

The logo for Regional Development Victoria, featuring the text "REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. A white triangle is positioned to the right of the text, partially overlapping a teal background element.

REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA

Regional Development Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



Front cover: Sunset at Lake Nagambie
Photograph by Chris Hopkins

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Chief Executive foreword

RDV has delivered significant outcomes for rural and regional communities under difficult circumstances caused by natural disasters and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



Despite the significant challenges, the regional Victorian economy has remained strong. Our regions generated \$80.5 billion, 18 per cent of Victoria's economic output. Regional Victoria was responsible for a third of the state's total exports. This has been a year of significant government investment in rural and regional Victoria, from the \$2.6 billion 'Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria' program, to regional stimulus projects as part of the state-wide \$2.7 billion Building Works Package, as well as bushfire recovery programs and other stimulus and economic recovery initiatives.

RDV's connection to local communities, businesses and industries has never been more important. We are part of the communities we work with – we understand their diverse needs, opportunities and challenges. This year we have supported communities struggling with the compounding challenges of bushfires, drought, economic transition and coronavirus. We have been working hand in hand to understand their unique issues and opportunities, making sure regional insights and ideas are brought to the centre of government.

We have provided valued support to businesses and community organisations – regardless of their size or location, from those struggling to keep afloat through the pandemic to those pivoting and looking to expand – because every business and every community is important for Victoria's prosperity. We've worked hard to bring all levels of government together, direct investment where it is needed most, and build genuine partnerships that will drive growth.

RDV's expertise and leadership in community-led recovery has been a lifeline for many communities this year. It's at the core of what we do. Our support to the Abalone Co-op in Mallacoota after the devastating summer bushfires saw RDV working across government to ensure the town's major employer could continue operating through its busiest time of year. We have worked with communities and supported vulnerable businesses impacted by drought, bushfires and coronavirus so that our regions not only survive the emergency, but emerge stronger.

We have worked in partnership to deliver numerous infrastructure and community projects this year, to help position rural and regional Victoria to take a leading role in the state's recovery. Across the state, from the Benalla Splash Park to Lake Tyrell, the Mildura Riverfront to Ballarat Station Precinct or Cape Bridgewater, and the new GovHubs in Ballarat, and the Latrobe Valley currently under construction, infrastructure investments delivered with local partners are making rural and regional Victoria an even better place to live, work and invest.

RDV has continued its focus on major initiatives that have the potential to transform rural and regional communities and/or to shift the dial on previously intractable issues. Important progress was made on the 10-year, \$370 million Geelong City Deal this year, with the release of the Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan. The Plan sets out the steps and timelines for all three levels of government as we work together to revitalise Geelong and unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road.

Regional Partnerships have also played a critical role this year, working on identifying priorities and addressing challenges. Prior to the introduction of coronavirus pandemic restrictions, targeted events tackled game changing issues, such as digital connectivity and youth unemployment, and brought together ministers, government, community and business leaders in new and innovative ways. In response to the pandemic, the Regional Partnerships convened roundtables with business and community leaders to help government understand the impacts of coronavirus and identify key opportunities for economic recovery.

RDV has continued to transform, bringing a stronger evidence base to the work we do, strengthening our whole-of-government role, working more closely with disadvantaged communities, and piloting new ways of working so that regional development is inclusive and strategic. An important focus in the coming year will be the development of Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) to scope future-focused growth opportunities and drive high impact investment.

No doubt, the coming year will be challenging as we recover from the pandemic, but we know our regions are keen to take advantage of strategic opportunities to drive a regional renaissance. RDV looks forward to continuing to support regional economies, harness the skills and innovation of communities, and work in partnership to build more a prosperous, diverse and inclusive rural and regional Victoria. Our rural and regional towns are known for overcoming challenges through ingenuity and partnership. RDV is proud to be part of these communities, and to remain a trusted partner into the future.

Beth Jones

Deputy Secretary Rural and Regional Victoria
Chief Executive Regional Development Victoria

RDV Executive team



Beth Jones
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and Regional Victoria
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Regional Victoria – a vital part of our state

Rural and regional Victoria is home to one in four Victorians and accounts for 730,000 jobs and 25 per cent of the state's small businesses*. It generates a regional economy of over \$80.5 billion that contributes more than 18 per cent to the Victorian economy.

*defined as employing between 1-19 staff

Regional Development Victoria

RDV is the Victorian Government's lead agency for developing rural and regional Victoria.

A statutory authority operating within the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), RDV facilitates economic and community development in rural and regional Victoria.

Purpose

RDV partners with local communities and businesses to build stronger, more diverse and resilient regions. It focuses on the unique strengths in each region to ensure government investment is targeted and impactful, and is working to shift the dial on some of the more persistent challenges so that rural and regional Victoria remains a great place to live, work and invest.

RDV plays an important role joining up government in rural and regional Victoria. It works closely with different departments across all levels of government and local communities to understand the issues that are most important to rural and regional Victorians, and to bring their insights, ideas and experience to the centre of government. Another core role for RDV is supporting rural and regional communities and businesses through natural disasters, emergencies and unplanned events – providing advice, facilitating solutions, convening recovery committees and driving longer term, sustainable recovery.

Organisational structure

RDV sits within the Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV) group of DJPR. The RRV group consists of regional teams and enabling functions, which support RDV teams to achieve their objectives. These include:

- Office of the Deputy Secretary
- Commercial
- Strategy and Policy
- Transformation and Performance

RDV delivers Victorian Government facilitation, investment and support throughout rural and regional areas across five regions:

- Barwon South West
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee



Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund

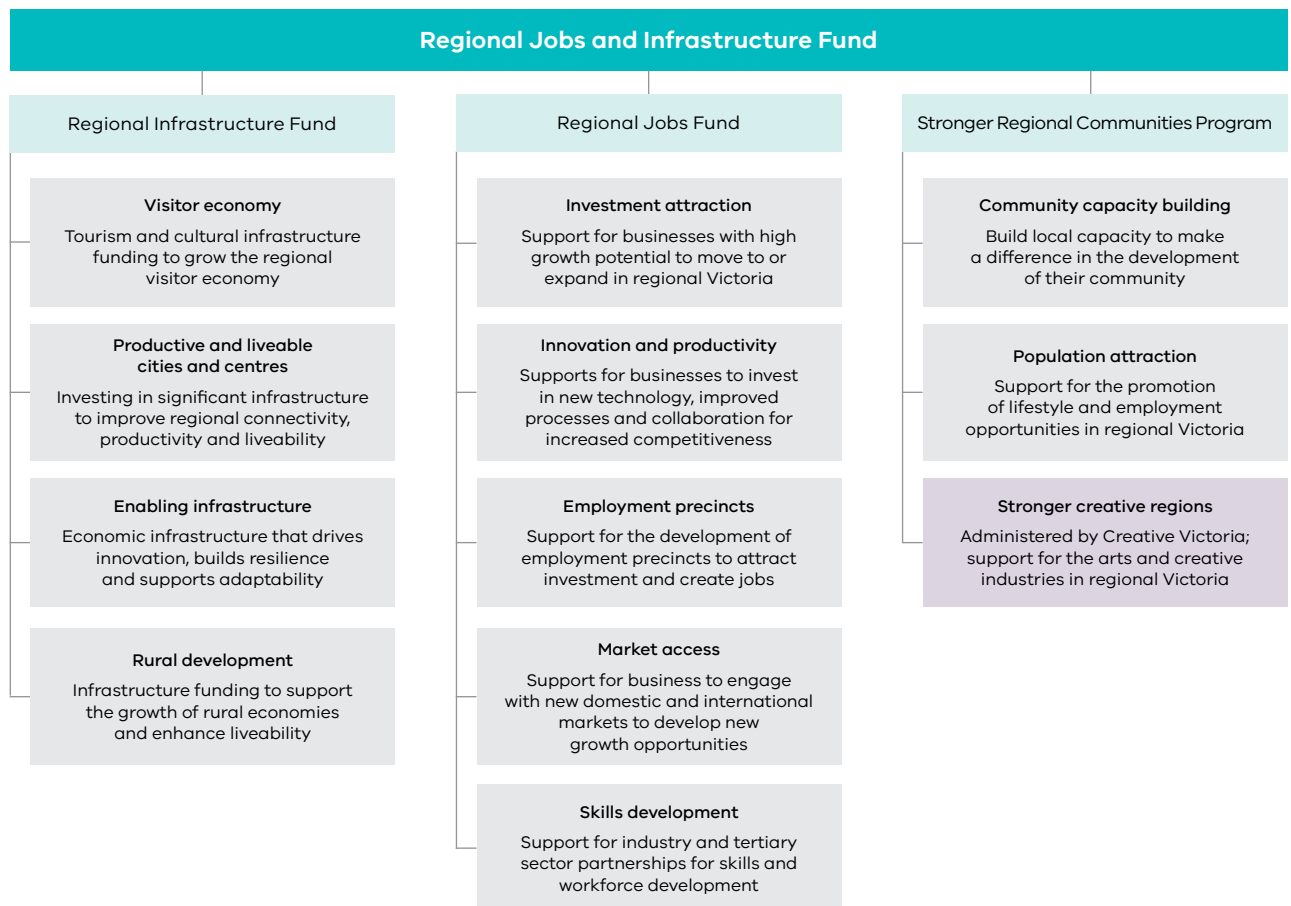
Since July 2015, the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) has been the Victorian Government's primary mechanism for driving economic and community development in regions.

It invests to grow jobs, build infrastructure and strengthen communities throughout rural and regional Victoria. The RDV-managed fund has three main components:

- Regional Infrastructure Fund
- Regional Jobs Fund
- Stronger Regional Communities Program

Throughout 2019-20, RDV continued to work with proponents to progress commitments from the initial \$500 million RJIF investment.

In 2019-20, an additional \$30 million in new funding was made available for RJIF as part of the Victorian Government's \$2.6 billion Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program.



Regional Jobs Fund

The Regional Jobs Fund (RJF) provides Victorian Government financial assistance primarily to businesses seeking to develop and expand operations in regional Victoria.

The aim of the RJF is to attract new investment, create new jobs and retain existing jobs in rural and regional Victoria and to support businesses to improve their productivity and competitiveness.

In addition, Food Source Victoria (a targeted grants program under the RJF) builds supply-chain alliances across the agrifood sector to increase exports, industry capabilities, resilience and value generation. Food Source Victoria funding closed on 30 June 2019 but program implementation continues.

Regional Infrastructure Fund

The Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) seeks to assist the growth of Victoria by providing grants for infrastructure projects that have the potential to stimulate economic activity in rural and regional Victoria.

The objectives of the RIF are:

- To increase economic and social benefits through improved community access and usability of precincts.
- To increase economic and social benefits through investment in strategic infrastructure.

Stronger Regional Communities Program

The Stronger Regional Communities Program (SRCP) helps rural and regional towns attract families and young people to live and work in regional Victoria. It does so by investing in community-led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance conditions for economic growth, and build resilient, diversified and sustainable economies.

Strong communities are characterised by high levels of social and economic participation.

They demonstrate effective decision-making and strong networks and are attractive to people considering moving to regional Victoria.

SRCP objectives are to:

- Improve the liveability of rural and regional towns in order to attract and retain families and young people.
- Increase community capability and provide increased opportunities to collaborate, innovate and drive change.
- Increase community resilience to social, economic and environmental shocks.

RDV invests in community-led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth and build resilient, diversified and sustainable economies.

Regional Partnerships

This year, Victoria's nine Regional Partnerships have been instrumental in ensuring the voices of rural and regional communities are heard by government.

The year commenced with three successful Deep Dive engagement events in Loddon Campaspe, Wimmera Southern Mallee and Great South Coast. Each event explored a specific issue and was well attended with community members and business leaders given the opportunity to work directly with Ministers and senior government representatives.

Deep Dives planned for the remaining Partnerships were put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic. As a consequence the Partnerships focussed on a series of online Regional Roundtables to map local impacts and visions for recovery. These sessions enabled the government to hear directly from community and business leaders across rural and regional Victoria to better understand the impacts of coronavirus on rural and regional communities.

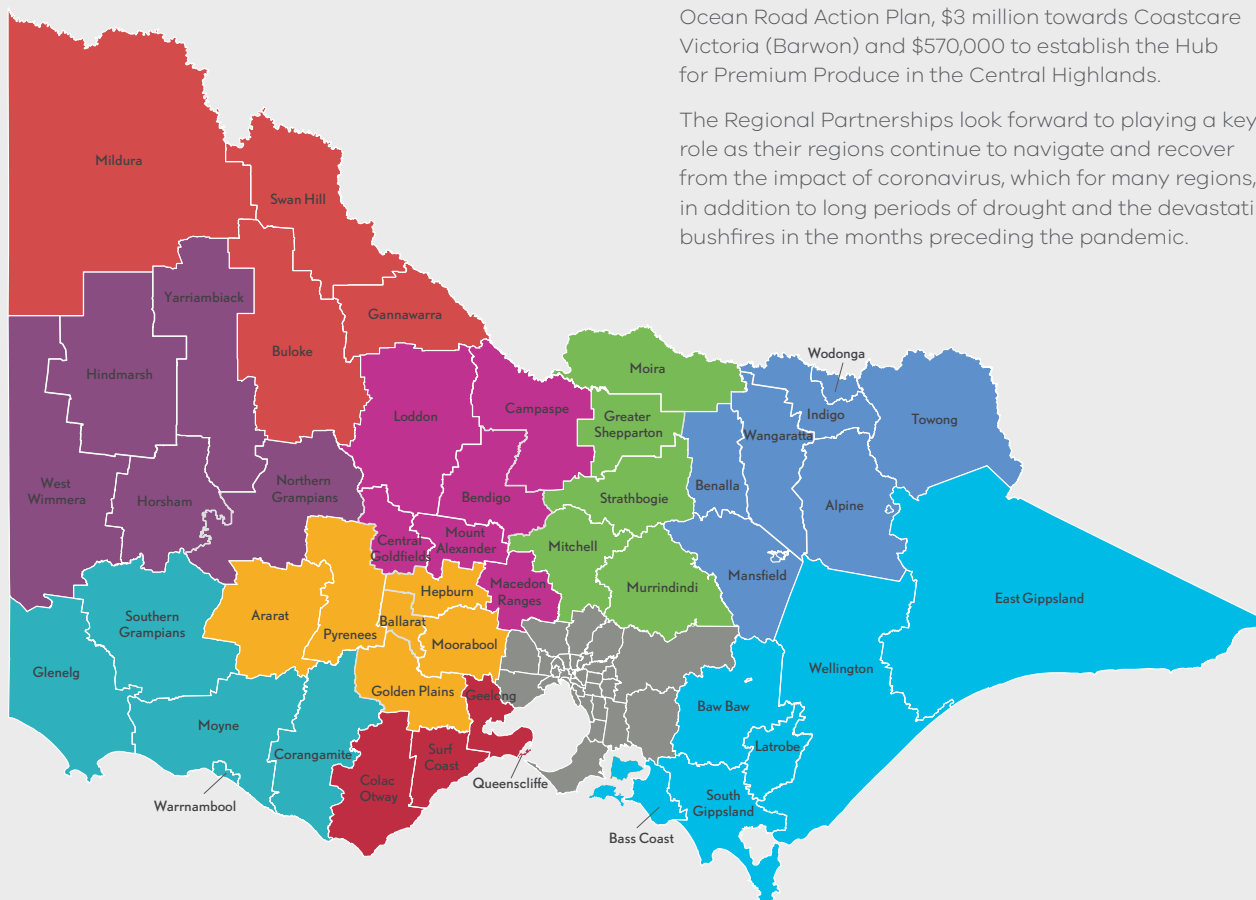
In addition to these more formal events, each Partnership continued meeting virtually with stakeholders and community members to refine thinking on regional priorities and develop related projects.

Digital connectivity, access and equity were priorities in 2019-20, with each Partnership developing and launching its own Regional Digital Plan. The plans contain comprehensive and up-to-date information on digital infrastructure requirements, service gaps and skills needs across the regions, and recommendations on how these gaps can be addressed.

Critical research developed by the Partnerships highlighted the most important social issues for the regions. The Central Highlands Regional Partnership launched its Homelessness in the Central Highlands report that identified the need for more long-term public housing options in the region. The Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership launched its Active Living Census as part of the Healthy Heart of Victoria project to analyse the activity levels of locals and explore options to improve their health.

The Loddon Campaspe Partnership also hosted a Deep Dive to focus on helping young people transition from education to employment. Funding announcements for key projects were welcomed throughout the year. Highlights included \$20 million to complete the Warracknabeal Education Precinct (Wimmera Southern Mallee and Great South Coast), \$1.6 million for the Great Ocean Road Action Plan, \$3 million towards Coastcare Victoria (Barwon) and \$570,000 to establish the Hub for Premium Produce in the Central Highlands.

The Regional Partnerships look forward to playing a key role as their regions continue to navigate and recover from the impact of coronavirus, which for many regions, is in addition to long periods of drought and the devastating bushfires in the months preceding the pandemic.



Reporting on Regional Partnerships

All nine Regional Partnerships involve local community and business leaders working alongside representatives from state and local government, and Regional Development Australia (RDA). The Partnerships ensure that local views are presented directly to government.

Barwon

This year the Barwon Regional Partnership focused on local place-based initiatives with a social, economic and environmental emphasis.

Highlights for the Barwon Regional Partnership included the following initiatives and funding towards the Partnership's priorities:

- \$100 million for the Western Rail Plan to reduce crowding, support population growth and enable fast rail on the Geelong line, and \$2 million for design and scoping work to duplicate the track between South Geelong and Wairn Ponds stations.
- \$13.5 million from the Building Better TAFEs Fund to upgrade the Gordon Culinary School at Gordon TAFE's city campus, and deliver state-of-the-art training facilities for cookery and hospitality students in Geelong.
- Creating supported, fair and nurturing Barwon communities by developing the Barwon Blueprint, a framework to address persistent intergenerational disadvantage of vulnerable young people, children and families.
- Completing the Barwon Regional Digital Plan to address issues of ability, accessibility and affordability.
- The dedicated Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority was established after advocacy and extensive consultation led by an independent taskforce.
- Completing the \$1.3 million Project Runway to help create new programs to assist small and medium scale businesses.
- Advocating for priority projects as part of the \$370 million Geelong City Deal.
- Completing the Geelong Project to extend outcomes in the seven most disadvantaged schools in the region, with early intervention to prevent homelessness by keeping young people at home, in school and linked to the community.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Barwon Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **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.



Great South Coast

In 2019-20, the Great South Coast Regional Partnership continued to collaborate with a range of local stakeholders, including local government, education and community organisations. Initiatives included:

- Launching the Great South Coast Regional Digital Plan as part of the deep dive in Warrnambool in March to improve digital connectivity as an enabler of regional economic diversification.
- Completing a feasibility study with South West TAFE to explore the possibility of establishing community education hubs in Warrnambool, Hamilton and Portland to support local tertiary students studying remotely.
- Working with Deakin University, the private sector and local government to understand high-value investment opportunities in agriculture, new energy and tourism.
- Finalising a Regional Disability Sector Workforce Needs Analysis and Action Plan to ensure the sector attracts and retains a skilled workforce.
- Advocating for investment to upgrade the Princes Highway in the Great South Coast and the region's principal road network to support economic productivity and community connectedness.
- Developing the Great South Coast Creative Industry Strategy, partnering with Regional Arts Victoria, Creative Victoria, local government, Aboriginal and creative communities.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Great South Coast Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- A strong and diverse Great South Coast economy with more local jobs and a growing workforce.
- Accessible, quality education and career pathways that give people of all ages an opportunity to realise their potential.
- A thriving arts and culture industry, and a sustainable environment with a celebrated natural beauty.
- A healthy, safe and resilient Great South Coast community.
- Roads, transport and infrastructure that drive prosperity, safety and liveability across the Great South Coast.

Wimmera Southern Mallee

The Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership continued to support a broad range of local stakeholders across the region.

Initiatives and funding provided towards Partnership priorities included:

- \$20 million to complete the Warracknabeal Education Precinct, which will build shared facilities for the town's primary, secondary and special schools and generate work for local building contractors.
- \$2.5 million for new equipment for Longerenong College's AgTIDE (Agriculture Technology Innovation, Development and Extension) DATA (Demonstration of Agricultural Technology Applications) Farm to encourage uptake of technology among young people in agriculture.
- \$2 million for Longerenong College to refurbish an agri-business centre that will benefit local students and attract others from across southeast Australia.
- \$300,000 funding announced for mental health outreach support across the region.
- Ongoing support for the Wimmera Mallee Tourism Destination Management Plan implementation via the Unearth Amazing campaign.
- The BYFIVE project initiated by the Partnership (with involvement from various government departments, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and local government) won a Victorian Early Years Award for Continuity of Early Learning.
- BYFIVE's Special Paediatric Support Partnership moved to telehealth during the coronavirus pandemic to make paediatric support more accessible for families, and maternal and child health nurses.
- Commenced the Regional Innovation Project, a comprehensive review of cross-sector strategic planning practices, to help develop a recommended model to resolve complex regional economic and social issues.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Wimmera Southern Mallee Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **Economic diversification** – a vibrant economy with a thriving, innovative agriculture industry and emerging tourism opportunities.
- **Telecommunications** – high quality, reliable digital connectivity and services.
- **Connectivity** – public transport and roads; safe, accessible and connected roads and rail.
- **Strong local government** – sustainable, connected and change-ready local government.
- **Energy** – affordable, sustainable and renewable energy.
- **Rural and remote funding** – focused funding that drives infrastructure investment and business growth into rural areas.
- **Early years** – equity of access to early years education and care.
- **Family violence** – Wimmera Southern Mallee families are safe and supported.
- **Workforce** – a high performing, valued and empowered workforce.
- **Health and education** – quality health and education for all.
- **Youth disadvantage** – young people in Wimmera Southern Mallee reach their full potential.







Central Highlands

The Central Highlands Regional Partnership maintained its focus on priority areas for the region. These included:

- The Central Highlands was Australia's first region to comprehensively map its digital connectivity, published in the Partnership-driven Central Highlands Digital Plan (September 2019). Partnership advocacy also secured funding to address 19 mobile blackspots, and \$390,000 to establish digital hubs.
- The Central Highlands Prevention Lab worked with business and community leaders to develop new models to address obesity rates in the region.
- The Partnership worked with the service sector and Victorian Government departments to deliver a regional-specific evidence base for homelessness that was published in the Homelessness in the Central Highlands Summary Report.
- The Partnership was a founding member of the Grampians New Energy Taskforce (GNet) that released its Roadmap to Zero Emissions in May 2020.
- In support of the region's profile as a centre of outstanding agriculture, the Partnership helped secure \$570,000 from the Victorian Government to establish the Hub for Premium Produce.

Long-term outcomes of the Central Highlands Regional Partnership

- **Agriculture** – productive, diverse and resilient food and agriculture industry.
- **Workforce planning** – long-term work opportunities and a skilled labour force that meets the needs of the market today and in the future.
- **Regional Land-use Planning** – cohesive land-use planning that brings broad regional benefit through current, shared strategic direction and targets.
- **Homelessness** – less people experience homelessness as affordable housing is broadly available and support services are accessible.
- **A carbon-neutral region** – zero net greenhouse gas emissions in the Central Highlands by 2050.
- **Better health** – a healthy community that embraces physical activity and healthy eating, reducing preventable disease.
- **Transport connectivity** – integrated and accessible transport across the Central Highlands, enhancing our economic vibrancy and social cohesion.
- **Digital connectivity** – digital access for all, unlocking vital improvements in productivity, education, employment, health and lifestyle.
- **Visitor economy** – a vibrant, growing visitor economy.
- **Advanced manufacturing** – an innovative, collaborative manufacturing industry.
- **Shared services** – transformational rural and regional council service delivery.



The Partnership continued to play a central role in economic recovery planning, drawing on the advice from communities in the region.

Ovens Murray

The Ovens Murray Regional Partnership ended 2019-20 by focusing on action to prepare for challenging times ahead, and support recovery from the bushfires and coronavirus.

Partnership highlights included:

- Launching the Ovens Murray Digital Plan, and implementing digital initiatives in partnership with businesses, communities, government, telco providers and stakeholders in the tourism, education and health sectors.
- Helping vulnerable young people share their stories about mental health experiences and needs through the Deep Dive newspaper, developed 'by young people for young people' as part of the Wodonga Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Deep Dive Engagement Project.
- Implementing Buy from North East Victoria, a place-based online store and product delivery network that helps communities buy local and promotes digital inclusion for businesses via a simple no-cost e-commerce platform.
- Funding for initiatives identified by the Partnership as regional priorities, including:
 - \$2.6 million for Wodonga Logistics Precinct Gas Gate
 - \$1.9 million for Ride High Country - Private Sector Activation
 - \$1.5 million for Mount Buffalo Activation - Wilderness Eco Pods.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **Transport** – communities and industries connected to each other and major service centres.
- **Health and wellbeing** – healthy and engaged communities: a great place to grow up and grow old.
- **Economic development** – prosperous and innovative economy growing our key and emerging sectors.
- **Education and skills** – 21st century education for future generations and lifelong learning for all.
- **Digital future** – leading the way in digital inclusion, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- **Climate change and renewable energy** – renewable energy future protecting our natural environment and delivering community benefits.







Goulburn

This year the Goulburn Regional Partnership progressed a number of strategic initiatives aligned with the long-term priorities in its Outcomes Roadmap. These included:

- Finalising the business case for revitalising Seymour, which involves identifying urban infrastructure and social projects that address disadvantage, economic stimulation, and targeted investment in public open spaces, community infrastructure and education services.
- Completing a masterplan for Activation of Lake Eildon that involves developing business cases for projects to support tourism development.
- Developing the community-led Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Resilience Strategy to increase resilience in areas such as research and development, circular economy, land-use planning and agricultural futures.
- Finalising the Goulburn Regional Digital Plan by identifying recommendations that will increase access to and uptake of digital technologies in the region.

Other Partnership activities included:

- Increasing the uptake of renewable energy by identifying opportunities in pumped hydro energy storage and bio-waste.
- Creating pathways to employment for Aboriginal people in natural resource management (NRM) by establishing a support model and formalising collaboration between NRM agencies and employers in the region.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Goulburn Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **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.



Mallee

The Mallee Regional Partnership continued to support diverse local stakeholders throughout the region.

Initiatives undertaken during the year included:

- Initiating a \$60,000 pilot for the Small Town Big Difference Fund to support community projects that improve the amenity, skills, access to services and appeal of small towns (local government and Community Banks will also contribute to provide overall funding of \$120,000)
- Conducting a series of workshops to better understand how to address entrenched disadvantage in the region.
- Completing the Mallee Economic Growth Strategy and beginning implementation through projects including a Food Industry Supply Chain Analysis, a Hydrogen Economy Roadmap and refreshing the Mallee Skills Demand Profile.
- Supported the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to complete the Mallee Digital Plan and develop the New Energy Roadmap.
- Identifying alternative ways to provide primary health care to address issues caused by shortage of GP's in the Mallee region.
- Finalising the industry-supporting program of research developed by the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre during its first year of operation.
- Progressing work on the Robinvale Community Hub (within Robinvale College), visitor facilities at Lake Tyrrell, and plans for the Murray River Adventure Trail and expanding the Silo Art Trail.
- Completing the Robinvale Housing Strategy and confirming funding for two worker housing projects.

Long-term outcomes presented in the Mallee Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- Increased growth in the agriculture and food manufacturing sectors.
- A more diverse economy.
- A skilled workforce meeting current and future industry needs.
- Connected communities with equitable access to services.
- Resilient small Mallee townships and settlements.
- Health and wellbeing for all.
- Addressing entrenched disadvantage.







Loddon Campaspe

The Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership progressed its priorities through strong consultation and evidence-based investigations during the year. These are highlighted in the Regional Economic Growth Strategy.

The Partnership hosted a Deep Dive to focus on supporting local youth to transition from education to employment. The session explored data that shows Loddon Campaspe has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in the state, and that one in five young people in the region does not complete Year 12 (compared with one in ten across Victoria).

Half of the young people in the region don't continue with training or further education after Year 12, even though many jobs require higher qualifications. During the Deep Dive, young people shared their stories about what stops them staying in school to Year 12, why so many choose not to go on to higher education and what is needed to help them enter the workforce. Attendees then discussed solutions and pledged to take these forward.

Priority projects and initiatives included:

- **Keep In Touch (KiT)**; a co-designed, youth focused outreach resource that supports positive youth mental health messaging and promotes help-seeking behaviours. The KiT van and app launched in October 2019 and services the entire region.
- **Healthy Heart of Victoria** initiative; designed to improve health and wellbeing outcomes throughout the region, the initiative helped improve public open spaces and recreation facilities, and removed barriers to participation in physical activity. The initiative was informed by the Active Living Census that was completed this year.
- **Walking together – Balak Kalik Manyā**; a four year project to increase community connection with nature at two sites within Dja Dja Wurrung Country; Kalimna Park in Castlemaine and Wildflower Drive in Bendigo.

Long-term priorities presented in the Loddon Campaspe Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **A growing economy** – a strong, diverse economy that enables people to actively contribute to their community.
- **Healthy Heart of Victoria** – active communities, healthy settings and productive lives at all stages.
- **Create the best start for every child** – families and communities that give children the best start in life.
- **Youth our critical asset** – safe, supported and engaged young people.
- **A great environment to live** – our culture, heritage and environment is protected and enjoyed.
- **A connected region** – all people in the Loddon Campaspe region benefit from economic activity and access to services.

The Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative helped improve public open spaces and recreation facilities, and remove barriers to participation in physical activity.



Gippsland

The Gippsland Regional Partnership continued to advocate and drive regional priorities with local stakeholders, including the Gippsland Local Government Network, Committee for Gippsland, Regional Development Australia Gippsland and the community.

Partnership priority projects and initiatives included:

- Working to support local communities affected by the 2019-20 bushfires in East Gippsland and coronavirus.
- Establishing a refreshed Skills and Education Working Group comprised of regional leaders in the education sector.
- Continuing to focus on the food and fibre sector, including working with Food and Fibre Gippsland to develop a Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Export Hub project.
- Releasing the Gippsland Destination Management Plan Tourism 2030 in September 2019, in consultation with government, industry and the community.
- Launching the Gippsland Regional Digital Plan in November 2019 to help improve digital connectivity.

Long-term priorities presented in the Gippsland Regional Partnership Outcomes Roadmap

- **Skills and education** – Gippslanders have increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in educations 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.





Regional Development Australia

Regional Development Australia (RDA) is a partnership between the federal, state and territory, and local governments to support the growth and development of Australia's regions.

A national network of 52 RDA committees provides a strategic framework for economic growth in each region.

Each committee comprises local leaders with diverse skills and experience, as well as demonstrated networks within their region. Each committee member understands the challenges, opportunities and priorities within their local community and over the last year RDV has supported RDA Committees to increase their collaboration and alignment with Regional Partnerships.

The RDA committees work to:

- Identify areas of collaboration and opportunity between the State and Commonwealth Governments for regional Victoria, including opportunities to address cross-jurisdictional barriers faced by regional Victorians.
- Support informed regional planning.
- Consult and engage with the community on economic, social and environmental issues, solutions and priorities.
- Liaise with governments and local communities about government programs, services, grants and initiatives for regional development.
- Contribute to business growth plans and investment strategies, environmental solutions and social inclusion strategies in their region.
- Promote increased awareness of Australian Government programs in their RDA region.

There are six RDA committees in Victoria covering all parts of the state:

- Barwon South West
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee
- Melbourne.

Case study:

Double Triple Report sets agenda for regional recovery and growth

A collaboration between all regional RDA committees in Victoria, the Double Triple Report establishes a strategic agenda for the committees to support future growth and prosperity for rural and regional communities around the state.

The report is based on forecasting that regional Victoria's population will double and its economic output will triple by 2040. Central to the 'double triple' agenda is improving the equity of service for regional communities and overall liveability throughout rural and regional Victoria.

The report identifies critical issues facing regional Victoria and proposes appropriate responses that involve key interventions from all levels of government. These interventions relate to digital connectivity, population management, workforce skills, new energy, place-based developments (including investment in affordable housing), and business competitiveness. The impact of coronavirus highlighted additional opportunities in these areas to support regional economic recovery.

GovHubs

The Victorian Government is revitalising regional cities by creating new GovHubs in Ballarat, Bendigo and the Latrobe Valley.

GovHubs are part of a Victorian Government initiative to decentralise key operations to strengthen and grow regional communities and economies.

Once complete, they will encourage greater collaboration and innovation between government at state and local levels. Each GovHub will integrate a range of complementary government functions according to the characteristics of its location. Wherever possible, local employment and materials are being used in each build.

Ballarat

The Victorian Government provided \$478 million to help develop the Ballarat GovHub. Expected to be complete by 2021, the Ballarat GovHub will be home to up to 1000 Victorian Government employees, including up to 600 public sector positions relocated from Melbourne.

The facility will help revitalise the Ballarat CBD, generate long-term jobs growth, increase business confidence and encourage further private sector investment. The project will also create up to 500 jobs during construction.

The Ballarat GovHub is located on Crown land at the 'Civic Hall Site' in Ballarat's CBD. Development Victoria leads the construction development in partnership with RDV, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and the City of Ballarat.

The project will complete a community, government and commercial precinct in the Ballarat CBD.

Complementary government activities and functions integrated into the GovHub include key tenants such as the State Revenue Office, VicRoads, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Service Victoria, the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), the Department of Education and Training (DET) and DJPR (including RDV).

RDV is working closely with all tenants to ensure a smooth transition to Ballarat in early 2021.

Bendigo

The \$90 million Bendigo GovHub will centralise the delivery of a range of government services and accommodate up to 1000 Victorian and local government workers to create a 'one-stop-shop' for customers at the same time as building a stronger and collaborative public sector presence in Bendigo.

The City of Greater Bendigo and various Victorian Government departments and agencies will be co-located in the new building. The Bendigo GovHub is designed to stimulate economic growth over the next decade, help revitalise the CBD and overcome a forecasted shortage of commercial office space. Investing in a purpose-built development on a key site in the city centre will help stimulate economic and job growth in the northern end of the city, and boost employment into the next decade.

Planning continues and completion is scheduled for mid-2022.

Latrobe Valley

The Latrobe Valley GovHub will bring an additional 300 jobs to the Morwell CBD, as a part of the Victorian Government's response to transitioning the Latrobe Valley following the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station.

Once complete, the three-storey, purpose-built facility will support economic growth, create jobs and enable industries of the future.

The building is being constructed by Castlerock Property as the lead contractor, with construction scheduled for completion late 2020 and tenancy forecast for early 2021.

Once complete, the \$100 million Ballarat GovHub will be the third largest commercial timber structure in Australia and transform the Civic Hall site into a huge shared community space in the heart of Ballarat.

Cross Border Commissioner

Luke Wilson continued as Victoria's Cross Border Commissioner in 2019-20. While based in Wodonga, the role took the Cross Border Commissioner to every local government area along the 2500km border that Victoria shares with New South Wales (NSW) and South Australia. He met border residents, businesses, community groups, Regional Partnerships, local, state and federal government leaders and staff, and many border Members of Parliament and elected council officials.

During the year, the Cross Border Commissioner worked on a broad range of issues affecting border communities, including:

- Fire and fire recovery – helping border communities in northeast Victoria and Gippsland bring border issues to Victorian and New South Wales' emergency management and recovery agencies.
- Worked with border communities in relation to border issues associated with coronavirus and coronavirus restrictions.
- Collaboration with state counterparts in New South Wales and South Australia to limit border closure impacts on businesses and the community, including permit systems for workers, and access to education and essential services.
- Supporting regional communities by managing hundreds of coronavirus enquiries from around Australia about Victoria's border status.
- Addressing varied approaches and rules between states, such as those for L and P plate drivers, or multiple licensing for tradespeople.
- Discussing requirements for better cross border collaboration on shared issues, such as tourism marketing.
- Raising issues created due to different state rules and practices around TAFE access.
- Generating changes to Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) accreditation to make it easier for RSA holders to seek accreditation across states.

In addressing these issues, the Cross Border Commissioner worked with departments, regulators and other agencies in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. Some issues also involve Tasmania, such as L and P plate rules.

Work also continued with the NSW Cross Border Commissioner to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding, confirming the commitment of Victoria and New South Wales to work together on priority border issues. This agreement will help Cross Border Commissioners generate positive change.

2020 Victorian bushfires

Victoria's bushfires in December 2019 and January 2020 resulted in catastrophic impacts to rural and regional communities around the state. Towns in North East Victoria and East Gippsland suffered significant loss. More than 1.4 million hectares were burnt, affecting all aspects of life including business and tourism, and causing flow-on effects for communities elsewhere in Victoria.

RDV leveraged its considerable disaster recovery experience, working with other government agencies and local government to support affected businesses and communities. Staff collaborated with local businesses and communities to gather intelligence to better understand economic impacts, including those associated with damaged produce, timber supplies, infrastructure, and reduced tourism.

RDV continues to work closely with Bushfire Recovery Victoria in supporting bushfire affected communities. Work will continue throughout 2020 and beyond to help impacted communities and businesses re-establish and recover.

Case study:

Rebuilding Mallacoota's abalone plant

When the abalone processing plant burnt down in the bushfires that hit Mallacoota on New Year's Eve, it hit the local community hard. The plant was the largest employer in town, and had a long history processing and exporting prized single-shell molluscs.

RDV worked with the co-op to identify the necessary planning, fisheries and export approvals to refit its single remaining shed to be suitable to receive and handle abalone so it could continue operating during the busy winter season.

High Country Comeback event

The High Country Comeback farmers market at Port Melbourne in February enabled regional businesses to embark on the road to recovery after the summer's bushfires. Backed by the Victorian Government, almost 6000 people attended and spent about \$500,000 with over 95 businesses involved.

The event was a way for Melburnians to shop directly with businesses affected by the bushfires and promote travel back to the High Country.

Supporting regional communities during coronavirus

The Victorian Government continues to provide economic support to help Victorian businesses, workers and communities to manage the impacts of coronavirus. A range of initiatives were put in place to keep regional Victorians connected, and showcase the value rural and regional Victoria brings to the state.

Coronavirus support summary

- RDV supported the administration of the Business Support Fund and fast-track direct financial support of up to \$10,000 to help businesses impacted by coronavirus restrictions to make it through restricted trading.
- RDV implemented the Regional Jobs Fund to facilitate the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE). For example, RDV contributed funding to Med-Con, an Australian company that specialises in manufacturing of PPE. Med-Con is scheduled to produce 59 million masks by the end of 2020.
- RDV worked with regional communities and businesses to identify projects for the government's consideration in developing a stimulus package. The stimulus package is delivering funding for 30 regional development and tourism infrastructure projects that were supporting our state's economy and creating local jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.
- RDV supported the nine Regional Partnerships across the state to conduct coronavirus recovery roundtables to identify impacts and opportunities. The roundtables provided a platform for developing locally owned response and recovery plans to support the regional economy and regional communities.

In 2019–20, all departments and agencies, including RDV, worked with communities and businesses to manage the impact of coronavirus.

Regional initiatives to support recovery from coronavirus

Barwon South West region

In response to the impact of coronavirus on our communities, the RDA Barwon South West Committee worked with the Barwon Regional Partnership and the Great South Coast Regional Partnership to provide insights and recommendations for an accelerated and diversified economic recovery. The region's early recovery recommendations were developed through a series of regional stakeholder working groups and regional roundtables that will feed into ongoing recovery planning to ensure the action taken now will set up the regional economy and community for success into the future.

RDV and Agriculture Victoria worked together to help protect and support the state's food supply chain. Integral to that support was the \$50 million Agriculture Workforce Plan, which provides targeted support to agriculture, food processing and supply chain businesses in rural, regional and outer metropolitan areas to manage the impacts of coronavirus. The program is part of the Victorian Government's \$500 million Working for Victoria initiative that helps Victorians, including people who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus, find paid work that support the community.

Almost 4400 business impacted by coronavirus restrictions in the Barwon South West region, received up to \$10,000 in direct financial support through the Business Support Fund.

Gippsland region

On 15 May 2020 Gippsland community and industry leaders and government came together for the Gippsland Regional Roundtable to discuss the impact of coronavirus. The session provided an opportunity for the Victorian Government to hear directly from regional leaders to better understand the impacts of coronavirus on rural and regional communities and start to identify the challenges and opportunities to reboot the local economy.

Local information obtained during the roundtable was valuable in conversations with State and Commonwealth Governments. Regional Partnership Chair, Maree McPherson, and RDA Chair, Richard Elkington, provided local insights and key messages directly to Government Ministers to inform recovery initiatives and policy making.

Grampians region

RDV Grampians supported businesses affected by coronavirus through Victorian Government initiatives including the Business Support Fund, Agriculture Workforce Plan and Tourism Recovery Support.

RDV also engaged directly with industry to better understand the economic effects of travel and other coronavirus restrictions, and provide support wherever possible.

Hume region

Coronavirus created major challenges in the region and RDV Hume provided a range of measures to support local communities and businesses. These included accelerating investment proposals to boost local jobs and economic activity, helping PPE manufacturers, like Med Con in Shepparton to increase production, supporting recovery through approaches developed at regional stakeholder roundtables, and developing a list of shovel-ready projects to stimulate the regional economy.

RDV Hume also allocated a key member of our investment and trade team to help manage local delivery of the Business Support Fund and International Student Emergency Relief Fund, with numerous applications currently being addressed and processed. Ongoing support will include the Working for Victoria initiative that helps Victorians who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus to find paid work that support the community, as well as continuous business health check calls.

Loddon Mallee region

RDV supported the development of 15 projects within the Building Works Package worth \$35.9 million across all 10 Loddon Mallee local government areas and two not-for-profit organisations. All projects are designed to create jobs, attract visitors and kickstart local economies impacted by this summer's bushfires and coronavirus. RDV Loddon Mallee also facilitated six council investments through the Regional Infrastructure Fund and nine community investments through the Stronger Regional Communities Program.

In late May and early June, two regional roundtables were conducted to identify the impacts of coronavirus on the region's businesses and communities. Hosted by the Regional Partnerships and the Loddon Mallee RDA Committee, the roundtables showed how travel and other coronavirus restrictions had affected various sectors. The need for improved digital connectivity came through as one of the strongest themes.

There was also a desire to capture some of the opportunities from coronavirus restrictions, particularly building on the successful growth of e-health services and the increasing realisation among people in Melbourne of the lifestyle advantages of regional living.

Case studies

The Victorian Country Market

The Victorian Country Market is an e-commerce platform supported by the Victorian Government to assist Victoria's regional producers, makers and entertainers expand their customer base, reducing the impacts of bushfires and helping them through the coronavirus pandemic. It was launched in May 2020 during the Recharge 2020 Festival (rechargevic.com.au) and on Victoria Together – the Victorian Government's online hub helping people stay connected during the pandemic.

More than 150 regional businesses and producers from around Victoria came on board and the market continued its online presence into the second half of 2020.

Let's Stay Connected fund

The Let's Stay Connected fund was established to reduce the potential impacts of loneliness and social isolation from physical distancing measures to control the spread of coronavirus, particularly for vulnerable and at-risk people including older people and people with pre-existing health conditions.

Regional reports

Barwon South West

Gippsland

Grampians

Hume

Loddon Mallee



Regional report

Barwon South West



Regional Director's report

Barwon South West is an economic region in the southwest of Victoria that extends from the tip of the Bellarine Peninsula at Queenscliff to the border with South Australia. It incorporates Victoria's largest regional city, Geelong.

In 2019, the region had approximately 412,000 residents (the most populous in the State) and is located along the two major interstate transport corridors – the Princes Highway corridor and the Western Highway corridor.

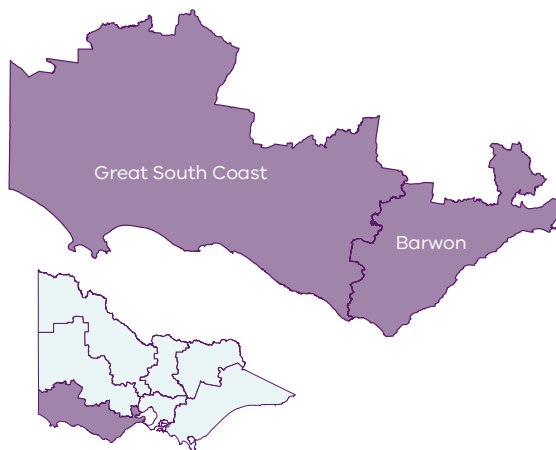
Barwon South West has two distinct sub-regions; Barwon and the Great South Coast, each with equivalent strengths in tourism, and a commitment to workforce development and population growth.

The region features culturally significant Aboriginal sites including the UNESCO-listed Budj Bim, Tower Hill and the You Yangs. RDV invested funds into each of these sites to ensure the cultural heritage of these sites is preserved and celebrated. RDV Barwon South West is strongly committed to working closely with Traditional Owners to ensure these projects provide economic opportunities for Aboriginal people.

In 2019-20, RDV worked with a range of industries in the region to create nearly 700 jobs, exports valued at almost \$100 million, and leveraged investments of over \$200 million.

RDV is leading the implementation of the Geelong City Deal, which includes 33 major infrastructure projects. Investment from the State, Commonwealth and local governments as well as private sector investment, this is supporting projects valued at more than \$382.5 million and the creation of up to 1000 jobs.

The Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan was released in October 2019 through the combined effort of RDV, DPC, the Commonwealth Government, local government and key stakeholders, including the G21 Geelong Region Alliance and the Regional Partnerships.



The Geelong City Deal will be a major boost to regional growth and enhance the visitor experience along the Great Ocean Road and in Geelong. Of particular significance is the commitment to the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This project will further position Geelong as a key destination for Victoria.

RDV is equally committed to delivering the next stage of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan with the 12 Apostles Master Plan work now underway.

In 2019-20 RDV also undertook a diverse range of projects designed to strengthen the regional economy and improve social wellbeing including the Samaritan House and Formflow Housing Project, an innovative collaboration between Samaritan House Geelong, Deakin University, The Gordon TAFE and Geelong-based manufacturer FormFlow. The \$500,000 project will provide architectural independent living for homeless men in the Geelong region, and strengthen advanced manufacturing capability in the region. RDV looks forward to continuing our work with local businesses and communities in the new financial year.

Paul Roth
Regional Director, Barwon South West

Regional highlights

- Helped facilitate investment in key regional industries to create almost 700 jobs, support exports worth almost \$100 million, and encourage investments of more than \$200 million.
- Supported the delivery of Victorian Government financial assistance and support to businesses and communities recovering from the impacts of bushfire and coronavirus.
- Supported the release of the Geelong City Deal Implementation Plan in October 2019 that sets out commitments and delivery arrangements for all projects.
- Supported the Budj Bim landscape which was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list in July 2019.

Investment and trade

Food and fibre

Emerald Springs Pastoral Company

Emerald Springs Pastoral Company is the lead entity in a value chain alliance of approximately 14 livestock service providers in South West Victoria. RDV supported the expansion of the cattle backgrounding and quarantine facility in Mumbannar, near Portland. The expansion will create 10 new jobs and generate an estimated \$182 million a year in export revenue across the supply chain.

Farm Foods Ltd

RDV supported Farm Foods Ltd and its alliance of meat, horticultural and ingredient suppliers from around regional Victoria to install specialist processing equipment and expand its Breakwater facilities. The investment will enable Farm Foods to deliver more plant-based food options for consumers around the world, as well as creating 12 new jobs and generating significant annual export value.

The Grange Farm Food

RDV helped The Grange Farm Food expand its on-farm garlic processing facility in Croxton East, near Hamilton to create processed garlic products (to replace imported dehydrated garlic) and generate six new local jobs.

Boost Your Business Vouchers – Round 4

Boost Your Business Vouchers were allocated to Australian Dairy Farms Group, Bellarine TechBio Pty Ltd and Yumbah Narrawong Pty Ltd to take new and innovative products to market and increase export and market development capabilities. Vouchers were also allocated to FE Technologies Pty Ltd, IXL Home Pty Ltd, FLAIM Systems Pty Ltd and Knuckeyes Winchelsea Pty Ltd to enable these companies to access specialist business advice and assistance.



Think Fencing Pty Ltd

RDV supported Think Fencing Pty Ltd to invest \$330,000 in new manufacturing plant and equipment for the company's recycled PVC decking innovation project in Portarlington. The project will enable complex materials such as store loyalty cards and other poly vinyl chloride (PVC) products to be recycled and create nine new full-time jobs.

Boral Cement

RDV helped enable Boral's new \$130 million cement manufacturing and importing facility at Geelong Port. The operations created 16 new regional jobs and are designed to handle up to 1.3 million tonnes of cement products a year. The new facility will allow Boral to expand its product range and increase capacity to meet future demands from the Victorian construction industry.

Wine Growth Fund – Round 3

RDV helped Baie Wines, Mount Duneed Estate, Oakdene Wines Pty Ltd and Wine Geelong increase sales in domestic and international markets, improve wine tourism and support initiatives within the wine industry.

Industry collaboration

RDV worked closely with local industry peak bodies to encourage industry collaboration, and facilitate innovation and economic growth. In addition to working with economic development teams in local government and AusIndustry, RDV collaborated with Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong, Australian Graphene Industry Association, Cleantech Innovations Geelong, the Committee for Geelong, Engineering Network Geelong, G21 - Region Alliance, Geelong Agri-business Collective, Geelong Chamber of Commerce, Geelong Manufacturing Council, Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine, and Wine Geelong.



RDV worked closely with local industry peak bodies to encourage industry collaboration and facilitate innovation and economic growth.



Key collaborations included:

- With the Office of the Lead Scientist and Deakin University, RDV facilitated an industry engagement briefing on space opportunities by Airbus Global for 29 local stakeholders as part of its national roadshow.
- Industry 4.0 represents an exciting new opportunity that local manufacturers were able to explore with hands-on workshops in Geelong and Warrnambool, organised by RDV in collaboration with the Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 Hub at Swinburne University.
- The inaugural Regional Innovation for a Circular Economy (RICE) conference in Geelong was organised by RDV, in association with AusIndustry, Barwon South West Waste and Resource Recovery Group, City of Greater Geelong, Deakin University's Institute for Frontier Materials, Geelong Manufacturing Council and Sustainability Victoria.
- Industry experts shared the key principles of a circular economy from a state and national perspective, and provided regional examples of circular economics in action, as well as a masterclass in circular economy design thinking. The event attracted 120 attendees.
- RDV supported the Geelong Small Business Festival in partnership with the City of Greater Geelong which delivered more than 40 events during August to help thousands of people grow and improve their businesses in the Barwon region.
- In partnership with Warrnambool City Council, Moyne Shire and Corangamite Shire, RDV supported the Great South Coast Speaker Series which brought a collection of inspiring Australian speakers to the Great South Coast region. Speakers included Grand Slam tennis champion, Paralympian and media personality, Dylan Alcott, 2018 Victorian of the Year, Susan Alberti AC, business expert Martin Ginnane, food writer, Richard Cornish, and Brae owner/chef, Dan Hunter.

Economic development

Great Ocean Road Taskforce, Action Plan and Great Ocean Road Authority

The Great Ocean Road Action Plan outlines major reform including a commitment to prepare legislation that will establish a new land management authority for the Great Ocean Road area.

RDV collaborated with DELWP to advance actions including the Great Ocean Road and Environs Protection Bill 2019 passed on 20 February 2020. The legislation will reform the management of the Great Ocean Road, and enable the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority to deliver a more coordinated and sustainable approach to land and visitor management.

Tower Hill Infrastructure Upgrade

Funding of \$11.3 million announced in May 2020 will support an upgrade to key elements of the Tower Hill State Game Reserve which will enhance the visitor experience, realise Traditional Owner aspirations for the site and boost the regional visitor economy.

Connecting Torquay's Town Centre

A project to improve the integration of Torquay's town centre was supported with \$500,000 from the Victorian Government. The project will make shopping easier and more appealing for visitors and residents by creating a walkable town centre that is connected to Taylor Park and the foreshore. Works will include pedestrian improvements, formalised parking and a series of cycling stations.

Timboon Town Centre Activation

Funding of \$300,000 from the Regional Infrastructure Fund was announced in March 2020 to support Corangamite Shire's project to provide a new and improved town centre. The project will improve traffic flow, functionality and accessibility for Timboon.

Samaritan House and Formflow Housing Project

A Victorian Government \$500,000 investment is helping provide seven, one-bedroom dwellings to accommodate homeless men in the Geelong region. When complete, Samaritan House will provide clients with the ability to live independently, moving into the new homes for between six and 12 months to help them to transition to longer term social housing. The project is a collaboration between Samaritan House Geelong, Deakin University, The Gordon TAFE and Geelong-based manufacturer, FormFlow.

Great Ocean Road Workforce Development Strategy

The Great Ocean Road's increasing popularity with visitors is creating equivalent workforce challenges. These are heightened by the seasonal nature of the destination and low population in some areas, as well as a lack of affordable accommodation and limited public transport options. Funding from the Regional Skills Fund supported the development of a strategy to identify workforce-related issues so the Great Ocean Road can provide a quality offering that continues to meet increasing visitation demands.





Bellarine Railway Strategic Infrastructure Project, Stage 1

Stage 1 of this project will allow Bellarine Railway to develop the Turntable Paddock at Drysdale Railway Station to enhance the site, improve community access, and provide a base for the principal Bellarine Railway service, the Q Train. Supported by \$300,000 from the Victorian Government, the project will help develop Drysdale station as a gateway to the Bellarine Railway.

Barwon Heads Arts and Community Hub

The Victorian Government provided \$1 million to support the development of a new arts and community Hub in Barwon Heads.

The proposed design includes refurbishing the existing building and outdoor space, and upgrading parking facilities. The project will also help nurture regional talent, improve access to the arts, strengthen local creative industries and bring the community closer together.

Budj Bim Master Plan Stage 1 and 2

In the 2019-20 Victorian Government budget, a further \$5 million of funding was announced to support the roll out of the full scope of the Budj Bim Master Plan. In July 2019, the Budj Bim landscape was successfully added to the UNESCO World Heritage list, following which, interest in visitation to the site grew significantly with Budj Bim rangers reporting a ten-fold increase in daily tour inquiries and bookings.

Geelong City Deal

The Geelong City Deal is a 10 year, \$370 million investment between the Federal Government, Victorian Government and the City of Greater Geelong to revitalise Geelong and unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road economy. The City Deal is a collaboration between the three levels of government working with industry, community and the university sector to achieve its purpose.

The first step in the agreement was to develop detailed project plans that outline how individual projects will be delivered, governed and reported. Many of these plans are now complete.

In light of coronavirus restrictions, City Deal partners are investing in opportunities to fast track projects to help create jobs in Geelong and the surrounding region. At this stage, it is estimated implementation of the projects will create up to 1000 local jobs.

Key achievements in 2019-20

Strengthening collaboration

- Geelong City Deal Implementation Committee driving progress.
- Establishing the Twelve Apostles Precinct Project Steering Committee and completing the masterplan.

Gheringhap Street Drain

- Construction completed in December 2019, through funding of \$7.28 million provided by the City of Greater Geelong.

Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour

- Installing the wave attenuator is almost completed.
- Remaining three platforms are currently being manufactured, final commissioning due late December 2020.

Deakin University Future Economy Precinct

- Stage 1 Construction is complete on the western extensions of both Nicol Drive North and Nicol Drive South. Pigdons Rd Entrance 1 and 2 Intersection upgrades were also completed. Currently tendering for works for Epworth Drive.
- \$2.66 million Federal Government funding and \$1.6 million from the Victorian Government provided to date from a total of \$7.2 million in grants.

Great Ocean Road Infrastructure

- Project Director appointed by Colac Otway Shire to develop detailed project plans for three key commitments for the Apollo Bay Harbour redevelopment, Skenes Creek to Apollo Bay trail and Kennett River infrastructure.
- Project Plan approved for feasibility study for the Great Ocean Walk (Stage 2) – Skenes Creek to Cumberland River.

Redeveloping the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal

- Essential maintenance work completed on support piles on the terminal pier.

Great Ocean Road Visiting Drivers Safety

- Project Plan approved to undertake a Great Ocean Road Visiting Drivers Safety Education Campaign.

Smart Cities

- Smart parking initiative introduced including vehicle number plate recognition and use of an Easy Park mobile app.

Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre

- Business Case addendum completed. The development of the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre and surrounding public realm improvements is in the pre-planning phase. A project plan is due by September 2020. City Deal partners are currently working together to progress towards the commencement of building and construction activities.

Revitalising Central Geelong

- Department of Transport (DoT) appointed an internal Project Manager who is progressing the development of a Project Plan and finalising a project delivery strategy for Blocks 1 and 3 of the Green Spine.
- DELWP acquired the land for the Laneways project at 28 Malop St Geelong and are currently refining the detailed design.
- DoT is finalising the project plan for the Geelong Station upgrade.

Regional planning and coordination

Great South Coast Designated Area Migration Agreement

The RDA Barwon South West Committee helped establish Victoria's first Designated Area Migration Agreement (DAMA) in the Great South Coast region. The Committee identified that a declining and ageing population was creating critical labour shortages in the region. Through research and private sector consultation, it demonstrated a projected shortfall of up to 7000 workers in Victoria's south west by 2023. Covering the Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians, Warrnambool, Corangamite and Colac-Otway municipalities, the DAMA began operating in January 2020 and has helped 18 businesses attract 68 workers to the region.

An Australian first, catalyst project for the Colac Waste to Energy Biogrid

The Committee supported planning for the construction of the Colac Waste to Energy (WEB) Biogrid. The Colac WEB will use industrial organic wastes from Bulla Foods and Australian Lamb Company (ALC) to enable Barwon Water's Colac Water Reclamation Plant to become a net exporter of energy and provide dispatchable renewable energy in the form of electricity to the grid, as well as hot water to ALC. The Colac WEB will secure waste and energy costs for industry and improve employment outcomes in the Colac community.



Regional report

Gippsland

Regional Director's report

The Gippsland region covers a large part of eastern Victoria, extending from its western end that adjoins Melbourne's southeast, to Cape Howe the most easterly point of Victoria. The region is comprised of six local government areas and has a wide range of strategic assets that are important to both the region and Victoria, contributing to a gross regional product of approximately \$15.9 billion.

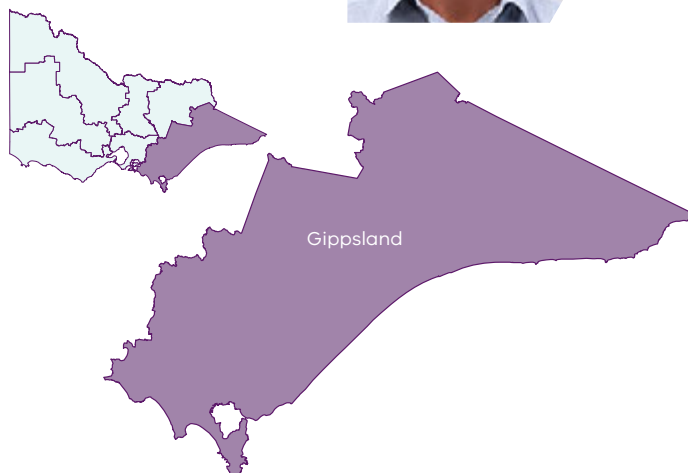
In the last 12 months, Gippsland faced unprecedented challenges including the effects of prolonged drought, bushfires and coronavirus.

The East Gippsland fires started on 21 November 2019 and burnt more than 1.1 million hectares. Impacts were extensive, with profound direct and indirect effects on property, livestock and the natural environment. RDV engaged significantly to support the East Gippsland community with a focus on facilitating economic recovery activity across local government, business and the community.

RDV Gippsland continued to support the delivery of the Victorian Forestry Plan, helping industry and businesses prepare and plan their response to transition.

Our focus remains on supporting growth, diversification and recovery across our regional priority sectors, including food and fibre, tourism and transport and logistics, advanced manufacturing, and health and community services.

Significant progress was made to advance priority projects across the region including the Innovation Centre at Gippsland Hi Tech Precinct, Latrobe GovHub and Latrobe Creative Precinct.



The Gippsland Regional Partnership continued its program of successful advocacy, collaborating with business and community stakeholders in partnership with the Committee for Gippsland, RDA Gippsland and the Gippsland Local Government Network. Focus remained on building community aspiration and wellbeing, and supporting industry transition. This resulted in further investment to redevelop and expand the Latrobe Regional Hospital, more free TAFE courses, greater access to early childhood education and \$1.4 million for the Gippsland residential rehabilitation facility, which opened earlier this year.

Throughout 2019-20, RDV Gippsland worked closely with industry to help create 180 new full time equivalent jobs and \$38 million in new investment.

Tim McAuliffe

Acting Regional Director, Gippsland

Regional highlights

- 180 new jobs created across the region.
- Establishing the East Gippsland Bushfire Economic Recovery Working Group and developing an Economic Recovery Sub-Plan.
- Supporting the delivery of government financial assistance and support to businesses and communities recovering from the impacts of bushfire and coronavirus.
- Continuing to deliver major infrastructure projects, including the Innovation Centre at the Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct, Latrobe Creative Precinct and the Latrobe Valley GovHub.
- Endorsing eight sites for delivery of the \$30 million Regional Carpark Fund, with 800 free car parks in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe.
- Completing the Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program.
- Finalising the Gippsland Digital Plan, and improving broadband and free public Wi-Fi delivery in the Latrobe Valley.

Investment and trade

Safetech Pty Ltd – Moe

Safetech was supported by the Regional Jobs Fund in delivering its \$1.8 million project to expand its advanced manufacturing facility in Moe. Safetech designs, manufactures and sells customised materials, handling equipment, such as dock equipment, scissor lifts, vehicle lifts, hoists, cranes and lifting devices. The project will create 20 new full time equivalent jobs.

Invest Gippsland

In November 2019, Invest Gippsland partnered with RDV, the Gippsland Regional Partnership and RDA to launch the Invest Gippsland website. The redeveloped website highlights investment opportunities across key industry sectors including food and fibre, advanced manufacturing, new energy, health and aviation.

Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program

The Victorian Government's Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program concluded in June 2020. The program supported 57 Latrobe Valley based businesses affected by the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and Carter Holt Harvey Timber Mill in Morwell. RDV Gippsland worked with local businesses to develop transition plans. As a result, the businesses involved have generated \$2.8 million in investment for the Latrobe Valley through initiatives identified in the transition plans.



Economic development

Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct

The Victorian Government provided \$17 million to help develop an Innovation Centre within the Gippsland Hi-Tech Precinct site in Morwell. Construction is expected to be complete by late August 2020, despite the impact of coronavirus.

The precinct will incorporate the Innovation Centre, the Gippsland Tech School (opened April 2018), TAFE Gippsland and Latrobe City Council's conference facility. The precinct will bring together industry, education and research to co-create, innovate and transform industries through new product development, start-up support, hosting tech-based jobs, business incubation and research. Federation University Australia will manage the Innovation Centre.

Latrobe Valley GovHub

Construction of the Latrobe Valley GovHub is well underway, with completion expected to be ahead of schedule in late 2020. The \$30 million project includes the construction of a three-storey regional employment hub to support economic growth, create jobs and drive industries of the future. The investment is part of the government's response to transitioning the Latrobe Valley after the closure of Hazelwood Power Station.

The Latrobe Valley GovHub is expected to bring an additional 300 jobs to the Morwell CBD and is employing up to 100 people during construction. More than 40 local contractors have been engaged, accounting for more than 70 per cent of the project workforce. Discussions with Traditional Owners, GLaWAC, were held regarding the installation of art by local Aboriginal artists and Aboriginal students.

Latrobe Creative Precinct

Construction on the \$38.5 million Latrobe Creative Precinct continues, with works and fit out of the 750-seat performing arts centre due for completion by mid-2021. Several local contractors are involved in construction and the design features local materials to showcase Gippsland's ingenuity and resources. Once operational, the complex will give the community access to leading performances and provide local opportunities for training in the performing arts.

Regional Carpark Fund

The Victorian Government's plan to provide 2000 new car parks in regional Victoria included up to 900 in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon. Following public consultation, Latrobe City Council endorsed eight sites in early 2020 and approved an early works package.



East Gippsland – recovery projects

RDV took a lead role in developing the East Gippsland Bushfire Economic Recovery Sub-Plan for the East Gippsland and Wellington Shires. RDV delivered a number of recovery projects under the plan.

In February 2020, the Victorian Government announced funding for the Paynesville Foreshore Masterplan under the Bushfire Tourism and Business Fund, and in May 2020, funding was announced for the Paynesville Foreshore Stage 1 works under the Victorian Government's Building Works Package. The projects include a concept plan, preliminary designs and costings for the development of Slip Rd 'Squatters Row', plus implementation of the plan to improve the boating and visitor infrastructure that connects the Slip Road precinct to the CBD – including a seawall and boardwalk.

Funding announced through the Building Works Package for Bullock Island and Lakes Entrance, will see an investment of \$8.4 million to create a masterplan, with infrastructure upgrades including construction of public facilities, vehicle and pedestrian access and pathways, a fishing platform and landscaping and aesthetic improvements. Additionally, \$1.5 million was announced for the Bullock Island On Water Café received \$1.5 million to build an On-Water café at the Lakes Entrance Fisherman's Limited site.

The Bushfire Tourism and Business Fund allocated \$2 million to restore and rejuvenate the Buchan Caves Reserve, which was badly damaged in the bushfires. In partnership with Traditional Owners, the project will develop a new masterplan to implement upgrades that include rebuilding the campground and installing a new camp kitchen.

The Victorian Government provided \$250,000 to re-establish the Nowa Nowa Boggy Creek Walking Trail. Work includes rebuilding the walking track, seating, interpretive signage and landscaping.

The Community Resilience and Recovery Fund allocated \$200,000 to East Gippsland Shire and \$50,000 to Wellington Shire to facilitate community events, and funding for the Committee for Gippsland to establish a Community Leadership Program that will support locally led programs to help fire-affected East Gippsland communities.

Leveraging the Regional Skills Fund

The Regional Skills Fund contributed towards a project developed by Food and Fibre Gippsland, relating to employment and career pathways for youth in the agri-food sector. The project is developing six mechanisms to attract young people to Gippsland and support the agri-food industry.

Also supported by the Regional Skills Fund is a project to bring undergraduate level allied health training to Gippsland to help address a chronic shortage of allied health professionals. The project enabled Federation University Australia to start two new courses at its Churchill campus – Occupational Therapy (commenced in March 2020) and Physiotherapy (to start in 2021).

Stronger Regional Communities Program

Funding from the Stronger Regional Communities Program supported infrastructure improvements at the Lake Tyers Community Hall, a 'Visit Mallacoota Campaign' that will be developed by the Mallacoota and District Business and Tourism Association and East Gippsland Marketing. Crashendo, Bairnsdale also received funding to expand its existing music therapy programs.



Regional planning and coordination

RDA Gippsland

The RDA Gippsland Committee was formally appointed earlier this year. Since then, the Committee's members have been collaborating on disaster response and recovery.

The Committee provided advice to the Federal Government resulting in a boost of \$4.8 million funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service after advocating for business support, and access to Tourism Australia data and a dedicated data hotline.

Gippsland Regional Plan refresh

The refreshed Gippsland Regional Plan will provide the strategic framework for Gippsland's advocacy and planning for the next five years. Aerium, a local consultant delivered a refresh of the Gippsland Regional Plan, working closely with RDV, Gippsland Regional Partnership and RDA Gippsland to develop the themes and priorities within the Regional Plan. Gippsland's communities and industries were engaged in the process through online surveys and workshops. The Regional Plan will provide a valuable reference point and advocacy tool for Gippsland's leaders, community and industry.





Drought assistance

In October 2019, East Gippsland and Wellington Shires each received \$500,000 to support community events and small infrastructure projects that bring communities together, build resilience and raise awareness of drought support services.

RDV Gippsland worked closely with both councils to explore a number of projects that will strengthen the resilience of drought-affected communities. Community events included barbecues, fire shed meetings, community forums, field days, local agriculture shows, workshops and family getaways. Small infrastructure projects improved energy efficiency in community halls.

Bushfire recovery

RDV is working closely with community members, local councils and other Victorian Government agencies to understand how to best manage bushfire recovery, alongside drought and the impact of coronavirus. RDV coordinated the Bushfire Recovery Workshop Group, which developed the Economic Recovery Sub-Plan.

Through RDV, the Victorian Government invested almost \$20 million to leverage \$80 million of project value, through infrastructure projects to help local businesses recover from the impacts of bushfire. This will enable a range of projects to help regenerate key industries, such as the visitor economy, agriculture, aquaculture and the construction sector.

Regional report

Grampians



Regional Director's report

This year, the Grampians region continued to realise the potential of its unique economic and community strengths, with emerging new businesses and resilient communities driving growth and innovation to activate regional opportunities and address unique place-based challenges.

RDV Grampians supported and facilitated investment of more than \$95 million during the year.

Our Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership continued to deliver its award-winning approach to early years' service design in rural communities, and the Central Highlands Regional Partnership investigated ways to tackle the issue of homelessness in the region.

RDV Grampians continued to support the development of the \$100 million Ballarat GovHub, with construction well underway. RDV is working closely with Development Victoria, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), and other stakeholders, to help transition government tenants (including 600 new and relocated positions) into the Ballarat GovHub in 2021. Already we are seeing early signs of the Ballarat GovHub influencing new development and transformation surrounding the precinct.

RDV Grampians helped secure \$5 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund - Enabling Infrastructure program towards the \$10 million development of Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory – the first underground physics lab in the southern hemisphere. It will be delivered by University of Melbourne on behalf of an Australian and international group of tertiary stakeholders, and generate up to 79 ongoing jobs in the region.

The \$50 million Ballarat Station redevelopment is taking shape and, along with Ballarat GovHub, is helping transform the Ballarat CBD. Work on the 77 room Quest Apartment Hotel progressed well. The superstructure is complete, and fit-out and exterior works are almost complete. Further work includes replacing the Good Shed roof and interior conservation.



RDV Grampians led a localised regional response to adapt to coronavirus restrictions. Support included stimulus funding through the Building Works Package for the Ararat Hills Mountain Bike Project (\$2.7 million), Parwan Employment Precinct (\$2.7 million) and the Warracknabeal Education Precinct (\$19.8 million).

Additional support was provided for smaller regional communities, such as the Clunes Town Hall redevelopment and generating new jobs at the Ballarat Technology Park. RDV Grampians undertook an impact assessment of the top 100 business in the region, conducted over 450 meetings with key stakeholders and local government, and helped businesses mitigate the impact of coronavirus.

Anthony Schinck

Regional Director, Grampians

Regional highlights

- Ballarat West Employment Zone continued to drive economic growth in Ballarat for the Grampians region. RDV Grampians supported the development and expansion of key regional businesses in the precinct, including Luv-a-Duck, Cervus and Findlay Engineering, resulting in over 130 jobs.
- RDV Grampians helped secure more than \$1 million through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund to enable new housing development projects in Ararat

and Stawell that will help overcome a chronic shortage of new housing for workers, and continued working with Development Victoria to facilitate innovative housing solutions across the region.

- Trail work was completed for the Grampians Peaks Trail, with minor work still to be undertaken on steps and bridges. The construction of hiker camps has commenced.

Investment and trade

Plinius Engineering

With support through the Regional Jobs Fund, RDV helped Plinius Engineering facilitate a \$1 million expansion of its Ballarat facilities, supplying new equipment and improved production processes. This will enable the company to increase its manufacturing capacity and capability.

AME Systems

AME Systems will invest \$595,000 in specialised equipment for its Ararat manufacturing facility to cater for additional defence and aerospace work. The project was supported through the Regional Jobs Fund and enabled by RDV Grampians.

Ballarat West Employment Zone

Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) is a 400-hectare industrial precinct near Ballarat Airport. A freight hub is planned on site, along with access for high productivity freight vehicles. RDV Grampians supported the development and expansion of key regional businesses at the precinct.



Economic development

Regional Infrastructure Fund

Through RDV Grampians facilitation, the Victorian Government invested \$4 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund into the Grampians region, supporting \$9.4 million of infrastructure projects across nine local government areas in rural and regional towns.

Ballarat City Council, Ararat Rural City Council, Moorabool Shire Council, Golden Plains Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council, Horsham Rural City Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, West Wimmera Shire Council and Yarriambiack Shire Council all received funding to implement priority infrastructure projects within their communities to improve liveability and the connectivity of residents.

The projects will be delivered and completed within two years, delivering immediate construction jobs to regional Victoria and meeting the needs of community.

Stronger Regional Communities Program

The Stronger Regional Communities Program aims to support rural and regional towns in attracting families and young people to live and work in regional Victoria. It will do so by investing in community-led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth and build resilient, diversified and sustainable economies.

RDV Grampians helped facilitate \$282,000 for five projects under the Stronger Regional Communities Program:

- Grampians Online Cellar Door delivered by Ararat Rural City Council.
- Koorie Heritage Trail Upgrade delivered by Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-Operative.
- Re-branding African Identity delivered by the Ballarat African Association Inc.
- Women's Business Incubator delivered by Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council.
- Your Local Box by Eat Drink West delivered by Plate and Glass.

The Victorian Government invested \$4 million in the Grampians region to support \$9.4 million in infrastructure projects across nine local government areas.



Regional planning and coordination

Workforce opportunities in the Grampians region

The RDA Grampians Committee focused on identifying opportunities to improve workforce outcomes in the region. This included undertaking key investigations on the workforce system and key interventions to improve regional productivity.

The For Want of a Worker project is designed to develop a clearer understanding of how to attract and retain the kind of workforce the region needs for long term growth. The first stage of a literature review was completed, including analysis of initial impacts and opportunities presented by coronavirus.

The Double Triple Vision report focuses on the doubling of regional Victoria's population and tripling of its economic output by 2040. The report identified key interventions all tiers of government can take to achieve this vision. In light of coronavirus, these interventions include digital connectivity, population management, workforce skills, new energy, placed-based developments, health and social outcomes, and business competitiveness.

Regional report Hume



Regional Director's report

The Hume region covers the north east of Victoria. Comprising 12 local government areas and five Alpine resorts, the region is critical to Victoria's economy when it comes to manufacturing, food production and the visitor economy.

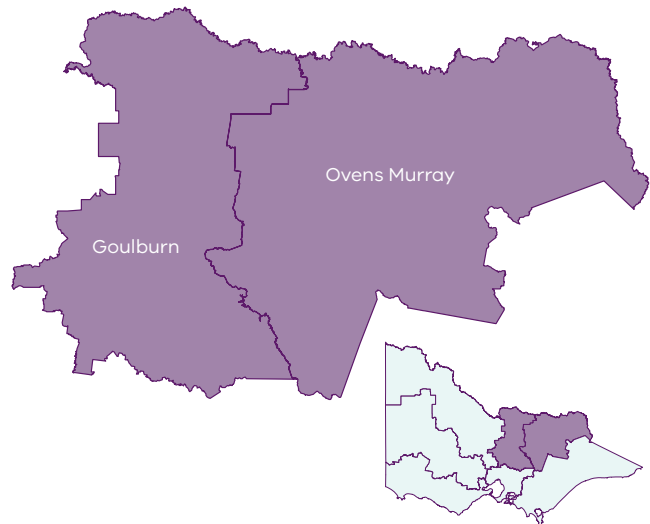
Due to its strategic location and vibrant communities, the region's growing population includes an increasing number of people coming to live, work and invest. Victorian Government support through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund is an important catalyst that helps maintain the momentum of Hume's growth and prosperity.

During the year the Regional Jobs Fund leveraged the region's competitive advantages and helped enable 217 new jobs in the food and fibre, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors.

Implementation of the Ride High Country initiative continued and is strengthening the region's reputation as the preeminent area in Victoria for cycling tourism. As part of the implementation process, progress was made on the Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail trail and Tourism North East delivered a compelling first year marketing campaign. Applications were received for the private sector activation component and we look forward to making exciting announcements about this next year.

Wodonga was chosen as the second location for a Regional Deal program in Victoria and represents Australia's first cross-border regional deal. The project has the potential to stimulate population and economic growth for Albury/Wodonga and surrounding areas.

Major masterplan and business case work was completed for Lake Eildon and Seymour, which aims to encourage greater development and activity in these areas. The Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Resilience Strategy was developed to help this area's irrigation dependent economy adapt to changing natural and economic pressures – and thrive as a result.



Unfortunately, this year presented significant challenges for the region. The north east bushfires combined with the coronavirus pandemic tested the resilience of many communities and businesses. Our staff live and work in regional Victoria and were also heavily affected by these events.

I am incredibly proud of the RDV Hume team who worked so quickly and closely with stakeholders throughout this challenging time. In any crisis RDV is recognised as a trusted government broker that works directly with businesses and communities in understand impacts and how to provide the right assistance to generate the positive outcomes.

Matt Nelson

Regional Director, Hume

Regional highlights

- Albury Wodonga Regional Deal Statement of Intent.
- Bushfire recovery projects.
- Coronavirus stimulus infrastructure projects.
- Implemented the Ride High Country project through trail development, marketing and private sector activation.
- Facilitated an alliance to enable the defence sector in Hume to increase its national presence, regional employment and economic activity.
- Supported 43 projects with funding of \$17 million to leverage \$164 million in investment value.

Investment and trade

RDV Hume continued to engage across industry in the food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism, transport, distribution and logistics sectors. Through this work the team helped generate 217 jobs and \$132.2 million in capital investment. The facilitation process also helped deliver projects by fostering key relationships, mediating discussions and connecting critical service providers.

Overcoming challenges for business

The second half of the financial year saw major challenges across the Hume Region. The devastation of the 2019-20 bushfires had a major effect on tourism and business in general, particularly in the Towong and Alpine shires. Before fire recovery could commence the region's economy was impacted by coronavirus which caused significant revenue losses and some redundancies.

Food and fibre

Supported by the Investment Attraction Program and the Regional Jobs Fund, food and fibre sector projects included:

- Geoffrey Thompsons' \$50 million investment in Mooropna to establish a fruit packing and processing facility, creating 44 new jobs.
- Goulburn Valley Walnuts' \$400,000 investment in Toolamba to construct a new walnut processing facility, creating 13 new jobs.
- Meatworks' \$20 million investment in Gilleston to establish an abattoir facility, creating 100 new jobs.
- Aussie Pride's \$3.6 million investment in Tallygaroopna for a glasshouse development, creating 10 new jobs.
- F&K Goegan's \$1.8 million investment in a glasshouse development in Cobram, creating 30 new jobs.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing sector continued to present capital expenditure and job growth investment opportunities across the region. These included:

- A \$1.95 million investment by Northstar Engineering at Strathmerton to transition its workforce to a new site, increasing its manufacturing capability and creating 19 new jobs.
- A \$700,000 investment by EDP Australia at Mooropna to modernise a manufacturing facility specialising in custom-designed fruit and vegetable industry equipment, creating 10 new jobs.
- A \$2.95 million investment by Butko Engineering in Wodonga to establish a new manufacturing facility and create 16 new jobs.

Tourism and wine

The summer's bushfires followed closely by the coronavirus pandemic, had major impacts on the tourism and wine sectors throughout the Hume region. Bushfires severely impacted vineyards just before vintage, smoke tainting grapes right across the Alpine and King Valleys and in other north east wine regions.

The bushfires hit the region during one of its busiest visitation periods. Tourism businesses had little time to recover before travel and other coronavirus restrictions impacted regional hospitality and accommodation businesses.

The Ride High Country Program continued despite these challenges, with the announcement of successful applicants expected in the first half of 2020-21.

The initial expression of interest process yielded 42 proposals worth \$31 million. Following assessment, 16 applications valued at \$4.5 million were invited to submit applications. Recommendations were made and financial risk assessments are being undertaken before grants are offered.

Transport distribution and logistics

The Hume region maintained its competitive advantage in the transport, distribution and logistics sector due to its location on the Melbourne to Sydney transport corridor, and RDV facilitated a range of projects with business, local government, Transport for Victoria and Regional Roads Victoria.

Projects included the Logic Intermodal Terminal, an \$18 million investment by national transport and logistics company, SCT, to help local companies capitalise on domestic and international transport opportunities.

Additional projects, program support and engagement

Agriculture Workforce Plan

The Investment and Trade team managed the Agriculture Workforce Plan for the Hume region, helping several businesses adapt and comply with coronavirus restrictions.

Manufacturing clusters

Twenty businesses across the region participated in two formal cluster programs that completed an internal SWOT analysis of their operations, plus training and education in the use of lean manufacturing processes. Participation in the program resulted in productivity gains and facilitated workflow processes for a broad cross section of industry.

Defence

RDV Hume supported the Regional Development Australia Committee in a defence roundtable and maintained engagement with Pentarch in Wangaratta that secured a five-year contract with the Federal Government to refurbish munitions boxes. RDV also engaged with NIOA (Munitions), whose Benalla development will provide future opportunities and investment given planned growth and job outcomes



Economic development

RDV partnered with key stakeholders, including the region's 12 local governments, Victoria's alpine resorts, and Regional Tourism Boards.

RDV maintained its focus on delivering community and economic development outcomes, with a focus on jobs and economic growth by enabling new infrastructure and community development projects, and enhancing tourism product development, promotion and marketing, events and capacity building.

These priorities were largely supported and delivered through targeted government programs, and relied on strong local and regional engagement by RDV relationship managers. Local communities benefited from this work that was primarily directed at the transport and logistics, manufacturing, agriculture and tourism sectors.

The following projects were highlights for the year.

Mount Buller Water Storage

The Victorian Government invested \$7.5 million into Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Resort Management Board's \$11.3 million project to develop a 100ML water storage facility. The project was recently completed against a challenging backdrop, including bushfires, unseasonal snow and uncertainty brought by the coronavirus pandemic's impact on the construction industry.

The new reservoir is part of Mt Buller's climate adaptation strategy and provides water for snowmaking, drinking water and firefighting as well as an innovative watering system to maintain the health of important alpine bogs on the mountain. The project will deliver increased visitation to regional Victoria, boost private sector investment, and support jobs growth across the region. This was one of the more complex projects delivered over the period and required close oversight by the regional team.

RDV maintained its focus on delivering community and economic development outcomes.

Wangaratta Gateway Precinct

The Victorian Government allocated \$2.5 million to the \$5 million Wangaratta Gateway Precinct project. This project will revitalise the experience at the main transport hub in Wangaratta, and includes activating the railway precinct, connecting the central business area and encouraging private sector investment. The project is an example of how partnering with local government to invest in regional infrastructure can support regional and community development.

Ride High Country - Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension

The Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension is one of the key projects identified in the North East Victoria Cycling Optimisation Masterplan (Ride High Country). Infrastructure works began in 2018-19 with significant progress made towards project delivery since the commencement. This project is being delivered through partnership with local government and required significant collaboration to resolve complexities, including obtaining a range of regulatory approvals. Once completed, the trail extension will connect two significant tourism growth towns, extend the existing Murray to Mountains Rail Trail by approximately 31km and attract an estimated 7000 additional visitors annually to the region.

Shepparton, Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW)

GROW Shepparton is a \$750,000 program with key objectives including supporting the growth of jobs and the regional economy, while targeting employment outcomes for identified communities facing barriers to employment. Through a collaborative approach focused on local procurement and capacity building, the program has delivered place-based job opportunities and has established the innovative development of a Work Ready Program - an initiative between GROW Shepparton and GOTAFE to support skills, capacity building and sustainable employment opportunities in the local community.

Activating Lake Eildon

With a grant of \$150,000 toward a \$255,000 project, the key objectives of the project were to establish a shared vision for the activation of Lake Eildon, identifying priority tourism and recreation developments with an environmentally sustainable framework to optimise economic outcomes for the region. This project was recently completed and has delivered a masterplan and business cases for several prioritised investment options that will enhance the tourism offering across the region and increase visitation. The project was well supported by RDV who provided guidance and advice.

Responding to the Upper Murray Bushfires

The Upper Murray Bushfires were disastrous for the region. While flames affected communities and businesses directly in the Towong and Alpine Shires, major impacts were also experienced in the municipalities of Indigo, Wangaratta, Mansfield and Wodonga, and the region's the Alpine Resorts.

The summer school holiday period is critical for the visitor economy sector but businesses suffered major losses of trade from January that continued through 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

A number of projects were financially supported by the Victorian Government in response to the fires, including:

- \$2.6 million for a gas gate at Logic in Wodonga
- \$1.9 million to support private sector investment of Ride High Country
- \$500,000 to implement the Colac Colac Caravan Park Masterplan in Towong Shire
- \$500,000 to generate economic activity at Dinner Plain in the Alpine Shire.

The Victorian Government also provided additional support for the Upper Murray Events Centre in Corryong. Financial support provided for the project before the bushfires was contingent on a community contribution of \$200,000 to be raised through livestock sales. This was unachievable because so many cattle were lost during the fires. The Victorian Government agreed to cover the contribution so the facility could be finished for major visitor-attracting events like the Man from Snowy River Festival.

RDV supported Towong and Alpine Shire councils to develop municipal recovery plans with key recovery initiatives being delivered by regional groups such as Tourism North East.

Regional report

Loddon Mallee

Regional Director's report

Loddon Mallee encompasses 59,000 square kilometres from central Victoria to the Murray River across to the north-west.

In 2019-20, the region delivered a range of pivotal projects to strengthen rural and regional economies, and improve the social wellbeing of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities while responding to the impact of coronavirus.

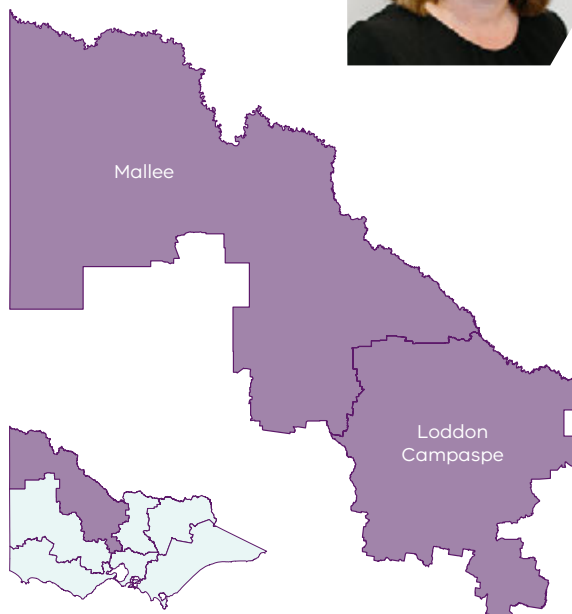
The release of the Loddon Campaspe and Mallee Economic Growth Strategies will ensure the supply of skilled workers, a growing food and agricultural sector, support for the new energy sector and improved tourism assets.

A key focus was improving the journey of school leavers from education to employment and addressing ways to reduce the prevalence of people living with entrenched disadvantage.

Vital work continued in response to the effects of coronavirus, with regional roundtables held to identify impacts and opportunities to improve digital connectivity. Digital connectivity was discussed during the roundtables as an issue requiring immediate action to support recovery.

Supporting rural and regional investment and trade has included grants for the expansion of a medicinal cannabis cultivation and processing facility near Mildura, funding for jobs in the table grape, apple, tomato and wine sectors and supporting the renewable energy sector.

The Maldon Streetscape Revitalisation Project has helped rejuvenate one of the Goldfield's premier historic townships, while several communities were boosted with funding. These included community hubs in Donald and



Charlton, an All Abilities Play Facility in Koondrook, worker housing in Robinvale and work on the Mildura Riverfront Development project.

Leading the planning of the \$90 million Bendigo GovHub, RDV engaged across government and communities to deliver more coordinated government services, and build a stronger and collaborative public sector to better serve the needs of Bendigo and surrounding communities.

Rachel Lee
Regional Director, Loddon Mallee

Regional highlights

- Publishing the Mallee and Loddon Campaspe Economic Growth Strategies which provide a blueprint for growing the region's economy.
- Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership Deep Dive focused on improving the journey of school leavers from education to employment.
- Mallee Regional Partnership addressed ways to reduce the prevalence of people living with entrenched disadvantage.
- Supporting the Girgarre Development Group to progress their vision for a Regional Botanic Gardens by investing in the Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden - Stage 1 - Detailed Design Project.
- Facilitating support and progressing construction of the new tourism infrastructure at Lake Tyrrell.
- Investing in the Mildura Riverfront Stage 1a – Village Square project.
- Investing in the Koondrook All Abilities Playground.
- Facilitating support and progressing construction of the new Robinvale Community Hub.
- Supporting the re-commencement of regular passenger flights by Qantas Link out of Bendigo.
- Progressing the Murray River Adventure Trail – Stage 1 Business Case and Design Project.

Investment and trade

Cann Group

Cann Group was awarded a grant under the Victorian Government's Regional Jobs Fund to support a \$95 million staged expansion of a medicinal cannabis cultivation and processing facility near Mildura. The project will include electricity upgrades at the planned facility which is expected to generate around 150 new permanent jobs.

Grape Co

Grape Co was awarded a grant under the Food Source Victoria program to undertake an investment of \$1.24 million for the purchase and installation of new table grape punnet packing equipment near Mildura. The project will create 33 new full-time equivalent jobs at Merbein South, an additional \$6.3 million in export revenue and benefit an alliance of 35 table grape producers supplying the facility from the Sunraysia region.

White Gum Apples

White Gum Apples received a grant under the Food Source Victoria Program to help expand and modernise its manufacturing and warehousing facilities at Barkers Creek, near Harcourt. The project will create seven new full-time equivalent jobs.

Kirkland Lake Gold

RDV and Earth Resources assisted Kirkland Lake Gold to establish an on-site cement plant and mine water treatment plant.

A grant under the Victorian Government's TARGET (Round 2) Minerals Exploration Initiative helped the company undertake further exploration at its Fosterville mine. Kirkland is investing \$51.8 million to establish the plant that will be important to discover additional mineral reserves at the Fosterville site. The project will create 30 new jobs in Fosterville.

Wine Growth Fund - Round 3

RDV worked with vineyards and wineries in the region, as well as the Bendigo Winegrowers Association and Macedon Ranges Vignerons, to help boost production and tourism for the local wine industry. The third round of the Wine Growth Fund enabled 19 projects in the region, including a glamping project at Lake Cooper Estate that will create seven new jobs.

Premier Fruits Lancaster

Premier Fruits Lancaster, as part of the La Manna Premier Group, received funding towards a Stage 2 \$10 million investment in a five-hectare greenhouse investment for tomato and other produce growing in Lancaster that will create a further 41 full-time equivalent jobs.

Energy assistance

RDV provided broad sector energy reviews and extensive facilitation across energy intensive industries through initiatives such as the Industry Energy Support Scheme. This supported manufacturing business, KR Castlemaine, with boiler replacement and power factor correction upgrades.

RDV also collaborated on renewable energy sector development, including working with DELWP on renewable energy initiatives including support for Enel Green Power Australia's \$29 million investment near Cohuna.

Regional highlights continued

- Delivering a Silo Art Extension Project, which will inform future investments and opportunities in the Mallee and Wimmera Southern Mallee Partnership Regions.
- Investing in the Maldon Streetscape Revitalisation Project.
- Launching the Keep in Touch (KiT) Van and App, a co-designed youth-focused outreach resource that promotes help seeking behaviours.
- Completing the Active Living Census by 25,000 residents from the Loddon Campaspe region. The survey is one of three key initiatives of the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative.
- Establishing the Walking Together or Balak Kalik Manya project that involves the Dja Dja Wurrung leading the planning and on-ground management of two popular parks adjacent to Bendigo and Castlemaine.
- Supporting nine community investments through the Stronger Regional Communities Program.
- Supporting 15 Building Works package projects designed to create jobs, attract visitors and kickstart local economies impacted by this summer's bushfires and coronavirus.

Economic development

Donald Community Hub

Donald's \$2.85 million sports stadium and function centre was completed. The project has transformed the stadium into a vibrant multipurpose facility to serve the community for generations.

Charlton Park Community Hub

The Charlton Park Community Hub, which received \$1.45 million from the Victorian Government towards the \$4.2 million multi-purpose sport, racing and recreation centre, was opened to much anticipation. The community-driven project consolidated existing buildings to create a modern multi-purpose facility with shared resources and a better layout.

Koondrook All Abilities Play Facility

The Victorian Government provided \$390,000 to support this \$520,000 project that will deliver an all abilities play facility in the heart of Koondrook. The project will involve installing play equipment and other accessible features, particularly for children with a disability. The completed project will enhance social and health outcomes across the region by encouraging more physical activity and catering for young people with a disability.

Working Housing and Accommodation for the Mallee

The Victorian Government committed \$500,000 towards a \$1.7 million project supporting the Swan Hill Rural City Council's innovative Robinvale Worker Housing initiative. Addressing a shortage of housing suitable for professional staff in Robinvale which is limiting the town's economic development and population growth, the project will deliver a subdivision of eight lots and construction of four houses for on selling to help stimulate the market in Robinvale.

The Victorian Government also committed \$800,000 to support the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc deliver their Ramsay Court Mildura Worker Accommodation Phase 2 project. The project will refurbish 25 rooms and purpose built worker accommodation for migrant and seasonal workers.

Mildura Riverfront Development – Stage 2

RDV continued to lead the further development of the Mildura Riverfront that included completing a Mildura Riverfront Stage 2 Master plan and feasibility assessment. This initiative provides a framework for further community infrastructure investment to support tourism and commercial opportunities on the riverfront escarpment. Work progressed with the Victorian Planning Authority, VicTrack and Mildura Rural City Council to help address planning matters to support future project delivery.

The Koondrook All Abilities Play Facility will involve installing play equipment and other accessible features, particularly for children with a disability.



Mildura Chocolate Company

The Victorian Government provided a \$38,000 grant to the Mildura Chocolate Company that employs people with a disability in the Mallee region. It is run by the not-for-profit disability support organisation, the Christie Centre, which provides support services and employment opportunities to people with a disability and is committed to greater equality and inclusion in the Mallee region.

This enabled the Mildura Chocolate Company to purchase a conveyor belt, combined hopper and packing machine. The new equipment helped increase production of premium quality chocolate and employ a more diverse range of people with a disability.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

The Victorian Government continued to support the delivery of the \$5 million infrastructure project near Bendigo that involves completing the structure of the Great Stupa and visitor facilities in the precinct. This year the Great Stupa structure (phase 1) was completed and the hand-crafted gold finial at the top of the monument was unveiled in January 2020. Since then, significant progress has been made on the provision of visitor services infrastructure (phase 2).

Victorian Goldfields Railway

In 2019, the Victorian Government provided \$500,000 to support delivery of the Victorian Goldfields Railway's \$750,000 Service Reorientation (Stage 2) project. Locomotive servicing facilities in the Castlemaine Station Precinct, a carriage shed extension and volunteer facilities are nearly complete. The project is the first stage of a major infrastructure development.

Stage 2 will help the railway double the annual number of visitors (from 20,000 to 40,000) it carries from Castlemaine to the historic township of Maldon in five years.

Creative Industries Hub

In 2019, the Victorian Government provided \$500,000 towards the \$992,452 Creative Industries Hub that will be constructed inside the existing Castlemaine goods shed building. Following the development of the Creative Industries Hub in June 2020, the Castlemaine State Festival secured funding for the Creative Industries Hub, now called Goods Sheds Arts, through the delivery of Digital Goods, a Goods Shed Arts Digital Media Program. Digital Goods will provide part-time employment for up to 10 local creative practitioners working in the field of digital media to design and deliver the programs.

Small Towns Streetscape

The Victorian Government provided \$500,000 towards the Small Towns Streetscape Stage 2 Project that will enable street beautification and other improvements in Campbells Creek, Taradale and Elphinstone. Construction will involve street beautification and supporting infrastructure for local businesses to improve economic activity and community connections in town centres.

Central Goldfields Art Gallery

The Victorian Government provided \$500,000 towards Central Goldfields Art Gallery Revitalisation Phase 1 project. The project will redevelop the building by restoring existing infrastructure and 19th century features, deliver environmental improvements, improve accessibility and redesign the internal space to create an open, contemporary reception, gallery space and retail area.

Phase 1 will increase the range of works exhibited, community engagement in cultural and educational activities visitation, attract more touring exhibitions.

Maldon Streetscape Revitalisation Project

The Victorian Government committed \$4.5 million to support delivery of a \$5.5 million project to rejuvenate the historic Maldon streetscape. The project aims to increase economic activity, business development and visitation to one of the Goldfield's premier historic townships. The project will deliver general improvements to the public space and pedestrian access, traffic calming measures, new street furniture, lighting and signage, undergrounding of overhead power cables, and a shopfront restoration program.



Regional planning and coordination

Implementing economic growth strategies

In November the Mallee and Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnerships and Loddon Mallee RDA published Economic Growth Strategies for the Mallee and Loddon Campaspe regions.

The strategies highlight the most significant opportunities and barriers to economic growth in the region, and what can be done to realise this growth. Both strategies were developed with regional stakeholders including local government.

Implementation of the strategies commenced, with a focus on ensuring the supply of skilled workers, strengthening the food and agricultural sector, supporting the emerging new energy sector and improving tourism assets.

Supporting school leavers towards employment

The first Deep Dive engagement within the State was hosted by the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership. Focused on the journey of school leavers from education to employment, organisers ensured that the voice of the region's young were well heard on the night.

Participants in the Deep Dive included representatives of all the institutions that could help transition young people from school to work or further study. This included school principals, leaders from the Local Learning and Employment Networks, Bendigo Kangan Institute, La Trobe University, the Victorian Government and Members of Parliament.

Addressing entrenched disadvantage

The Mallee Regional Partnership addressed the high rates of entrenched disadvantage in the region by working with regional stakeholders. While coronavirus prevented the Deep Dive event, engagement across the region continued online.

Implementation of the strategies commenced, with a focus on ensuring the supply of skilled workers, strengthening the food and agricultural sector, supporting the emerging new energy sector and improving tourism assets.

Mallee Regional Innovation Centre

After a year of operation, the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre is successfully helping innovate irrigated industries in the Mallee. Already the centre has research projects focused on automated pruning, using big data to improve decision making and increasing ecological knowledge to support environmental watering.

The centre also represented the interests of the region by supporting growth in the renewable energy sector and advocating to establish a 'One Basin' Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), with a hub based in Mildura. The CRC will focus on a sustainable future for the Murray Darling Basin.

Strengthening food and agriculture

Work undertaken to map food industry supply chains identified over 30 new business opportunities in the region that could arise from expanding, modernising or diversifying current businesses, collaboration between businesses with similar interests, replacing imports into the region, or developing new products. Work continued on developing business cases for several of these opportunities.

A green and connected future

Both the northern and southern parts of the region benefitted from digital plans produced in 2019-20. These plans map the digital connectivity issues facing business and community, and prioritise necessary work.

The Loddon Mallee region also developed a New Energy Roadmap, which provides insight into the opportunities and challenges the region faces as it moves from a centralised to a more decentralised renewable energy system. It creates a picture of how our energy system currently works, and the possibilities this transition will provide.

Work undertaken to map food industry supply chains identified over 30 new business opportunities in the region.



Financials 2019-20



Grant payments

In 2019-20, the following payments were made:

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
2014 Bushfires Economic Recovery Fund		
Latrobe City Council	Future Morwell - Communication and Branding project	16,909
Latrobe City Council	Future Morwell - Morwell City Entrances project	200,000
Latrobe City Council	Future Morwell - Urban Design and Beautification Project	100,000
Ballarat GovHub		
City of Ballarat	Ballarat GovHub - Implementation of CBD Parking Action Plan	250,000
Department of Justice and Community Safety (Victoria)	Ballarat GovHub Staging Post	Commercial in confidence
Bushfire Recovery Fund 2015-16		
Colac Otway Shire	Wye River Half Marathon Trail Run event	10,000
Community Bushfire Recovery 2020		
Alpine Shire Council	High Country Comeback Event	26,000
Community Regional Industry Skills Program		
K R Castlemaine Foods Pty Ltd	KRC - Building Capability Project (CRISP)	Commercial in confidence
Economic Infrastructure Program		
Multinet Gas (Db No 1) Pty Ltd & Multinet Gas (Db No 2) Pty Ltd	Supply of Natural Gas to Warburton	78,852
Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd as the Trustee for the Classic Reproductions Unit Trust and Real Harbour Company Pty Ltd and The Trustee for Peninsula Harbour Unit Trust	Queenscliff Fisherman's Wharf Precinct Rejuvenation Project	750,000
Food Source Victoria		
Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat Pty Ltd	Food Source Victoria - Scholarship - Amanda Collins	2455
Ballarat Regional Tourism	The Grampians Pyrenees Wine Region Marketing Masterplan Implementation	10,000
Campbells Wines	Interactive Visitor Journey to Discover Muscat of Rutherglen	3800
Carboor Farms Pty Ltd	Carboor Farms Manufacturing, Innovation and Export Expansion	Commercial in confidence
City of Greater Geelong	Implementation of the Sustainable Agribusiness Strategy	25,000
Emerald Springs Pastoral Company	Expansion of the Cattle Backgrounding and Quarantine Facility	34,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Farm Foods Pty Ltd	Farm Foods Value Chain USA Export Project	Commercial in confidence
Fruit Innovation Processing Pty Ltd	FSV - Fruit Innovation Processing - Pilot Plant	96,750
Geoffrey Thompson Holdings Limited	Establishment of an Export Standard Fruit Packing and Grading Facility at Mooroopna	Commercial in confidence
Gippsland Natural Meats	FSV - Gippsland Natural Meats - Retail Ready Export Project	25,000
Goulburn Valley Walnuts Pty Ltd	Goulburn Valley Walnuts Business Relocation and Expansion	100,000
Grape Co Australia Pty Ltd	Table Grape Punnet Packing Equipment	100,000
Koallah Farm	Koallah Farm Export Accreditation upgrade	40,000
Mantzaris Fisheries Pty Ltd	FSV - Value Adding Australian Prawns	Commercial in confidence
Mount Moriac Olives	FSV - Geelong Region Olives Collaborative Enterprise	20,000
Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens	FSV - Creating the land of milk and honey in rural Australia	33,775
Nillumbik Tourism and Business Inc	The Artisan Hills Wineries regional awareness project	4000
Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia Limited	Australian Organic Milk Value-Adding Facility	Commercial in confidence
Otway Harvest Trail	Growing our Harvest: Enhancing the Otway's produce alliance and product experience	30,000
South Gippsland Shire Council	South Gippsland Specialty Food Logistics	5000
Southern Ocean Mariculture	Pilot scale production trial of an extract from abalone processing waste	14,431
Symons Organic Dairy	Mortlake Organic Dairy Hub	50,000
The Australian Walnut Company Pty Ltd	Establishment of a Walnut Growers' Co-operative and Processing Facility Feasibility	10,000
The Food Purveyor	FSV - Market and Logistics Platform for Small Producers	24,500
The Grange Farm Food	The Grange Farm Food Garlic Processing Facility Expansion	75,000
Victorian Farmers' Markets Association	FSV - VFMA - Growing regional economies through accredited farmers, markets	25,000
W F Montague Pty Ltd	Export Distribution Centre	Commercial in confidence
White Gum Apples P/L	Manufacturing expansion for new products and market growth	60,000
Wine Victoria	FSV - Innovation support in the Victorian Wine Industry	24,000
Worn Gundidj	Worn Gundidj Enterprises Bush Food Project	10,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Geelong City Deal		
Colac Otway Shire	Apollo Bay Harbour - Geelong City Deal	600,000
Colac Otway Shire	Great Ocean Walk Stage 1 - Geelong City Deal	200,000
Colac Otway Shire	Tourism Infrastructure at Kennett River - Geelong City Deal	300,000
Deakin University HQ - Office of the Vice Chancellor	Geelong Future Economy Precinct Infrastructure	1,300,000
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Feasibility for Great Ocean Walk Stage 2 - Geelong City Deal	50,000
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Revitalising Central Geelong Partnership - Geelong City Deal	1,680,000
Royal Geelong Yacht Club Inc	Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct	2,000,000
Searoad Ferries	Queenscliff Ferry Terminal Upgrade - Geelong City Deal	570,000
Goulburn Valley Industry and Infrastructure Fund		
W. Ryan Abattoirs Pty Ltd	Ryan Export Upgrade Project	Commercial in confidence
Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund		
CRRRC Times Electric Company (CRRRC TEC)	Facility for traction assembly/electrical testing of HCMT components	Commercial in confidence
Federation University Australia - Gippsland	Brown Coal Innovation Australia - Regional Carbon Innovation Centre (RCIC) Feasibility	Commercial in confidence
Federation University Australia - Gippsland	Federation University Feasibility Study Gippsland Additive Manufacturing Centre	Commercial in confidence
GBG Concrete & Construction Pty Ltd	Pre Fabrication Facility Expansion	Commercial in confidence
Gibsons Groundspread Pty Ltd	Gibsons Logistics Expansion Project	Commercial in confidence
Gippsland CNC Cutting	Gippsland CNC Cutting - Workshop Relocation and Upgrade	Commercial in confidence
Gippsland Greenhouse Produce Pty Ltd	Construction of a high-tech glasshouse for the production of high quality glasshouse produce	Commercial in confidence
JH Cuthbertson Pty Ltd	Quarry Crushing and Screening Plant Upgrade	Commercial in confidence
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe City Aerospace Precinct - Feasibility Study	Commercial in confidence
Latrobe Valley Enterprises	Latrobe Valley Enterprises Expansion and Increased Productivity Project	Commercial in confidence
Latrobe Valley Glass	Latrobe Valley Glass Residential Window Factory	Commercial in confidence
Quality Motorcycle Training	Quality Motorcycle Training Moe Relocation Project	Commercial in confidence
Serco Citizen Services	Newborough Contact Centre	Commercial in confidence
Signature Care	LVEFF - Signature Care - Moe Aged Care Home	Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Strzelecki Engineering Pty Ltd	Manufacturing Capacity Expansion Project	Commercial in confidence
Top Welding & Construction Pty Ltd	Top No.5 Workshop	Commercial in confidence
Valley Court Laundrette	Valley Court Laundrette Pty Ltd New Flatwork Linen Processing Facility	Commercial in confidence
Victoria Valley Meat Exports Pty Ltd	Stage 2 Export Market Growth Project	Commercial in confidence
Vincent Painting Contractors	Vincent Painting Pty Ltd - Fluid Flow Repair Facility	Commercial in confidence
Latrobe Valley Growth and Innovation Program		
Federation University Australia - Ballarat	Gippsland Hi-Tech - Innovation Centre - Main Construction Works	9,300,000
Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program		
Allform Industries	HSCTP Program - Business Transition Services Plan - Allform Industries	16,658
ANC Forestry Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - ANC Forestry	16,500
Ausvic Pty Ltd	HSCTP Program - Business Transition Services Plan - Ausvic Pty Ltd	16,500
Automation, Control & Engineering Services (ACES)	HSCTP Program - Business Transition Services Plan - Automation, Control & Engineering Services Pty Ltd	44,000
BJ Bearings	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - BJ Bearings	16,500
Dasma Services Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services Plan - Dasma	16,500
DataCommand Pty Ltd ATF DataCommand Unit Trust	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - DataCommand	44,000
Dave's Panel Worx	LVSCTP Business Transition Service Plan - Dave's Panel Worx	16,500
Dennis Jones Engineering Pty Ltd	HSCTP Business Transition Services - Dennis Jones Engineering	16,500
Farnham Court Motel	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - Farnham Court	16,500
Gippsland Automotive Services Manzo Family Trust	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - Gippsland Automotive	16,175
Gippsland Bearing Supplies Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services - Gippsland Bearing Supplies	16,500
Gippsland CNC Cutting	LVSCTP Business Transition Service Plan - Gippsland CNC Cutting	16,500
Gippsland CNC Cutting	LVSCTP Business Transition Services Plan (2019 extension program) - Gippsland CNC Cutting	44,000
Gippsland Lifts and Cranes	Gippsland Lifts and Cranes - HSCTP Business Transition Services Plan	16,500
Gippsland NDT	HSCTP Business Transition Service - Gippsland NDT	16,500
GQS	HSCTP Program - Business Transition Services Plan - STR Inspection Services Pty Ltd	16,500

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Henderson Business Services Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition – Henderson Business Services Pty Ltd T/A Workforce XS	16,000
Henderson Business Services Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – Henderson Business Services Pty Ltd T/A Workforce XS	22,227
Hydeng Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – Hydeng Pty Ltd	44,000
Hydraulic & Pneumatic Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – Hydraulic & Pneumatic Pty Ltd	16,500
KND Services	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – KND Services	16,500
Latrobe Valley Machining Pty Ltd	HSCTP Business Transition Services – LV Machining	16,500
Mairin OHS & E Consulting Pty Ltd	HSCTP Business Transition Service Plan – Mairin OHS & E	16,500
Manatoka Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – Manatoka	16,500
O&M Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Services – O&M Pty Ltd	16,500
Shop Drawings & Projects (Formerly Gippsland Precision Engineering)	HSCTP Program – Business Transition Services Plan – Direct QC (Formerly Gippsland Engineering)	16,500
Taylor Miller Pty Ltd	HSCTP Business Transition Services – Taylor Miller	16,500
Tradeweld Pty Ltd	LVSCTP Business Transition Service Plan – Tradeweld Pty Ltd	42,242
Traralgon Industries Pty Ltd	HSCTP Program – Business Transition Services Plan – Traralgon Industries Pty Ltd	16,500
Valley Court Laundrette	HSCTP Program – Business Transition Services Plan – Valley Court Laundrette Pty Ltd	16,500
Vincent Painting Contractors	HSCTP Business Transition Services Plan – Vincent Painting	16,500
Willaton Transport	LVSCTP Business Transition Extension Program – Willaton Transport	16,000
Willaton Transport	LVSCTP Business Transition Service Plan – Willaton Transport Pty Ltd	55,000
Latrobe Valley Worker Transition Program		
Gippsland Employment Skills Training	GEST Worker Transition Services	53,580
Gippsland Trades & Labour Council	Latrobe Valley Worker Transition Services	45,000
Workways Australia Limited	Workways Worker Transition Service	15,000
Living Regions Living Suburbs		
Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare	Support for Albury Wodonga Regional FoodShare Operations and Sustainability	50,000
Bendigo FoodShare	Support for FoodShare Operations and Sustainability – Bendigo FoodShare	50,000
Brookes Beer Pty Ltd	Central Victorian Brewers Alliance Collaboration Program	60,000
City of Greater Bendigo	Strengthening Victoria's FoodShare Operations	200,000
Federation University Australia – Ballarat	LRLS – FUAB – New Concentrix Call Centre for Westpac Distressed Customers	350,000
Geelong Steam Preservation Society	Bellarine Railway Strategic Infrastructure Project – Stage 1 Drysdale	300,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Greater Shepparton City Council	2030 Greater Victorian Commonwealth Games Bid Pre-feasibility Study	10,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	Increasing Export Opportunities for Dairy - White Tide Project Phase 1	50,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	Museum of Vehicle Evolution (MOVE) Shepparton	900,000
Hepburn Shire Council	LRLS - HSC - Clunes Town Hall and Police Courthouse Remedial Works	317,000
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Victory Park Accessible Pathways and Ray Bradfield Room Kitchen Upgrade	50,000
Parks Victoria	Nowa Nowa Boggy Creek Trail Upgrade	250,000
Romsey Mechanics Institute	Romsey Mechanic's Institute Toilet Refurbishment and Renovation	35,000
Rural City of Wangaratta	Sam Miranda - Tour of the King Valley	10,000
Samaritan House Geelong	Samaritan House and FormFlow Housing Project	500,000
Shepparton FoodShare Inc	Support for Shepparton FoodShare Operations and Sustainability	50,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Hamilton Industrial Land Estate Subdivision Stage 2	150,000
St John of God Hospital Ballarat	LRLS - St JoGH - Ballarat Innovation and Research Collaboration for Health (BIRCH) - Operational Extension	150,000
The Country Womens Association of Victoria Inc	2019 Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference	10,000
Tomorrow Today Education Foundation Ltd	Sustainability for the Tomorrow Today Education Foundation	60,000
Walhalla Goldfields Railway Inc	Walhalla Goldfields Railway Rail Motor project (LRLS)	151,000
Warrnambool and District Foodshare	Support for Foodshare Operations and Sustainability	50,000
Wellington Shire Council	Gippsland Comeback Event 2020	70,000
Youth Live4Life	Connecting Communities in COVID-19	10,000
Local Industry Fund for Transition		
AKS Industries Australia Pty Ltd	LIFT - AKS Industries - Business Expansion and Productivity Project	Commercial in confidence
Australian Lamb (Colac) Pty Ltd	LIFT - Australian Lamb - Colac Capacity Expansion Project - Stage Two B	Commercial in confidence
Bates Pipes Geelong Pty Ltd	LIFT - Bates Pipes and Products - Concrete Pipe Production Facility Modernisation and Expansion Project	Commercial in confidence
Chemring Australia Pty Ltd - Lara	LIFT - Chemring Australia - Lara Facility Expansion - Countermeasures for USA Market	Commercial in confidence
Routleys (Vic) Pty Ltd	LIFT - Routleys (Vic) - Routleys Expansion Project	Commercial in confidence
Flat Glass Industries Pty Ltd	LIFT - Flat Glass - Creating world best practice architectural glass manufacturing facility in Geelong	Commercial in confidence
Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program (VIC)		
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Plan2Farm	540,000
Shire of Campaspe	Echuca Riverfront Development	3,600,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Putting Locals First Program		
Moorabool Shire Council	Ballan Industrial Estate - Ballan Activation (Part A) - Construction & Development	135,000
Seaview Public Hall Reserve Committee	Seaview Heritage School Project	1400
Regional Connectivity Program		
Optus Mobile Pty Ltd	VMP2 - Optus	489,107
Optus Mobile Pty Ltd	VMP2.1 - Optus	361,648
Regional Development Australia - Regional		
Benalla Rural City Council	Benalla Future Workforce Analysis	4500
Commerce Ballarat Limited	Sponsorship of 2020 Ballarat Business Awards	22,000
Latrobe City Council	Invest Gippsland - Gippsland Beef Event	9000
Mansfield Shire Council	Mansfield Producers Inc - Paddock to Plate Agritourism Alliance - Marketing and Implementation Plan	10,000
Runway Geelong Limited	Runway, Deakin and Gordon Startup-Corporate Hybrid Internship - Research and Consultation seed project	Commercial in confidence
Towong Shire Council	Building economic development capacity in Hume local government	8000
Regional Development Priorities 2019-2020		
Benalla Rural City Council	Making a Splash in Benalla - Construction Project	500,000
City of Greater Geelong	Barwon Heads Arts and Community Hub	50,000
Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc	Support the Country Women's Association: Annual funding	100,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Romsey Ecotherapy Park - Stage 2	240,000
Victorian Planning Authority	Sebastopol Revitalisation	250,193
Regional Development Victoria Special Purpose Projects		
Be.Bendigo	Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW) Bendigo	250,000
City of Ballarat	CSF - Lake Wendouree Community Outdoor Gym Facilities	72,000
Committee for Greater Shepparton	Shepparton, Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW)	187,500
East Gippsland Shire Council	East Gippsland Shire Council - Community Priorities Fund	500,000
Give Where You Live	Geelong, Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW) Expansion	100,000
Highlands LLEN	Ballarat, Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW)	220,000
Leopold Hall Inc	Leopold Hall Extension	75,400
Marysville and Triangle Community Foundation Limited	Review and Refresh Marysville and Triangle's Economic Strategy	10,000
Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism Inc	Marysville Tourism and Arts Centre	40,000
Murrindindi Shire Council	Doing Business Better - Stage 1	24,840
Murrindindi Shire Council	Doing Business Better - Stage 2	78,750

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Runway Geelong Limited	Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space (BILDS) project	858,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Southern Grampians – Flood Recovery Community Infrastructure Fund 2017	164,960
Strathbogie Shire Council	Friendly Societies Oval to Memorial Reserve Euroa Town Link	180,000
Latrobe Valley Authority	Latrobe Valley, Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW)	675,000
Regional Infrastructure Fund		
Bass Coast Shire Council	Revitalisation of the Cowes Precinct – Delivering on the Phillip Island Vision for the Future	420,000
Baw Baw Shire Council	West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul: Redevelopment and Seating Capacity Expansion Project	1,500,000
Borough of Queenscliffe	Queenscliffe Hub	290,000
Buloke Shire Council	Charlton Park 2020 Multi-Purpose Facility Development	400,000
Buloke Shire Council	Donald Multipurpose Community Facility Redevelopment	300,000
City of Ballarat	Eureka Stadium and Sports Infrastructure – Relocation of Ballarat Showgrounds	2,650,000
Glenelg Shire Council	Henty Employment Precinct Infrastructure Upgrade	875,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	Shepparton Art Museum	2,500,000
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe Creative Precinct	3,500,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Halls Gap Activation – Stage 1	400,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Stawell CBD Revitalisation	110,000
Royal Geelong Yacht Club Inc	Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct Public Access and Infrastructure Development	2,920,000
Rural City of Wangaratta	Wangaratta Gateway Precinct Project	2,000,000
The Trustee for PGPD Trust No. 2	Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment	10,337,000
Towong Shire Council	Corryong Airport Precinct Development	132,399
University of Melbourne	Stawell Underground Physics Lab (SUPL)	2,000,000
Victorian Rail Track	Bendigo Tramways Development	3,500,000
Warrnambool City Council	Warrnambool City Centre Renewal	1,000,000
Wildlife Wonders Ltd	Wildlife Wonders: Ecotourism for economic development and environmental conservation	1,200,000
Wodonga City Council	Wodonga Library and Gallery Redevelopment project	200,000
Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund 2019-20		
Ararat Rural City Council	RIF 2019-20 – ARCC – Ararat East Development Zone Road Realignment Integrated Planning Strategy	100,000
Aussie Pride Produce Pty Ltd	Aussie Pride Produce Expansion	Commercial in confidence
EDP Australia Pty Ltd	Mooroopna Expansion	Commercial in confidence
Golden Plains Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 – GPS – Three Trails Project	50,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Hepburn Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 - HSC - Daylesford Aquatic and Civic Plaza Precinct	100,000
Horsham Rural City Council	RIF 2019-20 - HRCC - City to River Transformation Stage 1 - Wimmera Riverfront Activation	100,000
Moorabool Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 - MSC - The Bacchus Marsh 1000	50,000
North Star Industries Pty Ltd	Site Consolidation / Expansion in Strathmerton (Project Evolution)	Commercial in confidence
Northern Grampians Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 - NGSC - Stawell Housing Development	100,000
Safetech Pty Ltd	Moe Manufacturing Expansion	Commercial in confidence
West Wimmera Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 - WWSC - Activating the Edenhope Community Centre - Aspirations for Paradise (Hopes for Eden)	100,000
Yarriambiack Shire Council	RIF 2019-20 - YSC - Home Is Where the Hall Is	100,000
Regional Jobs Fund		
Arlo Vintners	Cellar Door and Storage Development	12,500
Austins Wines Pty Ltd	Austin's Wine Bar - Cellar Door Expansion	15,000
Austins Wines Pty Ltd	Moorabool Valley Wine Club	2000
Australian Eatwell Pty Ltd	Meat Analogue Development Project	60,000
Avalon No. 1 Pty Ltd	Construction of New International Terminal & Extension of Existing Domestic Terminal at Avalon Airport	Commercial in confidence
Avalon No. 1 Pty Ltd	Industrial Precinct Development (Avalon Airport Industrial Precinct)	Commercial in confidence
Baie Wines	Collaborative undervine straw spreading initiative	5000
Ballarat Regional Industries Inc	Food Packaging Expansion	2075
Beechworth Vignerons Association	E-commerce Platform and Marketing	5000
Billy Button Wines	Winery Facilities and Equipment Upgrade	75,000
Blue Pyrenees Estate Pty Ltd	Blue Pyrenees Estate Wine Education Centre	12,000
Blue Pyrenees Estate Pty Ltd	Regional Cross Flow Technology	50,000
Brandmere Nominees Pty Ltd	Sustainable Viticulture Project	1900
Buller Wines Pty Ltd and TFB Wine Investments Pty Ltd	Installation of Crossflow Filter	35,000
Cadopen Pty Ltd (Tallangatta Meats)	TMP Processing Expansion	Commercial in confidence
Captains Creek Organic Wines	Enhancing the Cellar Door Food and Wine Experience	6000
Chalmers Wines Australia Pty Ltd	Chalmers Winery Upgrade	30,000
Cheerpack Asia Pacific Pty Ltd	Construction of a New Packaging Manufacturing Facility in Shepparton	56,000
Cobaw Ridge	Loft Accommodation	10,000
CT4 Pty Ltd	CT4 Virtual Security Operations Centre	Commercial in confidence
De Bortoli Wines Pty Ltd	Rutherglen Estates Upgrade of Irrigation & Associated Systems	4000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Delatite Wines Pty Ltd	Cellar Door Expansion and Eco Tourism Experience	25,000
Denfood Pty Ltd	Manufacturing Expansion Project	Commercial in confidence
Domaine Asmara Pty Ltd	Automated Bottling Line	75,000
Eastern Peake Vineyard	Clemens double side undervine weeder	15,000
Fallen Giants	Cellar door expansion	5000
Feathertop Winery - Boyntons Australia Pty Ltd	Wine Production Tank	10,000
Formula Forage Australia	Formula Forage Wodonga Relocation	50,000
Fowles Wine Pty Ltd	Expansion of Fowles Wine's Cellar Door and Cafe at Avenel	50,000
Garden Gully Grampians Wine	Grampians Estate Cellar Door Redevelopment Project	30,000
Geelong Manufacturing Council	Cleantech Innovations Geelong 2018-2021	110,000
Gilmac (WA) Pty Ltd	Gilmac - St. Arnaud Hay Processing Facility	Commercial in confidence
Give Where You Live	G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) Project	200,000
Glenelg Shire Council	Continuation of RPT Aviation Services	25,000
Global City Connect	Wine product development for the Chinese Hot Pot market	5000
Grampians Winemakers	Grampians Winemakers Stands at Visitor Information Centres	10,000
Greenham Gippsland Pty Ltd	Greenham Gippsland - Facility Upgrade	Commercial in confidence
Harcourt Produce & General Store	Vertically integrated offering of Harcourt Valley wines	10,000
Harrybilt Engineering & Welding Services	Harrybilt Engineering Market Growth Strategy	30,000
Heathcote Tourism & Development Inc	Promotion of Heathcote wineries, cellar door and point of difference in the region	5000
Hofmann Engineering Pty. Ltd. (Bendigo)	Hofmann FLEXPLO - Flexible Production Line (Bendigo)	Commercial in confidence
Hop Products Australia	Buffalo River Expansion	Commercial in confidence
Indigo Wine Company Limited	Barrell Experience	10,000
J.C. Butko Engineering Pty Ltd	Manufacturing Facility Expansion	80,000
James Stockfeed & Fertilizer Pty Ltd	James Stockfeed Expansion	50,000
Jasper Hill	Heathcote Weather Station Project	5500
Jones Winery & Vineyard	Frost Fan to Protect Vineyard	20,000
JV Orchards Pty Ltd	JV Orchards coldstorage expansion	75,000
Lake Cooper Estate	'Glamping' Project at Lake Cooper Estate	20,000
Lethbridge Wines	Cellar Door Improvement Project	4000
Lyons Will Estate	Winery Expansion	20,000
M Antonello	Water Security - Market Demand	40,000
Mac Forbes Wines	Phylloxera Research project	5000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Melbourne Food and Wine Events Ltd	Food and Wine Victoria – Wine Month Feasibility Study	5000
Mitchell Harris Investment Trust	Urban Winemaking and Education Facility	7981
Mount Camel Winery and Vineyard Pty Ltd	Rebuild of website	4500
Mount Langi Ghiran Winery	Premium Wine Processing Line	19,900
Mountainside Wines	Cellar door kitchen creation	2500
Oakdene Wines Pty Ltd	Oakdene eCommerce project	2500
Pfeiffer Wines	Processing and Winery Modernisation	20,000
Port Phillip and Western Port Catchment Management Authority	Composting to improve wine outcomes	5000
Quartz Hill Wines	Straw Bale Cellar Door	15,000
Ronald B & Sheila W Phelan	Establishment of a Wine Production Facility	30,000
Sandy Farm Winery	Walking tracks	3500
Scion Vineyard & Winery	Redevelopment of Cellar Door and Winery Experience	6000
SEM Fire and Rescue Pty Ltd	Building capacity to capture Defence contract	60,000
Shadowfax Winery Pty Ltd	Composter and closed loop system	10,000
Shadowfax Winery Pty Ltd	Shadowfax Wines Exports Plan	7000
Shaws Road Winery	Expansion of capacity	15,000
South Gippsland Wine Company	South Gippsland Wine Company Solar Robotic Vineyard Project	20,000
Southern Phone Company Limited	Setup of New Telecommunication and Data Facility in Bendigo	Commercial in confidence
Southern Spreaders Pty Ltd	Hansa business expansion	30,000
SubRosa Wines	Subrosa wine e-commerce and digital marketing training project	2000
SureWeld Pty Ltd	Construction of a new purpose built Manufacturing facility in Wangaratta	75,000
Talbot Provedore and Eatery	Central Victorian Online Wine Store	5000
Tambo Wine	Tambo Wine – Function Centre Establishment	8000
Tellurian Heathcote	Cellar door expansion	50,000
The Trustee for Atkins & Davis Trust	Winery and Cellar Door Expansion	30,000
The Trustee for Southern Riverlands Property Trust	Establishment of a Large-Scale Broiler Production Enterprise	Commercial in confidence
Tourism North East	Wine Enthusiast Campaign	20,000
V Cordoma Properties Pty Ltd	New Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility	Commercial in confidence
Vinea Marson	Expansion of the Vinea Marson Cellar Door	6500
Wellington Shire Council	West Sale Airfield Infrastructure Upgrades – AIR5428	1,000,000
Welshmans Reef Vineyard	Automated Bottling Line	15,000
Willem Kurt Wines & DB Winemaking	Production Facilities and Cellar Door Construction	15,000
XLAM Australia Pty Ltd	XLAM Establishment of Australian HQ	Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Ashton Pty Ltd	Expansion of Swan Hill Abattoir	Commercial in confidence
Carbon Revolution Ltd	Establishment and Operation of a Commercial Scale Carbon Fibre Wheel Manufacturing Facility	Commercial in confidence
Regional Partnerships		
Agribusiness Gippsland Inc	Gippsland Agrifood Growth Aspiration Analysis	5000
Ballarat Community Health	Central Highlands Prevention Lab	37,500
Barwon South West Waste & Resource Recovery Group	Optimal Regional Waste Management Infrastructure Model	25,000
Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning And Employment Network Inc	STEM Sisters 2019	47,500
Beyond the Bell Great South Coast Ltd	Beyond the Bell 2017-2020	250,000
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Great Ocean Road Region Planning Context Analysis	74,420
Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	Great Ocean Road Touring Route Supporting Infrastructure Strategy	114,800
Destination Gippsland	Gippsland Tourism Destination Management Plan	40,000
Federation University Australia - Gippsland	Gippsland Centre for Innovation & Research - Business Case	12,936
Food & Fibre Gippsland Inc	Formation of a Peak Gippsland Agribusiness Industry Group	10,000
Food & Fibre Gippsland Inc	SME Export Hub	62,000
Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	Higher Education in Gippsland: how we are faring	2605
Hepburn Shire Council	Hepburn Local Transport Benchmarking Strategy	5000
Horsham Rural City Council	Regional Innovation Project	120,000
Indigo Shire Council	Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension - NEVCO Infrastructure Project	1,910,000
Latrobe City Council	Invest Gippsland Website Redevelopment - Stage Two	10,000
Melbourne School of Engineering, University of Melbourne	Mallee Regional Innovation Centre	500,000
Murrindindi Shire Council	Road Trauma Research	30,000
NE Tracks Local Learning And Employment Network Inc	Wangaratta Digital Hub	120,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Cycle West - Implementation Priorities from Grampians RDV Region Cycling and Trails 10 Year Master Plan	200,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	OPAN - Opportunities Pyrenees, Ararat and Northern Grampians	200,000
Parks Victoria	Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Business Case Project	100,000
Parks Victoria	Twelve Apostles Peak Season Visitor and Traffic Management 2019-20 and 2020-21	159,138
Pyrenees Shire Council	Evaluating Transport Connections in the Pyrenees Shire	5000
Runway Geelong Limited	Runway Ecosystem Accelerator - Scale Up support initiative	Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Activating the Swan Hill Riverfront Precinct	300,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Robinvale Housing Strategy (RP)	15,000
Tourism North East	Optimising Victorian Alpine Resorts economic growth	40,000
Tourism North East	Ride High Country 4-Year NEVCO Marketing Program	1,095,000
Victorian Multicultural Commission	Food Next Door Community Demonstration Farm Implementation	200,000
Warrnambool City Council	Great South Coast Economic Futures: Regional Stakeholders driving Regional Benefits	16,250
Warrnambool City Council	Great South Coast Food & Fibre Council	200,000
Wimmera Development Association Inc	Wimmera Southern Mallee Tourism Collaboration and Destination Management Plan.	125,000
Wodonga City Council	Inland Port for Logic Wodonga	5000
Wodonga City Council	Wodonga Business Innovation Hub Feasibility Study	180,000
Regional Skills Fund		
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	Improving the accessibility of Greater Geelong and the Bellarine	30,099
Ballarat Regional Tourism	Ballarat and Grampians Tourism Skills Audit, Gap Analysis and Strategy	25,000
Birchip Cropping Group Inc	AgTIDE Education and Training	125,000
Central Grampians LLEN Inc	Jobs and Training Connect (formerly known as Central Grampians Learning and Jobs Hub)	50,000
City of Ballarat	Intercultural Employment Pathways (IEP) Program	100,000
Federation University Australia - Gippsland	Allied Health Workforce Attraction - Development of Education Programs	400,000
Food and Fibre Gippsland Inc	GIPPY Ag - Gippsland Industry Projects and Pathways for Youth in the Agrifood Sector	45,000
Geelong Ethnic Communities Council	The BASE Hospitality Co.	194,000
Goldfields Track Incorporated	Upskilling of Ride/Walk Tourism Operators	10,000
Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism Limited	GOR Workforce Development Plan	44,000
Hancock Victorian Plantations (Churchill)	Forest harvesting optimisation skills training	100,142
Hop Temple Pty Ltd	Australian Centre Craft Beer Excellence - Education Project	Commercial in confidence
K R Castlemaine Foods Pty Ltd	KRC - Building Capability Project (RSF)	Commercial in confidence
Leadership Great South Coast	Great South Coast Economic Migration Pilot	37,120
Murray Dairy Limited	GMID Rural Skills Connect	211,350
Murray Dairy Limited	New Generation Skills for the Dairy Industry	160,000
Murray Mallee LLEN Swan Hill	Connect U	120,000
NELLEN	Ovens Murray Workforce Development Project	200,000
Nhill Neighbourhood House Learning Centre	Wimmera CALD Workforce Industry Partnership	120,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Shaping Futures	Innovative Workforce Cluster (IWC) – Sunraysia Employment Program	75,000
St John of God Hospital Ballarat	Ballarat Innovation and Research Collaborative for Health (BIRCH) – Stage 1	50,300
Surf Coast Shire	Skills & Emerging Industries Audit	150,000
The Gordon Institute of TAFE	Growing the Health and Community Services Workforce	84,000
The Gordon Institute of TAFE	Northern Futures	160,900
Tourism North East	High Country Tourism Sector Digital Upskilling Program	150,000
Warrnambool City Council	Ni Hao! Welcoming the Chinese Tourist Market to Warrnambool & Region (China Host Program)	30,000
Wodonga Institute of TAFE	Agriculture and Engineering Regional Victorian Skills Partnership	10,000
Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund		
Alpine Shire Council	Mount Buffalo Business Assessment Project	60,000
Borough of Queenscliffe	Development of Fort Queenscliff Business Case	118,000
Buloke Shire Council	Lake Tyrrell Tourism Infrastructure Development Project	200,000
City of Greater Bendigo	Dai Gum Loong – A New Dragon for Bendigo and Preservation of Imperial Dragon Sun Loong	70,000
Creswick Woollen Mills Pty Ltd	Creswick Woollen Mills Enhancement Project	Commercial in confidence
East Gippsland Shire Council	Omeo Mountain Bike Park Destination Project	100,000
Gannawarra Shire Council	Koondrook Nature Based Tourism Hub	640,000
Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism Limited	Aboriginal Tourism Development Planning Project	112,500
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	Budj Bim Master Plan Stages 1 & 2	1,050,000
Hepburn Shire Council	Creswick Trails Project	400,000
Holgate Group Pty Ltd	Holgate Group Historic Hotel and Brewery Discovery Centre Expansion	Commercial in confidence
Hop Temple Pty Ltd	Australian Craft Beer Centre of Excellence	Commercial in confidence
Mount Buller & Mount Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board	Mt Buller Water Storage Project	6,000,000
Shire of Campaspe	Echuca Entertainment Precinct Redevelopment Business Case and Design	100,000
The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion	Completion of Stupa Structure and Provision of Services to the Great Stupa – Phases 1 & 2	2,009,500
Tourism North East	Activating Lake Eildon to Grow the Regional Economy Business Case	150,000
Victorian Goldfields Railway	VGR Service Reorientation – Stage 2	400,000
Winton Wetlands Committee of Management Incorporated	Winton Wetlands and Surrounds Indigenous Trail	400,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Rural Development		
Ararat Rural City Council	Ararat On the Move - Alexandra Oval Redevelopment - Event & Visitor Space	400,000
Castlemaine State Festival Ltd	Castlemaine Goods Shed: Creative Industries Hub	225,000
Golden Plains Shire Council	Bannockburn Civic Heart Precinct - Stage 1	150,000
Hepburn Shire Council	East Street Heavy Vehicle Access Improvements	80,000
Indigo Shire Council	Chiltern Town Centre and Connectivity	40,000
Loddon Shire Council	Bridgewater-on-Loddon River Precinct Upgrade	30,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Romsey Streetscape and Access Project	40,000
Mitchell Shire Council	Improving Liveability - Better Parks for Seymour	200,000
Mitchell Shire Council	Stage 2 Feasibility Study for the Expansion of the State Motor Sports Complex at Broadford	12,500
Moira Shire Council	Cobram Revitalisation and Liveability	300,000
Moyne Shire Council	Hawkesdale/Wangoom Halls Cluster Upgrade	77,500
Moyne Shire Council	Reardon Theatre Upgrade	58,446
Murrindindi Shire Council	Releasing the Floating City - Expanding the Houseboat Manufacturing Industry at Eildon	200,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	St Arnaud Civic Precinct Revitalisation - Stage 2	25,000
Pyrenees Shire Council	Activate Avoca - Stage 1	500,000
Towong Shire Council	The Great River Road	70,000
Towong Shire Council	Upper Murray Events Centre	600,000
Yarriambiack Shire Council	Rupanyup Community Retail Hub	400,000
Stronger Regional Communities Plan		
Alpine Shire Council	Resilient Myrtleford	6000
Ararat Rural City Council	ARCC-Grampians New Resident & Workforce Attraction Strategy & Action Plan	45,000
Ballarat Regional Tourism	Plate Up Ballarat - Post Event Extension	12,750
Ballarat Regional Trades & Labour Council	Ballarat Trades Hall Planning for Restoration	5000
Bass Coast Adult Learning Inc	BCAL Renewal	15,000
Bass Coast Shire Council	Growing Community & Business Events Workshops	1500
Benalla Rural City Council	Making a Splash in Benalla Planning Project	48,000
Buloke Shire Council	Buloke Industry, Product and Service Gap Analysis	37,500
Buloke Shire Council	Sea Lake Community Capacity Building Program	10,000
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Central Goldfields Economic Development and Tourism Strategy - Community and Industry Engagement	50,000
Central Goldfields Shire Council	Go Goldfields 2018-2020	500,000
Centre for Participation Inc	Harmony Van - Building Jobs and Community	3590
Christie Centre Inc	Mildura Chocolate Company Expansion	8000
City of Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Showgrounds Master Plan	22,500

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
CMG Cooperative Limited	Feasibility Study – Establishment of a Chicken Meat Processing Plant	4000
Committee for Ballarat	Leadership Ballarat and Western Region	200,000
Committee for Geelong Limited	Leaders for Geelong – Community Leadership Program	200,000
Committee for Gippsland Inc	Gippsland Community Leadership Program	178,572
Community Southwest Incorporated	Regional disability sector workforce needs analysis and action plan	80,000
Corangamite Shire Council	Camperdown Theatre Redevelopment	12,500
Deans Marsh Community Cottage Inc	Deans Marsh and District Community Action Plan	20,000
Department of Health and Human Services (Victoria)	Stawell Gift 2016-19	100,000
East Gippsland Marketing Inc	Live Like a Local	5000
East Gippsland Rail Trail Committee Of Management Inc	East Gippsland Rail Trail Signage Implementation	5000
East Gippsland Shire Council	East Gippsland Rail Trail Strategic Business Case	3750
East Gippsland Shire Council	Growing the East Gippsland Visitor Economy – New Market Opportunities in Recreational Fishing	8750
Erica Caravan Park	Erica Community Training Hub	15,000
Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail	Snowy River Floodplain Rail Bridge Restoration – Business Case	2100
Girgarre Development Group Inc	Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden – Stage 1 – Detailed Design	50,000
GoFish Nagambie	GoFish Nagambie Outdoor Lifestyle Festival	10,000
Goldfields Local Learning & Employment Network (GLEN)	Passions and Pathways 2019-2023	300,000
Goulburn Murray Community Leadership Program Inc	Goulburn Murray Community Leadership	178,572
Grampians Tourism	GT-Grampians New Resident & Workforce Attraction Strategy & Action Plan	45,000
Horsham Rural City Council	HRCC-Grampians New Resident & Workforce Attraction Strategy & Action Plan	45,000
Lead Loddon Murray	Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program	200,000
Lead Loddon Murray	Strengthening Community Leadership in Central Goldfields	50,000
Loddon Shire Council	Boort Scar Trees Masterplan and Product Development	40,000
Loddon Shire Council	Pyramid Hill Community Centre Planning	30,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Lauriston Community Hall Revitalisation Works	10,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Redevelopment of the Woodend Community Centre – Business Case and Master Plan	25,000
MADEC Australia	Northern Mallee Leadership Program	178,572
Mansfield Shire Council	Horse Power in the High Country	2400
Mitchell Shire Council	A Tourism Partnership – Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie	40,000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Mitchell Shire Council	Connecting Seymour to the Great Victorian Rail Trail Feasibility Study	45,000
Mitchell Shire Council	Kilmore Community Hub Masterplan	5000
Mitchell Shire Council	Seymour Revitalisation Initiative - Development of a Branding and Marketing Strategy	10,000
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Castlemaine - Etty Street Precinct - Master Plan	40,000
Mount Alexander Shire Council	Maldon Town Centre and Shopfront Improvement Business Case	30,000
Moyne Shire Council	Leadership Great South Coast Program	178,572
Murrindindi Shire Council	Lake Eildon Boating and Fishing Show	50,000
Nagambie Lakes Tourism & Commerce Inc	Destination Nagambie	12,500
North East Agcare Incorporation	Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	178,572
Northern Grampians Shire Council	NGSC-Grampians New Resident & Workforce Attraction Strategy & Action Plan	45,000
Queenscliff Harbour Pty Ltd as the Trustee for the Classic Reproductions Unit Trust & Real Harbour Company Pty Ltd & The Trustee for Peninsula Harbour Unit Trust	Winter Wonderland - Queenscliff	5000
RMIT University - School of Vocational Engineering Health and Sciences	SWIFT App Development training	5200
Rural Councils Victoria	Stronger Rural Councils 2016-19	925,149
Shire of Campaspe	Kyabram Fauna Park Strategic Development Plan	40,000
South Gippsland Shire Council	South Gippsland Business Associations Good Governance Toolkit	4500
South West Institute of TAFE	Student Hub Feasibility Study - GSC	12,500
Southern Grampians Shire Council	SGSC-Grampians New Resident & Workforce Attraction Strategy & Action Plan (5/5)	45,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Swan Hill - Live Better	12,500
Swan Hill Rural City Council	Swan Hill Regional Arts, Indigenous and Cultural Precinct	100,000
The Funding Network	Pitch Coaching for Impact	1170
This Farm Needs A Farmer	Shadow Farming	10,000
Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine	From Asia via Avalon: International Students Visiting Friends & Relatives Market	15,000
Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine	Queenscliff Branding and Traders Retail Vision	12,500
Upper Murray Health & Community Services	Building a Resilient Future	12,500
Victorian Regional Community Leadership Programs Secretariat Inc	Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program Secretariat (VRCLPS)	17,857
Victorian Regional Community Leadership Programs Secretariat Inc	Victorian Regional Community Leadership Program Secretariat (VRCLPS) 2019-2021	180,000
Violet Town Action Group Incorporated	Southern Aurora Disaster - 50th Anniversary Commemoration Weekend	5000
Warrnambool City Council	Warrnambool - A City for Living	3000

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Wathaurong Glass	Wathaurong Glass Social Enterprise Business Plan	70,000
West Wimmera Shire Council	West Wimmera Indigenous Trail	45,000
Wimmera Development Association Inc	Leadership Wimmera	178,572
WiFi Victoria		
iiNet Limited	Public Wifi	54,999
Working for Victoria - Agriculture Workforce Plan		
Sunraysia Institute of TAFE	Horticulture Farm Worker Induction Program - SuniTAFE - AWP	20,000
Regional Blueprint - Industries for Today and Tomorrow		
CHS Broadbent Pty Ltd	Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) expansion	Commercial in confidence
Silo Art Study		
Creative Victoria	RP Initiatives 2018/19 - Silo Art Study	231,000
Community Revitalisation		
Good Shepherd Microfinance	Microenterprise program - Good Shepherd	300,000
Horticulture Innovation Fund		
Agriculture Victoria	Horticulture Innovation Fund	500,000
Arts Initiatives		
Regional Arts Victoria	Regional Arts Victoria	700,000
Grand Total		118,586,661

2019–20 output targets and performance against Budget Paper 3 measures

In 2019-20 the following payments were made:

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2019-20 actual	2019-20 target	Performance variation (%)	Result
Quantity					
Actual export sales generated for regional businesses as a result of participation in government programs.	\$ million	56	55	1.8	✓
Economic development and service delivery projects supported.	number	148	60	146.7	✓
Jobs in regional Victoria resulting from government investment facilitation services and assistance.	number	1215	1200	1.3	✓
New investment in regional Victoria resulting from government facilitation services and assistance.	\$ million	840	700	20	✓
Quality					
Participant satisfaction with implementation of RDV programs.	per cent	100	90	11.1	✓

Revenue and expenses

Controlled income and expenses for the financial year ended 30 June	2020 (FY)	2019 (FY)
Income from transactions		
Output appropriations	112,212	37,129
Special appropriations	-	-
Regional Growth Fund appropriations	24,579	125,000
Grants	32,269	18,373
Sale of services	-	-
Interest income	2,395	3,301
Fair value of assets & services received free of charge	-	-
Other income	-	0
Total income from transactions	171,455	183,803
Expenses from transactions		
Grants and other transfers	(166,916)	(107,808)
Employee expenses	(24,383)	(21,522)
Capital asset charge	(1,889)	(1,296)
Depreciation and amortisation	-	(534)
Interest expense	(15)	(7)
Other operating expenses	(10,809)	(7,211)
Total expenses from transactions	(204,012)	(138,377)
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(32,558)	45,426

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