

Great South Coast 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 the Great South Coast and have told the Great South Coast (GSC) 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 GSC 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:

A strong and diverse Great South Coast **economy** with more local jobs and a growing workforce

Accessible, quality **education** and career pathways that give people of all ages an opportunity to realise their potential

A thriving **arts and culture industry**, and a sustainable environment with a celebrated natural beauty

A **healthy, safe and resilient** Great South Coast Community

Roads, transport and infrastructure that drive prosperity, safety and liveability across the Great South Coast

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:

- **\$16.3 million** from the Building Better TAFEs Fund to deliver a **new Library and Learning Hub at South West TAFE in Warrnambool**
- **\$5 million to develop the Budj Bim Master Plan**
- **\$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
- **\$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 Great South Coast region 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
- **\$1.2 million** of funding provided to continue the Regional Presence Project in Warrnambool
- A share of the **\$0.6million** committed to reduce the regulatory burden on our **dairy industry**
- Investments in **Baimbridge College** at Hamilton, **Terang College** and **Mortlake P-12**.

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

The Great South Coast 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
- **\$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
- **\$0.4 million for Young Farmer Scholarships** to up-skill the next generation of farmers for continued growth and success of the agricultural industry



- **\$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 camp sites 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
- **\$7.2 million for Growing Victoria's agriculture industry**, supporting collaboration between industry and Victorian TAFEs and agricultural colleges to deliver the Certificate III in Shearing, and funding for the Agricultural college at Glenormiston to upgrade its facilities
- **\$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 to be 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 Great South Coast Regional Partnership has been instrumental in attracting additional resources to the region to support local initiatives including:

- Collaborating with the Department of Education and Training on the development of the **Great South Coast Regional Skills Profile**
- Advocating for the roll out of the **Baby Makes Three program**, a key prevention activity for the early years and post-natal setting being supported by the Office for Women and Carrington Health
- Joining with State and local government to advocate for the Commonwealth to invest funding in the **Maroona Rail Line (Ararat to Portland) upgrade** to unlock export opportunities and economic growth

In 2019, as part of the natural evolution of Partnerships, the GSC 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 Great South Coast Regional Partnership, go to <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/great-south-coast> or follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/GSCRCP/> You can read our May 2019 newsletter [here](#).