

BUDGET 2019/ 20 FACT SHEET



Goulburn 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 Goulburn and have told the Goulburn 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 Goulburn 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:

Population wellbeing - People of the Goulburn region are fit, healthy and engaged across all ages and abilities, regardless of location

Education and Employment - People of the Goulburn region have the skills to be lifelong learners and to engage in the local workforce at a level that suits them

Reducing disadvantage - People of the Goulburn region enjoy equal opportunity to lead healthy and prosperous lives

Growth corridor - Goulburn's urban environments are viable and thriving

Economy – Goulburn is home to a diversified and thriving economy that provides opportunities for workers of all ages

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.

Stamp duty on commercial and industrial property in regional Victoria will also be **cut by 50 per cent by 1 July 2023**.



Victorian Budget initiatives that support Partnership priority outcomes include:

- **\$2.54 million** from the Building Better TAFEs Fund for a **Health and Community Services Training facility at GOTAFE Seymour**
- **\$173 million** for a statewide mental health package including **\$13.6 million for the Royal Commission into Mental Health**

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

- **\$1.8 million** to upgrade and rebuild the multi-purpose facilities at the Alexandra Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve
- A share of the **\$100 million** Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to commence planning for Stage 2 of the **Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment**
- **Strathbogie** will be one of the first six rural and regional local government areas to receive the roll out of **universal 3-year-old kinder**

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

Goulburn 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 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
- **\$100,000** for Men's Shed upgrades in eastern Victoria

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 Goulburn Regional Partnership has been instrumental in attracting additional resources to the region to support local initiatives including:

- 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 Goulburn
- 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

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