



FACT SHEET

Ovens Murray Regional Partnership

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

Education and Skills – improve access to lifelong learning opportunities and create innovative learning pathways that support skills development;

Transport – improve transport connectivity so it becomes an effective enabler for the region’s communities, industries and service providers, particular focus on passenger rail on North East line;

Digital innovation and inclusion – become a “smart region” that connects people, attracts talent, encourages innovation and creates jobs and growth for the 21st century;

Economic growth – create a prosperous and sustainable regional economy by growing key economic sectors: agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and transport, distribution and logistics;

Climate change and renewable energy – support climate change adaptation, increase the region’s focus on renewable energy, support innovative community based energy initiatives, better protect the environment;

Local amenity and infrastructure – improve liveability, prosperity and resilience of communities, provide better amenities for residents and visitors, invest in infrastructure that supports the development of the regional economy;

Health and wellbeing – strengthen community health and wellbeing, particularly for disadvantaged communities and vulnerable families, reduce the impact of family violence through access to integrated mental health service and resilience building programs.

And delivering - Budget 2018/19 outcomes:

Partnership priorities supported in the Victorian Government Budget include:

- **\$2 million** to progress the **Falls to Hotham Iconic Trail** project
- **\$0.3 million** to complete the **Wodonga business innovation cluster** feasibility study
- **\$0.3 million** to develop a business case for the **Wangaratta Digital Hub**, a joint project involving GOTAFE, Galen College and La Trobe University to establish state-of-the-art IT facilities for education providers to enhance local learning.
- **\$50 million** for a boost to the **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** to enable rural and regional health services across Victoria maintain assets and respond to population changes and the changing health needs of local communities
- 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



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

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

- 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
- **\$303.8 million** to create over **30,000 additional training places**
- **\$188.7 million** for **regional rail infrastructure and new regional trains**
- **\$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
- **\$33.9 million** to **build, expand and improve early years infrastructure** across Victoria
- **\$26.2 million** for **regional rail sustainability** to enable V/Line to retain service levels and standards in connecting regional Victoria
- **\$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 projects
- **\$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
- **\$20 million** for **rural council transformation**, a grants program to help rural councils across Victoria improve their financial viability
- **\$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 Ovens Murray region

- **\$7.8 million** to upgrade **Kiewa Valley Highway** between Wodonga and Mount Beauty
- **\$4.9 million** for **Mansfield Secondary College** to construct a new STEM building, sports facilities and a VCE language centre
- **\$2.2 million** for the **Wangaratta District Specialist School** and **Appin Park Primary School** to upgrade and modernise facilities
- **\$0.6 million** to plan for a **new primary school at Leneva** in Wodonga, to cater for 475 students
- **\$0.1 million** for **Winton Primary School** to upgrade and modernise facilities
- Funding for **Albury Wodonga Health** and for **Northeast Health Wangaratta** to address winter demands, such as putting on more doctors and nurses, or opening more beds to treat more patients.

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

- A **major investment in the North East Rail Corridor** as part of the \$1.7 billion Regional Rail Revival program;
- Work has begun to understand travel movements around Rutherglen as part of investigating options for the **Rutherglen Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route**.
- **Digital planning** for Ovens Murray 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;
- The **North East Cycling Optimisation (NEVCO) Masterplan** is now complete with the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail the top priority for development. The masterplan is the first step, following the Government's \$12 million investment in North East cycling;
- Work underway on a **business case and action plan to help realise Mount Buffalo's** potential as a year-round tourism destination following a \$200,000 grant;
- \$22 million for the **redevelopment of Wangaratta Hospital**.

For more information on the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership, go to <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/ovens-murray>