

FACT SHEET

Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership



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

Invest in early years – support Wimmera Southern Mallee children aged 0 - 6 to flourish;

Regional capability development – ensure local government can operate sustainably;

Diversified economy – activate prosperity through economic diversification, with a focus on agriculture and tourism;

Enabling infrastructure: digital connectivity – increase access to high quality mobile and internet connectivity;

Integrated regional planning – facilitate integrated and publicly available regional planning across the Wimmera Southern Mallee region;

Regional service delivery – enable co-ordinated regional service delivery;

Enabling infrastructure: roads and public transport – increase connectivity and prosperity through improved transport infrastructure including roads and public transport.

And delivering - Budget 2018/19 outcomes:

Partnership priorities supported in the Victorian Government Budget include:

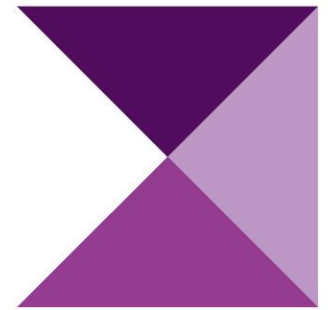
- **More than \$941 million for better regional roads across the state, including:**
 - \$333 million for regional road restoration
 - \$261 million for road upgrades in regional Victoria
 - \$229 million for Continuing Towards Zero, providing safety upgrades to our regional road network
 - \$100 million for grants to rural councils to undertake local road remediation projects
 - \$17.4 million to establish Regional Roads Victoria
- **\$1.3 million** for five additional **family violence crisis properties** across the region
- **\$20 million** for **rural council transformation**, a grants program to help rural councils across Victoria improve their financial viability
- **A share of \$11 million** for the **Victorian Mobile Project Round 4**, building on the Government's existing commitment to remove mobile black spots in regional Victoria
- **\$0.5 million** for priority projects identified in the 10-year strategy for **cycling infrastructure** across the Grampians region
- A share of **\$33.9 million** to **build, expand and improve early years infrastructure** across Victoria



Key investments in the 2018/19 Budget relevant to all Regional Partnership regions, include:

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

- **\$303.8 million** to create over **30,000 additional training places**
- **\$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
- **\$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 project
- **\$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
- **\$16.1 million** to grow **Victoria's agricultural exports, farms and tourism**
- **\$3 million** for **recontracting of regional bus services.**

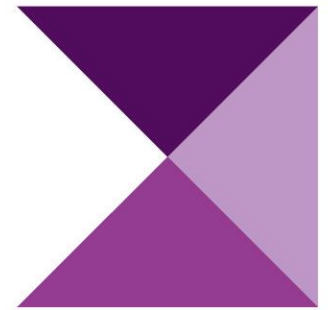


Other significant 2018/19 Budget investments in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region:

- **\$4 million** for **Stawell Secondary College** to construct the first stage of the school's masterplan
- **\$3.7 million** in **school readiness funding** for all funded kindergartens in Wimmera South West
- **\$2.3 million** for **Kaniva College** to upgrade and modernise facilities
- **\$0.6 million** for **Dimboola Memorial Secondary** to upgrade and modernise facilities
- Funding for **Harrow Recreation Reserve** to upgrade the change rooms
- Funding to revitalise **North Park Sporting Complex** in Stawell.

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 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership is about transforming the way the region's 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, addressing issues that matter to our communities. Our advocacy has contributed to a number of outcomes, including:

- Working with the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Partnership is leading **trials of innovative ways of delivering early years services in rural and regional areas**;
- Work currently underway to develop a business case for a **Networked Grains Centre of Excellence** in Horsham;
- Work underway to develop a **tourism plan** to boost visitors and diversify the Wimmera Southern Mallee economy, following \$500,000 funding;
- The Partnership, working with the agriculture sector, has developed a **business case for AgTide**, an initiative to provide better adoption and uptake of agricultural technologies to the Grains industry;
- **Digital planning** for Wimmera Southern 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; while **enhanced broadband is on its way for Horsham**;
- Transport for Victoria and VicRoads are developing a new 30-year **Western Highway Corridor Strategy**, to consider future highway improvements.

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