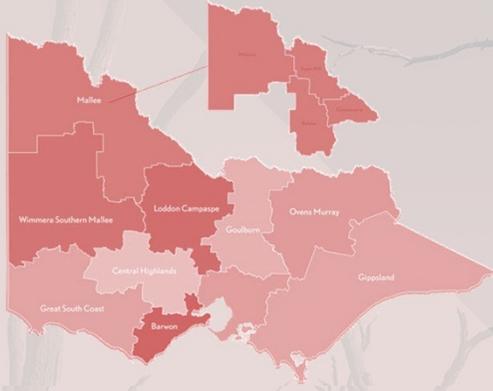


# REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MALLEE



Bordered by the Murray River in the north and South Australia in the west, our region includes the outback region of far north-west Victoria.

The Mallee is a culturally diverse area, with a strong indigenous heritage and large Aboriginal population, as well as a growing number of new migrants and humanitarian visa holders.

The Murray River, which runs along the northern border of the region, provides access to a substantial irrigation water supply. It also lures tourists and people seeking a lifestyle change.

Irrigated agriculture and broadacre cropping drive the Mallee's economy, with the areas surrounding Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill providing Victoria's most productive horticultural land.

Our region includes:

- Four municipalities - Buloke Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Mildura Rural City, Swan Hill Rural City
- A Gross Regional Product of \$6 billion.
- A population of 93,000.
- 15.6% of jobs in the agricultural, forestry and fishing industry

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.

The **outcomes** we are striving to achieve:

Our region is striving to achieve the following long term economic and social outcomes for the individuals, families and communities who live in and visit our region. The roadmap overleaf outlines the challenges we face in achieving these outcomes, the actions we are taking and what success looks like for our region.



## Our Outcomes Roadmap



Food & Fibre



Economic Diversification



Education, Skills & Workforce



Connectivity



A Resilient Mallee



Health & Wellbeing



Visitor Economy

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

	<i>What success looks like for Mallee</i>	<i>Some key challenges we are facing</i>	<i>How our partnership is responding</i>	 <i>The actions and key projects we will focus on</i>
 <p><b>Food &amp; Fibre</b></p>	<p><i>Increased growth and diversification in the agriculture and food production sectors for a resilient future.</i></p>	<p>Increasing competition in global markets. Introduction of tariffs on certain agricultural products. Climate variability. Water security.</p>	<p>Activate opportunities to improve supply chains and strengthen R&amp;D capability. Promote innovation and value add. Advocate for market access opportunities. Support agricultural research, innovation and extension activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for opportunities identified in the Mallee Agri-Food Opportunities and Gap Analysis that support sustainability and economic growth.</li> <li>Support innovative and sustainable agricultural system activities that leave an improved social and environmental legacy.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Economic Diversification</b></p>	<p><i>To build a strong and diverse economy with a focus on renewable energy, emerging sectors and value adding.</i></p>	<p>Diversity provides economic resilience. With changing climatic conditions and increasing competition, the Mallee's agriculture reliant economy needs to adapt and diversify. Connectivity inadequacies (transportation and IT). Grid capacity limitations. State borders complicate regulatory frameworks and good infrastructure planning.</p>	<p>Facilitating growth of renewable energy industries. Development of green hydrogen economy. Capitalising on rare earth and mineral deposit mining. Nurturing circular economy investment. Advocating for a Regional Deal with cross border economic border zones.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Mallee region in becoming a leader in renewable energy production including hydrogen</li> <li>Support activities that promote cross border economic zone opportunities.</li> <li>Support the attraction of 'circular economy' investment opportunities.</li> <li>Support development of mineral sands and rare earth mining projects.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Education, Skills &amp; Workforce</b></p>	<p><i>A skilled workforce that meets the region's current and future needs of industry.</i></p>	<p>There is relatively low educational attainment level. Education offerings in our region do not always match our industry needs. Lack of workforce preparedness. Upskilling. There are identified future inefficiencies in the labour market as the demand for workers increases. Attracting a skilled workforce requires access to Victoria's migrant communities.</p>	<p>Ensure our local education and training offerings are positioned to meet future workplace needs. Establish clear educational pathways to regional job opportunities. Foster professional career pathways in emerging industries. Encourage skilled worker migration. Support opportunities that grow future leaders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the recommendations of the Mallee Regional Skills Demand Profile Pulse Check.</li> <li>Advocate for a Grow Your Own Mallee Workforce through the delivery of regional focused employability skills.</li> <li>Identify effective mechanisms to attract skilled workers to the Mallee.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Connectivity</b></p>	<p><i>Connected communities with equitable access to services across the region.</i></p>	<p>High transport costs. Investment and long-term planning is needed for the region's freight network to transport goods to consumer markets. Community transportation within the region is limited. Poor digital access continues to be a barrier to innovation and technology adoption.</p>	<p>Provision of a coordinated and equitable investment into the external and internal transportation network (road, rail and air) to ensure efficient, productive and profitable flow of people, goods and services. Provide fit-for-purpose digital connectivity to allow implementation of new technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for Mallee Freight Infrastructure investment to support the region's increased economic productivity.</li> <li>Advocate for a schedule of works and a timetable for works required for the Swan Hill-Bendigo passenger rail line upgrade.</li> <li>Support local community transport connection projects to and within the region's smaller towns.</li> <li>Advocate for improved digital connectivity</li> <li>Advocate for a permanent petrol outlet at Murrayville</li> </ul>
 <p><b>A Resilient Mallee</b></p>	<p><i>Vibrant, liveable and resilient Mallee cities, townships and settlements.</i></p>	<p>The Mallee's population is largely aging, stagnant and in some cases declining. Sufficient housing and suitable accommodation as well as aging infrastructure are barriers to future growth. Small communities rely on volunteering efforts to provide services.</p>	<p>Promoting our region as an attractive place to live and work. Seeking innovative solutions to providing services in remote areas. Seeking solutions to social, worker and executive housing shortfalls. Advocating for stronger support in social enterprise programs. Recognition of the power of our resourceful communities, who extract maximum value of projects supported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support priorities identified within the region's 2021-25 Council Plans.</li> <li>Support the revitalisation of retail shopping precincts.</li> <li>Support the recommendations of the Loddon Mallee Housing Strategy.</li> <li>Advocate for social / disability enterprise opportunities.</li> <li>Support activities that assist in the revitalisation and liveability of our small towns.</li> <li>Advocate for change to Child Care models that enable small communities to have a viable and sustainable quality childcare.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Health &amp; Wellbeing</b></p>	<p><i>Building a strong, healthy and connected region with equitable access to resources which are responsive, inclusive and meet the unique needs of individuals and families.</i></p>	<p>The Mallee has the highest level of disadvantage of all Regions, along with the highest rates of family violence, health and wellbeing issues, delayed medical attention and disability. The provision of services in small rural towns is expensive and at times cost prohibitive. Social connectivity is constrained by geographic distance and socio-economic factors.</p>	<p>Working with health and welfare services to provide a place-based approach where targeted support to specific circumstances can be implemented. Exploring new ways to deliver health and welfare services where service provision is challenging. Building stronger partnerships and increased attention on prevention of health problems. Implementation of services that are culturally appropriate and self-determined.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support activities that improve the Mallee place-based initiatives which address entrenched disadvantage.</li> <li>Support recommendations of the Healthy Mallee Investigation Report.</li> <li>Support projects that support and improve the wellbeing of our aboriginal people.</li> <li>Advocate for health and community infrastructure projects in the Mallee.</li> <li>Maximise opportunities arising from the Mental Health Royal Commission recommendations.</li> <li>Support opportunities to enhance Aged Care for the Future.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Visitor Economy</b></p>	<p><i>A vibrant, growing visitor economy inclusive of the natural and built environments, the arts and the regions cultural heritage.</i></p>	<p>Visitation has traditionally centred around the Murray River but there are many more nature-based tourism attractions as well as the abundant Aboriginal culture and pioneer heritage. The region's iconic food industry can also play an important role in agritourism and artisanal experiences.</p>	<p>Support the diversification of the region's economic streams by strengthening our tourism offerings. Advocate for investment in unique natural and cultural tourism assets that encourage longer term visitation. Promoting our tourism brand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support tourism product development leveraging the connection of the region to local indigenous groups, natural assets and stories.</li> <li>Support the development for future stages of the Murray River Adventure Trail.</li> <li>Support outcomes of the LGA's RV strategies.</li> </ul>