

2021/22 BUDGET FACT SHEET

Gippsland Regional Partnership



Since 2016, Gippsland Regional Partnership has been working to bring the voice of its communities to the heart of Government. Thousands of locals have engaged with the Partnership to share their views on what is important for their region. This has helped shape the priorities of the Partnership, and the Victorian Government.

Now in its second term, the Gippsland Regional Partnership is already hard at work providing its advice to Government to ensure Gippsland's rural and regional communities have every opportunity for a strong recovery and a prosperous future.

The outcomes the Partnership is striving for:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget 2021/22 - Creating Jobs, Caring for Victorians:

The 2021/22 Victorian Government Budget is focused on building a long-term plan that truly helps Victorians recover, with an almost \$3.7 billion investment in rural and regional Victoria, taking the Government's total investment in regional Victoria to \$26 billion since 2015.

Through the 2021-22 Budget, the Government has renewed its commitment to Regional Partnerships, including \$5.1 million for the Regional Partnerships Development Fund.

Regional Partnerships and their communities have raised issues such as housing and skills shortages, early childhood and mental health as critical issues for the Government to address. This Budget includes a number of state-wide initiatives focused on boosting key regional industries, creating jobs and caring for Victorians.

Across the state these initiatives include \$3.8 billion to build Victoria's new mental health system; a \$383 million investment in skills, training and higher education; and \$1.2 billion to support children and families and provide more child protection workers.

The Government is also investing \$2 million in the successful Community Leadership program and \$3 million in the Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW) program – helping create jobs for people who experience barriers to employment while investing in local leadership to support recovery.

Victorian Budget initiatives that support the Gippsland region:

- **\$94 million** to **upgrade 17 schools** across regional Victoria including **Sale College, Stockdale Road Primary School Traralgon, Orbost Regeneration** – as well as expanding capacity to meet enrolment demand at **Drouin**, in time for the 2024 school year.
- **\$148 million** to establish the new **Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership**, which will provide support to teachers across the state, including **regional learning centres located in Bairnsdale and Moe** – ensuring rural and regional teachers are able to access professional development opportunities regardless of their location.
- **\$20 million** to support the work of our **Tech Schools, including in Gippsland**.
- Funding to expand virtual delivery capabilities as well as **pilot a new mobile delivery model for students in remote areas of Gippsland**, connecting more secondary students to the skills and jobs of the future.
- **\$264 million** in **community-based mental health care**, providing a ‘front door’ for care, with 20 new local services across Victoria – the first of between 50 to 60 across the state. This investment will deliver the six sites already announced, which are due to open in 2022, including **the Latrobe Valley**.
- **\$141 million** to deliver five new Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC) units across regional Victoria, including **Gippsland**.
- **\$17 million** to provide people living in rural and regional areas better access to clinical mental health outreach services. This investment will roll out additional services across the state, including new sites, including **Bairnsdale, Bass Coast, Central Gippsland and West Gippsland**.
- Continued support for the successful **Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement (HOPE)** program, ensuring the three regional sites funded in last year's Budget can continue caring for their communities, including **Bairnsdale**.
- **Upgrading the community hospital at Phillip Island**, as part of an overall **\$556 million** investment in 10 community hospitals across our state.
- **\$38 million** to build and open **new residential rehabilitation beds, including new services in Traralgon**.
- **\$10 million** to create new jobs in the Latrobe Valley, with funding for the **Morwell Food Manufacturing Precinct**.
- **\$44 million** to further plan, upgrade and maintain our **regional roads**, including planning of **coastal protection works at Bunurong Road, Cape Paterson**.
- **\$5 million** to deliver **boating safety upgrades** including at **Lakes Entrance**.
- **\$78 million** to expand the network of **specialist family violence courts**, including in the **Latrobe Valley**.
- **\$7 million** to strengthen **youth participation and connection** through projects including the **Latrobe Youth Space** and the **Regional Presence Project in Morwell**.
- **\$28 million** will support **facility upgrades for our emergency service organisations** including redeveloping **Life Saving Victoria's Wonthaggi clubhouse**.

Victorian Budget initiatives that support all regions:

Gippsland will share in a range of significant state-wide investments

including:

- **\$7.1 billion** to continue building a world-class healthcare system, including **\$556 million** to build and expand 10 community hospitals.
- **\$3.8 billion** to build Victoria's new mental health system.

- **\$252 million** to provide housing support, including targeted initiatives to address homelessness.
- **\$94 million** in upgrades to 17 regional schools
- **\$716 million** for school programs and support for our teaching workforce, including **\$148 million** to establish the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, dedicated to the professional learning and development of Victorian teachers.
- **\$218 million** for mental health support in schools.
- **\$167 million** to continue the roll out of universal three-year-old kindergarten, covering the whole state in 2022.
- **\$209 million** to further support the TAFE and training sector.
- **\$86 million** to establish the Victorian Skills Authority to champion and strengthen the vocational education and training sector.
- **\$1.2 billion** to support children and families, including hundreds of new child protection workers and more help for families in need.
- **\$354 million** to continue to address family violence.
- **\$788 million** to reduce the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment, including:
 - **\$272 million** to upgrade the vital communication technologies our emergency services need to keep Victorians safe in an emergency, including funding for Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) to upgrade their radios.
 - **\$384 million** to continue the Reducing Bushfire Risk program and Safer Together strategy, reducing the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment.
- **\$623 million** for community infrastructure that supports the strength of our neighbourhoods and communities, including **\$55 million** to deliver local sports infrastructure upgrades.
- **\$250 million** to protect and preserve our natural environment, including support for volunteers and local community organisations to help conserve our native species and their habitats.
- **\$160 million** to support Victoria's tourism sector to drive visitation and employment.
- **\$8.9 million** for Visitor Economy Partnerships to support local ideas and initiatives to bring more visitors to Regional Victoria.
- **\$1.7 million** for Business Events Victoria to attract more business events to regional Victoria, while supporting local jobs.
- **\$44 million** to plan, upgrade and maintain rural and regional roads.
- **\$613 million** to support the reliability of V/Line train services, including maintenance across the regional rail network.
- **\$3.1 million** for operating and maintenance works on regional public transport assets.
- **\$20 million** to deliver on the Victorian Government's commitment to position Victoria as a leader in low-emissions agriculture, including accelerating research in emissions reducing technologies.
- **\$1.4 million** to continue the work of the Rural Women's Network to support women who are finding new and innovative ways to grow and improve their communities.
- **\$5.8 million** for the Rural Financial Counselling Service, recognising the key role the service has played in assisting farmers to recover from the impacts of drought, bushfires and the pandemic.

Please note: This list is not exhaustive. For further information visit: <https://www.budget.vic.gov.au/>

