

BUDGET 2019/ 20 FACT SHEET

Gippsland 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 Gippsland and have told the Gippsland 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 Gippsland 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:

Skills and Education – Gippslanders have increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in education at all levels

Family and Community Wellbeing – Gippslanders are healthy and well and live in safe, stimulating and supportive environments

Connectivity – Gippsland’s transport network and digital technologies are current and well-functioning

New jobs and Industry – Gippsland has a strong economy with diverse local job opportunities

Food and Fibre – Gippsland’s food and fibre sector is a global leader in production, innovation and technology. The sector is open for new investment

Energy and Resources – Gippsland has sustainable, secure and affordable energy and resources and considers new energy technologies

Visitor Economy and Tourism – Gippsland’s tourism industry is vibrant, thriving and delivers outstanding visitor experiences

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:

- **\$7 million** for the redevelopment and expansion of the **Latrobe Regional Hospital**
- A commitment to the provision of **free public wi-fi in Latrobe Valley** in areas where there are key community facilities and tourist attractions
- **\$105.5 million** to boost **camping in Victoria's great outdoors**, including
 - A new coastal park on the Bass Coast
 - Funding to plan a Sea to Summit hiking trail and associated park infrastructure upgrades in East Gippsland
- Expansion of **free TAFE courses** to include early childhood education
- Funding for planning for school upgrades at **Bairnsdale Secondary College and Cowes Primary School**
- A brand-new **Junior Secondary School in Bass Coast** and school upgrades at **Churchill Primary and Traralgon (Kosciuszko Street) Primary**.
- **South Gippsland** will be one of the first six rural and regional local government areas to receive the roll out of **universal 3-year-old kinder**
- **\$1.5 million** to develop a new on-water café on Bullock Island in partnership with the Lakes Entrance **Fisherman's Cooperative Society**
- **\$1.4 million** for the new **Hope Restart facility** in Gippsland

Other significant 2019/20 Budget investments in the Gippsland region include:

- **Gippsland will share in funding for regional development priorities across the state, including:**
 - **\$30 million** to deliver up to 2,000 **new car parking spaces** across regional Victoria including 800 new spaces in Traralgon and Morwell
- **\$1 million** to upgrade the **Gippsland Plains Rail Trail**
- **\$1 million** for **Men's Shed upgrades** in eastern Victoria
- **\$11.4 million** to establish an urgent care centre on **Phillip Island**
- **\$1.2 million** for **supporting young people in rural Victoria** through continued support of the Regional Presence Project, which employs youth workers across regional Victoria including Morwell
- Through the **Local Sports Grants**, the government has committed **\$175 million** to develop more than 65 community sports infrastructure projects across the State including:
 - Upgrade of the **Traralgon Soccer Club**
 - Upgrade of the **Traralgon Tennis Club**
- Establishing a new basketball hub in Traralgon to develop next generation sporting.
- **\$12.6 million** in support for drought-affected farmers in Wellington and East-Gippsland Shires.
- Upgrade to boat ramps in **Rhyll and Cowes Jetty**



- Upgrade to the **CFA station in Phillip Island**
- Funding to better respond and meet the needs of victim survivors of family violence in emergency accommodation in Gippsland.

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

Gippsland 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
- **\$5.7 million for collaborative Aboriginal cultural heritage management**, ensuring Aboriginal voices are at the heart of government decision making
- **\$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
- **\$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 Gippsland Regional Partnership has been instrumental in attracting additional resources to the region to support local initiatives over the past year including:

- Working with the Victorian Government on the development of the **Gippsland Digital Plan**, currently being progressed through the Connecting Regional Communities Program. The plan identifies infrastructure, supply and demand of services, unmet digital needs and potential solutions, as well as **priority digital projects for Gippsland**
- Advocating for **improved public transport connectivity** and **flexible transport solutions** in partnership with the Department of Transport, including engagement with community forums and local government to identify priority needs for Gippsland
- **Partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)** to develop a workforce strategy for Gippsland's health and community services, including skills development for Aboriginal communities
- Supporting the **establishment new residential rehabilitation facilities** in Gippsland, resulting in a **30-bed facility** to be located in Bairnsdale and a **20-bed youth facility** to be located in Latrobe.
- Championing **improved mentoring and career counselling** services in secondary schools. From 2019 students will begin career education sooner, with a new online platform, training for more than 400 teachers, and a program of industry immersion experience
- **Bringing together** the Department of Education and Training, DHHS, local industry employers and other key stakeholders to build on and improve the services being delivered by the **Yarram Community Skills Centre**

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