



## 2022/23 BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Regional Partnerships

Since 2016, the Regional Partnerships have been working to bring the voice of regional and rural communities to the heart of Government. Thousands of locals have engaged with the Partnerships to explain what is important for their regions. This has helped shape the priorities of the Regional Partnerships, and the Victorian Government.

Now in their second term, the Regional Partnerships are already hard at work providing advice to Government to ensure rural and regional communities have every opportunity for a prosperous future.

#### **Budget 2022/23 – Thriving regional communities for a prosperous state:**

The 2022/23 Victorian Government Budget is focused on maintaining the strong momentum the State has built over the last year, putting the health and prosperity of Victorian families at its heart. The Budget invests more than \$5.7 billion in regional Victoria and regional communities, with an emphasis on investments to meet the growing demand for health services. This takes the total State investment in regional Victoria to more than \$36 billion since 2015.

This Budget includes a number of state-wide initiatives to ensure regional communities continue to thrive, driving a prosperous future for Victoria.

These initiatives include \$4.2 billion to support the ongoing pandemic response, with \$1.1 billion for rapid antigen tests to schools, hospitals and people with disability for free. In addition, the Victorian Government is investing \$1.5 billion to enable additional levels of surgical capacity, \$1.3 billion to deliver mental health reforms, and \$1 billion in low-interest loans and government guarantees for social and affordable housing. The Budget also provides \$277 million to deliver reforms to Victoria's senior secondary system to support students in making a transition from school to further education and employment.

The Budget includes \$2.6 billion to ensure regional Victoria is ready to host the Commonwealth Games in 2026. Four regional hubs will be established in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland, creating jobs, housing and modern sports infrastructure to encourage Victorians to get active and attract future major events to every corner of the state. Shepparton will also host sporting and cultural events as part of the Commonwealth Games. The 2026 Commonwealth Games are expected to create more than 600 jobs before the Games, 3,900 jobs during the Games and a further 3,000 jobs after the event – more than 7,500 jobs in total.

The Government is also investing \$30 million to boost the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, \$3.9 million to continue the work of regional leaders including the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner and the Country Women's Association, and \$5 million for a Living Local – Regional Fund to support rural and regional communities to build social cohesion and community connection. A further \$7.5 million has been allocated for the Latrobe Valley Authority to continue to support the Valley and the rest of Gippsland's transition into long-term, sustainable jobs and industries – ensuring the local community benefits most.

## Victorian Budget initiatives that support Regional Partnership outcomes and priorities:

### Health

- More than **\$500 million** to deliver the Barwon Women's and Children's Hospital. (Barwon)
- **\$6.6 million** to continue the Healthy Heart of Victoria Program. (Loddon Campaspe)
- A share in **\$1.1 million** to promote good mental health and wellbeing for young people, including for Youth Live4Life. (Loddon Campaspe)

### Tourism

- **\$3 million** from regional tourism infrastructure funding to support the Mildura Trail of Lights. (Mallee)
- **\$8.5 million** from regional tourism infrastructure funding to improve the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail. (Ovens Murray)
- **\$7.5 million** from regional tourism infrastructure funding to develop the Croajingolong Coastal Wilderness Walk. (Gippsland)

### Transport

- A share in **\$250 million** to provide new VLocity trains to service the Warrnambool and Shepparton lines. (Great South Coast and Goulburn)
- A share in **\$101 million** for regional road upgrades, including infrastructure improvements to the Bass Highway at Kilcunda. (Gippsland)

### Community

#### First Peoples

- **\$5.8 million** to enable joint management of the Barmah National Park in partnership with the Yorta Yorta people. (Goulburn)

## Victorian Budget initiatives that support rural and regional Victoria:

Regions will also share in a range of significant state-wide investments including:

### Health

- **\$698 million** package to expand the **Better at Home** program to boost home-delivered and virtual care capacity.
- **\$300 million** for the **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** for projects at rural and regional health services including operating theatre refurbishments, equipment upgrades and access improvements.
- **\$196 million** to replace and expand the mental health facility at **Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton**, and to purchase land and undertake further planning to deliver additional acute mental health beds in Ballarat and Wangaratta.
- **\$146 million** to build and refurbish **public sector residential aged care facilities including, 36 beds at Camperdown Hospital, 72 beds at Mansfield District Hospital and 38 beds at Orbost Regional Health** and planning to redevelop the Bright and Heywood aged care facilities.
- **\$62 million** for upgrade works across intensive care areas of Victoria's mental health facilities creating dedicated spaces at **University Hospital Geelong, Bendigo Hospital, Latrobe Regional Hospital and Mildura Base Hospital**.
- **\$36 million** to construct an alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation facility, **including a withdrawal facility, in Mildura**.

- **\$25 million** to construct a **10-bed early parenting centre in Shepparton**.
- **\$17 million** to continue palliative care in rural and regional communities.
- **\$9 million** to increase regional women's health services and a further **\$2.2 million** for the establishment of dedicated regional sexual and reproductive health services.
- Replacement of ageing radiation equipment in **Ballarat and Geelong** to deliver better treatment for cancer patients and installing a new radiotherapy linear accelerator in **Traralgon**.
- **\$6.5 million** will deliver a new emergency department mental health and alcohol and other **drugs crisis hub at the Latrobe Regional Hospital** with a further **\$3.5 million** to plan for future hubs in **Ballarat, Bendigo and Shepparton**.

## Education

- **\$67 million** to **upgrade seven schools across regional Victoria** and improve educational outcomes through world-class classrooms and learning facilities:
  - Benalla P 12 College
  - Darley Primary School
  - East Loddon P 12 College
  - Grasmere Primary School
  - Mount Rowan Secondary College
  - Wedderburn College
  - Yinnar Primary School
- **5.2 million for initiatives that support rural and regional schools** to focus on teaching and to give students access to a broader curriculum, including:
  - providing facilities management and occupational health and safety support for clusters of small rural and regional schools
  - establishing a regional blended learning hub to provide students with greater place-based curriculum access through a mix of face-to-face and online learning
  - establishing partnerships between clusters of rural and regional schools and local Aboriginal communities to strengthen diversity and the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and perspectives.

## Economy and Jobs

- **Geelong Arts Centre will share in \$127.4 million** to support recovery after two years of disruption, providing jobs for local creatives, securing a pipeline of cultural experiences, and boosting the visitor economy.
- **\$40 million** for the **new Victorian Industry Investment Fund** to provide grants to support growing businesses and supporting supply chains.
- **\$30 million in regional tourism projects including:**
  - Croajingolong Coastal Wilderness Walk
  - Mildura 'Trail of Lights'
  - Murray to Mountains Rail Trail
  - Wycheproof Wetlands Precinct
  - Central Goldfields Art Gallery – Indigenous Interpretive Garden – Stages 2 & 3
  - Bald Hill Activation – Stage 3 Summit Trail
  - Budj Bim – Development of visitor experiences at Lake Condah and the Tae Rak Traps
  - Kittyhawk Museum Business Case
  - Lorne Sea Baths Wellness Centre.
- **\$12 million** for a research glasshouse complex and commercialisation and incubation hub at the **Horsham Grains Innovation Precinct**.
- **\$2.9 million** to create dedicated touring circuits in regional Victoria, bringing the best Victorian acts to venues on the **Surf Coast, in Gippsland, the Wimmera-Mallee** and more.
- **\$2.3 million** for the second **laneways project in Geelong**, connecting retail and medical precincts to the CBD.

## Transport

- **\$250 million** to deliver **12 new VLocity trains** to support more services on the **Shepparton corridor** and improve reliability for **Warrnambool line** passengers. The new trains will be manufactured in Victoria, supporting local employment and supply chain jobs – and improving passenger experience on the regional network.
- **\$247.6 million** will be invested in Victoria's regional rail network to keep people and goods moving, including **\$181 million** to maintain rail freight lines and funding to accelerate V/Line's modernisation, delivering better services to, from and within regional Victoria.
- **\$31 million** to facilitate **stabling of VLocity trains at Bairnsdale station**, to improve train service reliability on the **Gippsland Line**.
- **\$2.4 million** to install new tactile surfaces **and improve safety and security at Warrnambool station**.
- **\$1.5 million** to improve the customer experience at **Woodend station**, including a new heated waiting area.
- **\$101 million in regional road upgrades**, including intersection upgrades, new overtaking lanes and new roundabouts on key regional roads and highways.

## Community

### First Peoples

- **\$3.9 million** to support the water aspirations of Aboriginal Victorians and develop **leadership opportunities** for Aboriginal Victorians on water sector boards.
- More than **\$1.1 million** will be invested in the **First Peoples Touring and Engagement program**, driven by First Peoples creatives, to bring creative events that celebrate First Peoples culture and creativity to regional destinations.

### Sport

- **\$88 million** to deliver new and upgraded community sport and recreation projects including continued investment in the **Country Football and Netball Program**.

### Environment

- **\$57 million** to implement the **Sustainable Water Strategy** for the Central and Gippsland region, in partnership with Traditional Owners – including water efficiency projects and on ground projects in the Lower Latrobe Wetland.
- **\$52 million** to manage mine affected **groundwater** around the **Central Deborah Gold Mine in Bendigo** including construction of a new treatment facility.
- **\$18 million** to **repair and upgrade piers and jetties** including **the Lakes Entrance Fishing Cooperative South Jetty, Raymond Island Public Jetty and McLoughlins Beach Jetty**.
- **\$17 million** to address **critical erosion and flood risks**, protecting marine and coastal assets and supporting the adaptation and resilience of coastal communities.
- **\$5.3 million** for **wildlife protection**, including koala management programs for overabundant populations, health checks and fertility controls.
- **\$4.5 million** for works at **lighthouses** including, **Cape Otway, Point Hicks and Wilsons Promontory**.
- **\$1.6 million** to explore ways regional Victoria can unlock more benefits from the **desalination plant**, including investigating an expansion of the **Melbourne-Geelong Pipeline**, to help secure drinking water supplies, drought-proof the natural environment and support industry and agriculture.
- **\$1 million** to continue the establishment of the **Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park**, including improved visitor facilities and linkages between along the **San Remo and Inverloch coastlines**.

### Safety

- **\$11 million** over four years for **CFA volunteer driver training** as well as an upgraded emergency vehicle fleet.
- More than **\$16 million** to build **female-friendly changing facilities** at three training campuses and upgrades at 40 CFA stations.

**Please note:** This list is not exhaustive. For further information visit <https://www.budget.vic.gov.au/>