

Goulburn Regional Partnership

At a glance

Our story so far

Since 2016, the Goulburn 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 Goulburn 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, the Victorian Government supported the Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project with \$3 million in the 2017/18 Budget and has invested almost \$1 million into the revitalisation of Seymour. There has also been a huge investment in the Shepparton Rail Line to allow modern VLocity trains to operate to and from Shepparton for the first time.

But the Partnership has achieved much more than simply attracting 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 industry, to work together to address issues facing our region.

It has led to a focus on local issues as well as how Government policies impact at the local place-based level.



Revitalising Seymour is a Partnership priority

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS GOULBURN

The outcomes we are striving to achieve

While early economic, agricultural and infrastructure priorities still remain, or are being progressed, the most recent community feedback has placed an emphasis on the wellbeing and social health of the Goulburn region. In response, our Partnership is striving to achieve the following long-term outcomes. The roadmap outlines the challenges we face in achieving these outcomes, the actions we are taking and what success looks for our region.

Population Wellbeing
People of the Goulburn region are fit, healthy and engaged across all ages and abilities, regardless of location.

Education and Employment
People of the Goulburn region have the skills to be lifelong learners and to engage in the local workforce at a level that suits them.

Reducing Disadvantage
People of the Goulburn region enjoy equal opportunity to lead healthy and prosperous lives.

Growth Corridor
Goulburn's urban environments are viable and thriving.

Economy
Goulburn is home to a diversified and thriving economy that provides opportunities for workers of all ages.

Our Outcomes Roadmap

From Melbourne's northern growth corridor to the Murray River, the Goulburn Region is renowned for its fertile soils, mild climate, good water resources and growth opportunities for population and business.

The Goulburn Regional Partnership knows that despite its advantages, the region also faces challenges such as poor health and educational outcomes, critical workforce skills gaps, social isolation, intergenerational disadvantage and sub regional community connectivity.

The outcomes that the Partnership has identified for 2018-19 will:

- Keep our people healthy
- Better understand and then develop a leading regional mental health response
- Address critical workforce skills gaps in the rapidly growing health sector
- Support vulnerable young people
- Continue work on the economic projects already underway
- Address gaps in social infrastructure in the growth corridor

We proudly acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land 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.

Goulburn Regional Partnership – 2018 (current as of 15 May 2019)

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

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 Goulburn Regional Partnership is striving to achieve are:

Population wellbeing – People of the Goulburn region are fit, healthy and engaged across all ages and abilities, regardless of location

Education and Employment – People of the Goulburn region have the skills to be lifelong learners and to engage in the local workforce at a level that suits them

Reducing disadvantage – People of the Goulburn region enjoy equal opportunity to lead healthy and prosperous lives

Growth corridor – Goulburn's urban environments are viable and thriving

Economy – Goulburn is home to a diversified and thriving economy that provides opportunities for workers of all ages



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

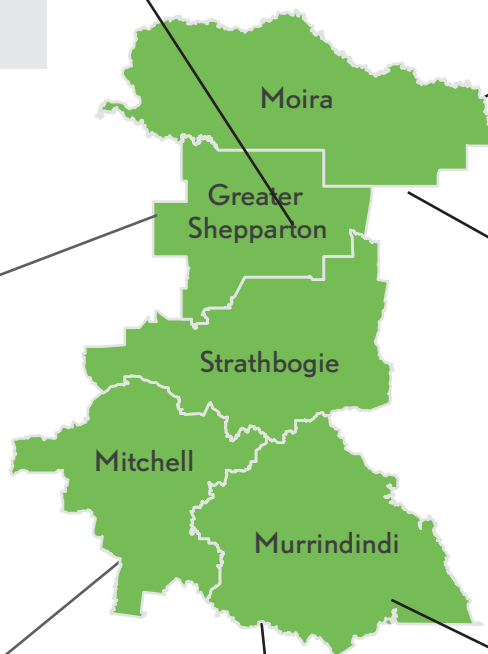
The Goulburn Regional Partnership has been involved in supporting projects across our region.

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

The Greater Shepparton Lighthouse Project: The Partnership successfully advocated for funding for this initiative in Shepparton which supports vulnerable young people and families using a collective impact model. The Partnership will continue to monitor the outcomes of this model and explore opportunities to implement in other areas of need.

The Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Masterplan Project: Launched in June 2019, this project is being supported by the Victorian Government and championed by the Partnership. It seeks to develop a more resilient and adaptive region and is engaging with regional stakeholders to examine the impacts of various current and future challenges for the region. It is exploring opportunities for development and investment that strengthen the region's resilience and build on its competitive advantages.

Rail and road: The Partnership has been advocating for improved public transport connectivity and flexible transport solutions in partnership with the Department of Transport, including engagement with community forums and local government to identify priority needs for Goulburn. It was one of many groups advocating for improvements to the **Shepparton Rail Line and the Shepparton Bypass**, both of which have won financial support from the Government.



Barmah Forest: The Partnership is working, alongside others, to develop the cultural tourism potential of the Barmah Forest and create more pathways for local Aboriginal employment in the natural resource management industry. This was supported by the Victorian Government with \$400,000 in the 2018/19 Budget.

Seymour Revitalisation: The Partnership held its second Regional Assembly in Seymour and has advocated for support to revitalise the town. The Victorian Government has earmarked \$1 million for various initiatives to revitalise Seymour with public space renewal, upgraded facilities and funding for strategic planning for opportunities for investment and improved service delivery.

Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture Project: DELWP Hume undertook this project on behalf of the Partnership. The intention was to find out what climate change information farmers in Goulburn needed and how they were getting this. A wide consultation was undertaken and found that farmers were finding it hard to access reliable information in a timely manner. A climate change kit for Goulburn is now under development which will include a climate change portal with useful information for farmers in one spot.

Activating Lake Eildon: The Partnership, working with Regional Development Victoria and Tourism North East, is involved in identifying opportunities to develop the tourism potential of Lake Eildon. With over 700 licensed houseboats in operation on the lake, the Partnership is exploring how to unlock the potential of this asset.



Photo credit: Neoen Pty Ltd

Goulburn's Renewable Future

The Goulburn and Ovens Murray Regional Partnerships recently joined forces to launch the Hume Region Renewable Energy Roadmap, outlining what a future sustainable renewable energy landscape could look like for the region and identifying some of the area's key renewable opportunities.

At Regional Assemblies over the past few years, both Partnerships heard from their communities that renewable energy and climate change were important issues for the future, with the Goulburn Regional Partnership identifying the importance of renewable energy in supporting its agriculture sector.

The Victorian Government listened and, in the 2018/19 Budget, delivered \$300,000 to develop a renewable energy strategy for the Hume Region.

The Roadmap was developed for the Partnerships by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Hume Region, following consultation with over 1,000 members of the community.

The key opportunities identified in the Roadmap for renewables in the Hume Region are:

- **Willing engaged communities** – The Hume Region has the highest number of community energy groups within a single region in Australia. From Mitchell Community

Energy in Goulburn to Totally Renewable Yackandandah in Ovens Murray, there are currently 13 community energy and environmental sustainability groups working on energy projects and more groups are forming.

- **Distributed energy resources** – Distributed energy resources are those created or stored locally and connected to the local distribution grid, and commercial businesses are already working with community energy groups in the region on distributed energy resources.
- **Pumped hydro energy storage** – The Hume Region has pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) opportunities to meet local, Victorian and Australian needs. Leveraging PHES opportunities will require careful consideration of water availability.
- **Large scale solar energy** – There is already very considerable interest by industry in establishing large scale solar farms in the region. One such farm has already been commissioned at Numurkah.
- **Bioenergy** – Biomass resources suitable for bioenergy are abundant in the region, with agricultural feedstocks in the Goulburn Valley and softwood plantation feedstocks in the North East. There are already three biogas generators operating in Hume.

To view the report in full, go to <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/renewable-energy/victorias-renewable-energy-roadmap/hume-renewable-energy-roadmap>



Next steps

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

The Partnership will continue much of its existing work, including developing a Digital Plan for the region. 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:

- **Youth mental health** and
- **Educational Outcomes across our Region.**

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 the Goulburn region.

It will lead to further focusing of effort to enable real change on the ground.



Who we are and how to find us

The Goulburn 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 David McKenzie. He is a Director of the Opteon Property Group and specialises in the valuation of agricultural assets and water entitlements.

Joining him on the Partnership are eight other community and business members, as well as the CEOs of each of the Goulburn 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 Goulburn Partnership on our webpage, <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/goulburn> and you can follow us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/GoulburnPartnership/>