

## FACT SHEET

### Mallee Regional Partnership

**Listening - Following consultation with our communities, we have identified the following priorities:**

**Access to services** – ensure needs of rural communities addressed in emerging policies, address cross border issues, provide funding for projects enhancing community vitality and viability, support place-based models;

**Connectivity** – focus on rail infrastructure to improve service frequency, understand demand for improved public and community transport services;

**Economy** – foster the right conditions for new high value job creation including through research, development and training in key sectors, encourage business growth and diversification;

**Liveability** – develop tourism and regional “brand identity”, improve access to arts and cultural activities, explore region’s potential to lead in renewable energy development, invest in infrastructure for healthy active lifestyles;

**Social Fabric** – improve regional and rural childcare and health services, provide services tailored to meet the needs of Aboriginal communities, sustaining small towns and communities.

**And delivering - Budget 2018/19 outcomes:**

**Partnership priorities supported in the Victorian Government Budget include:**

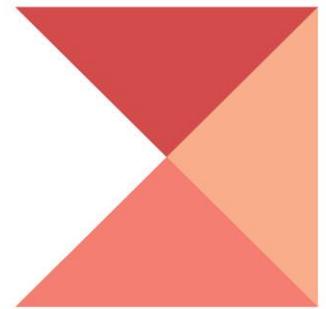
- **\$1.7 million** to establish a **Mallee Regional Innovation Centre** to drive research, innovation and development in key sectors of renewables, engineering, agriculture, water management and sustainability
- **\$0.8 million** to establish a **Cross Border Commission** to help streamline regulatory and licencing requirements, enable further economic growth and reduce barriers to accessing services in Victoria’s border communities
- **\$0.6 million** to establish **Food Next Door**, a demonstration farm that will enable newly arrived migrants to collaborate in growing diverse crops using regenerative farming practices
- **\$0.5 million** to further develop the **Murray River Adventure Trail**, a multi-sport adventure trail extending along the length of the Murray River
- **\$0.3 million** to develop a **Silo Art Trail** across the Mallee through extending and rebranding existing silo-based arts installations.



## Key investments in the 2018/19 Budget relevant to all Regional Partnership regions

The Mallee will share in a range of significant state-wide investments, including:

- More than **\$941 million** for **better regional roads** across the state, including:
  - \$333 million for regional road restoration
  - \$261 million for road upgrades in regional Victoria
  - \$229 million for Continuing Towards Zero, providing safety upgrades to our regional road network
  - \$100 million for grants to rural councils to undertake local road remediation projects
  - \$17.4 million to establish Regional Roads Victoria
- **\$303.8 million** to create over **30,000 additional training places**
- **\$188.7 million** for **regional rail infrastructure and new regional trains**
- **\$180.8 million** to **build or upgrade 60 regional schools**
- **\$171.9 million** for **TAFE free** for priority courses from 1 January 2019. Priority courses include those related to construction, the NDIS, agriculture, infrastructure and specific regional priorities
- **\$70.6 million** for the **health of our parks** and to grow their economic benefits for regional Victorians
- **\$60 million** to extend the **Community Sport Infrastructure Fund** to improve access and participation in community sports
- **\$51.1 million** to grow **Victoria's visitor economy** through funding for international, interstate and intrastate marketing campaigns and expansion of the Regional Events Fund and Major Events Fund
- **\$50 million** for a boost to the **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** to enable rural and regional health services to maintain assets and respond to population changes and the changing health needs of local communities
- **\$33.9 million** to **build, expand and improve early years infrastructure** across Victoria
- **\$26.2 million** for **regional rail sustainability** to enable V/Line to retain service levels and standards in connecting regional Victoria
- **\$25 million** for continuation of the **Community Crime Prevention Program** to fund local crime prevention initiatives, develop positive promotion of local communities and promote positive results of local crime prevention projects
- **\$22.7 million** for **pedestrian and cycling paths** across Victoria
- **\$22.2 million** for **additional regional bus services** and improvements to the regional traveller journey experience
- **\$20 million** for **rural council transformation**, a grants program to help rural councils across Victoria improve their financial viability
- **\$16.1 million** to grow **Victoria's agricultural exports, farms and tourism**
- **\$11 million** for the **Victorian Mobile Project Round 4**, building on the Government's existing commitment to remove mobile black spots in regional Victoria
- **\$3 million** for **recontracting of regional bus services**.

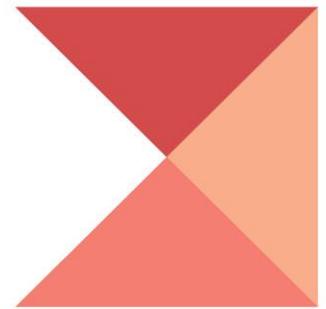


### Other significant 2018/19 Budget investments in the Mallee region

- **\$19.1 million** to upgrade the **Calder Highway between Bendigo and Mildura**
- **\$1.8 million** for **Mildura West Primary School** to refurbish and modernise classrooms and facilities
- **\$0.8 million** for **Cardross Primary School** to refurbish classrooms and facilities
- **\$0.4 million** for **Kerang Primary School** to upgrade and modernise facilities
- **Funding to maintain the Sea Lake-Swan Hill Road over Murray River at Swan Hill.**

### New initiatives in 2018/19 to empower local communities

- **Pick My Project** is a **\$30 million** initiative that will enable local residents to nominate and decide on funding priorities in their region. Projects between \$20,000 and \$200,000 will be eligible, with funding spread between the nine Regional Partnership Regions and six Metropolitan Partnership Regions.
- **My Victoria** will provide Victorian communities and businesses with unprecedented access to the information they need to facilitate economic growth and create new jobs for Victorians. My Victoria will display Government infrastructure combined with location intelligence such as demographics and market analysis in a map-based format. The government has created My Victoria to make information more accessible, consumable and relevant for all Victorians.



## Our achievements over the past two years

The Mallee Regional Partnership is about transforming the way the region's diverse communities work with governments, and together, to make our vision for the region a reality.

The Partnership has been effective over the past two years in: bringing different levels of government together, getting people talking, finding solutions together and addressing issues that matter to our communities. Our advocacy has contributed to a number of outcomes, including:

- A business case developed to establish a **Cross Border Commissioner's Office for Victoria**;
- Work underway to develop an integrated **community hub in Charlton's recreation precinct**, following a \$1.1 million investment;
- \$2.3 million for the **Robinvale Community Hub** to support a shared community library service;
- Work underway to **redevelop sports facilities at Donald**, following a \$1.2 million investment;
- **Digital planning** for Mallee underway. A priority for all Partnerships in 2016, the Government responded by investing \$45 million in regional digital connectivity. The Partnership has been working with Government, and the community, to develop a digital plan tailored to our region's needs;
- The Partnership supported the first regional skills taskforce resulting in the **Victorian Skills Commissioner's report "Regional Skills Demand for the Mallee"**;
- \$2.3 million to support **tourism infrastructure at Lake Tyrell**;
- \$1 million for the next stage **Riverfront Development at Swan Hill**; this funding will be used in line with the recently completed Swan Hill Commercial Development Strategy and Implementation Business Case.

For more information on the Mallee Regional Partnership, go to <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/mallee>