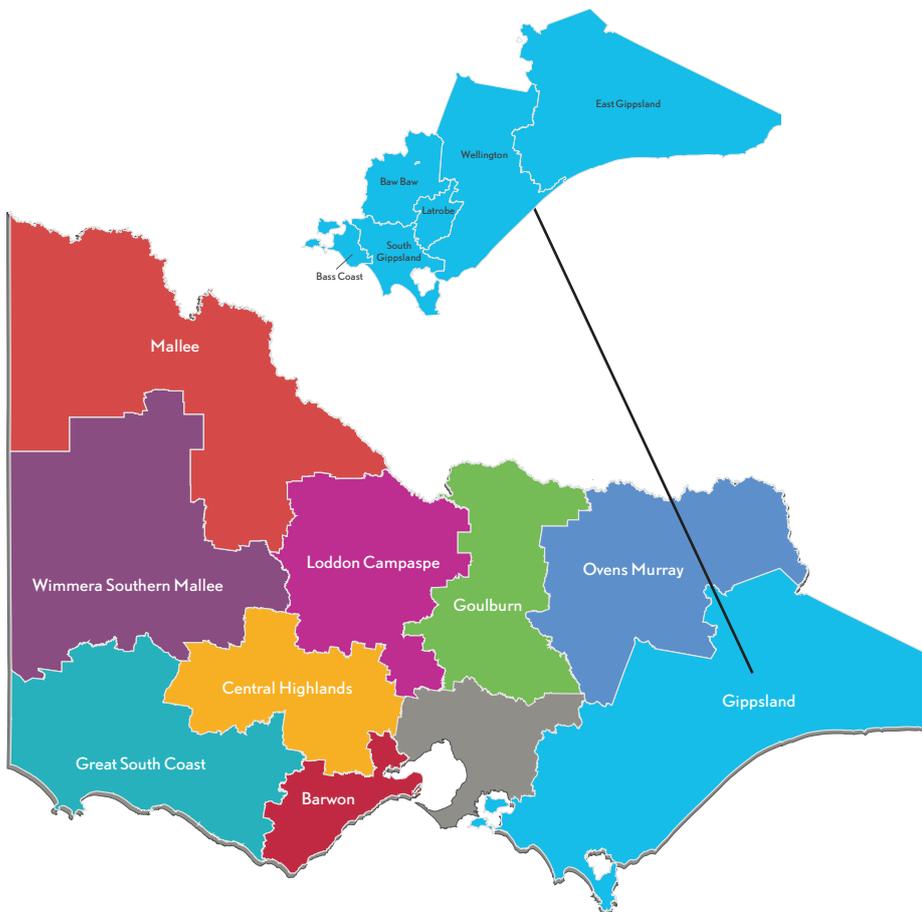
The Partnership will continue much of its existing work but, over the next year, rather than holding a large-scale Regional Assembly as in previous years, the Partnership will undertake more focused, deep-dive engagements with key stakeholders in a small number of priority areas.

These areas will be:

- **Driving Gippsland's Food and Fibre Agenda** and
- **Improving Education and Health Outcomes in Gippsland.**

Each matches with the Partnership's long term priorities.

These engagements will bring together the key players from our region, and elsewhere, to understand the issues and how they affect Gippsland. It will lead to further focusing of effort to enable real change on the ground.



Who we are and how to find us

The Gippsland Regional Partnership is one of nine Regional Partnerships working across the state. Each was established by the Victorian Government in 2016.

The Partnership has been led since its inception by Maree McPherson, a highly experienced professional across not for profit, government and private industry sectors. She currently runs her own coaching, mentoring and facilitation practice and has previously headed up a number of organisations both in Gippsland and state-wide.

Joining her on the Partnership are six other community and business members, as well as the CEOs of each of the Gippsland Local Government Areas (LGAs), a Victorian Government Deputy Secretary and a representative of Regional Development Australia (RDA), ensuring local, state and Commonwealth Government involvement in the Partnership.

You can find more information on the Gippsland Partnership on our webpage, <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/gippsland> and you can follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/GippslandRP/>