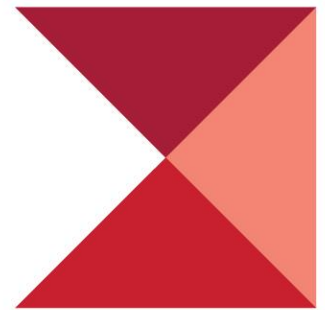


2021/22 BUDGET FACT SHEET

Barwon Regional Partnership



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

Now in its second term, the Barwon Regional Partnership is already hard at work providing its advice to Government to ensure Barwon's rural and regional communities have every opportunity for a strong recovery and a prosperous future.

The outcomes the Partnership is striving for:

Transport Connectivity - An integrated, accessible and progressive transport network.

Liveability - vibrant, liveable cities and towns.

Climate Change - Protected environments and prepared, resilient communities.

Business and Innovation - A flourishing culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and growth.

Equity and Wellbeing – Supported, fair and nurturing Barwon communities.

Education – Strong education futures for our young people.

Tourism – A thriving and sustainable Barwon tourism economy.

Budget 2021/22 - Creating Jobs, Caring for Victorians:

The 2021/22 Victorian Government Budget is focused on building a long-term plan that truly helps Victorians recover, with an almost \$3.7 billion investment in rural and regional Victoria, taking the Government's total investment in regional Victoria to \$26 billion since 2015.

Through the 2021-22 Budget, the Government has renewed its commitment to Regional Partnerships, including \$5.1 million for the Regional Partnerships Development Fund.

Regional Partnerships and their communities have raised issues such as housing and skills shortages, early childhood and mental health as critical issues for the Government to address. This Budget includes a number of state-wide initiatives focused on boosting key regional industries, creating jobs and caring for Victorians.

Across the state these initiatives include \$3.8 billion to build Victoria's new mental health system; a \$383 million investment in skills, training and higher education; and \$1.2 billion to support children and families and provide more child protection workers.

The Government is also investing \$2 million in the successful Community Leadership program and \$3 million in the Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW) program – helping create jobs for people who experience barriers to employment while investing in local leadership to support recovery.

Victorian Budget initiatives that support the Barwon region:

- **\$8.5 million** towards the **Northern Aquatic and Community Hub**.
- Funding to deliver a **new community hospital for Torquay** as part of an overall **\$556 million** investment in community hospitals across Victoria.
- A share in **\$94 million** to upgrade **Aireys Inlet Primary School**.
- A share in **\$44 million** to further plan, upgrade and maintain our regional roads. In the Barwon region this includes:
 - Planning for corridor improvements to the Surf Coast Highway, and the Bellarine Link Stage 1 at Geelong.
 - Improvements to enhance traffic flows at Barwon Heads.
- A share in **\$20 million** to support Geelong Tech School.
- Geelong will be home to one of seven regional learning centres for the **\$148 million** Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership.
- **\$20 million** to build a dedicated children's emergency department at the University Hospital Geelong.
- A share in **\$78 million** to expand the network of specialist family violence courts, including a location in Geelong.
- A share of **\$38 million** to build and open new residential Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) rehabilitation beds, including new services in Corio.
- A share in **\$28 million** to redevelop Life Saving Victoria's Point Lonsdale beach base.
- Funding of **\$5 million** will also deliver upgrades to improve boating safety, including at Apollo Bay.
- Funding to **enhance the visitor experience** and keep **Geelong Arts Centre's** programming active during the final stage of its redevelopment project.

Victorian Budget initiatives that support all regions:

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

- **\$7.1 billion** to continue building a world-class healthcare system, including **\$556 million** to build and expand 10 community hospitals.
- **\$3.8 billion** to build Victoria's new mental health system.
- **\$252 million** to provide housing support, including targeted initiatives to address homelessness.
- **\$94 million** in upgrades to 17 regional schools
- **\$716 million** for school programs and support for our teaching workforce, including **\$148 million** to establish the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, dedicated to the professional learning and development of Victorian teachers.
- **\$167 million** to continue the roll out of universal three-year-old kindergarten, covering the whole state in 2022.
- **\$209 million** to further support the TAFE and training sector.
- **\$86 million** to establish the Victorian Skills Authority to champion and strengthen the vocational education and training sector.
- **\$218 million** for mental health support in schools.

- **\$1.2 billion** to support children and families, including hundreds of new child protection workers and more help for families in need.
- **\$354 million** to continue to address family violence.
- **\$788 million** to reduce the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment, including:
 - **\$272 million** to upgrade the vital communication technologies our emergency services need to keep Victorians safe in an emergency, including funding for Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to upgrade their radios.
 - **\$384 million** to continue the Reducing Bushfire Risk program and Safer Together strategy, reducing the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment.
- **\$623 million** for community infrastructure that supports the strength of our neighbourhoods and communities, including **\$55 million** to deliver local sports infrastructure upgrades.
- **\$250 million** to protect and preserve our natural environment, including support for volunteers and local community organisations to help conserve our native species and their habitats.
- **\$160 million** to support Victoria's tourism sector to drive visitation and employment.
- **\$8.9 million** for Visitor Economy Partnerships to support local ideas and initiatives to bring more visitors to Regional Victoria.
- **\$1.7 million** for Business Events Victoria to attract more business events to regional Victoria, while supporting local jobs.
- **\$44 million** to plan, upgrade and maintain rural and regional roads.
- **\$613 million** to support the reliability of V/Line train services, including maintenance across the regional rail network.
- **\$3.1 million** for operating and maintenance works on regional public transport assets.
- **\$20 million** to deliver on the Victorian Government's commitment to position Victoria as a leader in low-emissions agriculture, including accelerating research in emissions reducing technologies.
- **\$1.4 million** to continue the work of the Rural Women's Network to support women who are finding new and innovative ways to grow and improve their communities.
- **\$5.8 million** for the Rural Financial Counselling Service, recognising the key role the service has played in assisting farmers to recover from the impacts of drought, bushfires and the pandemic.

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