

INVEST

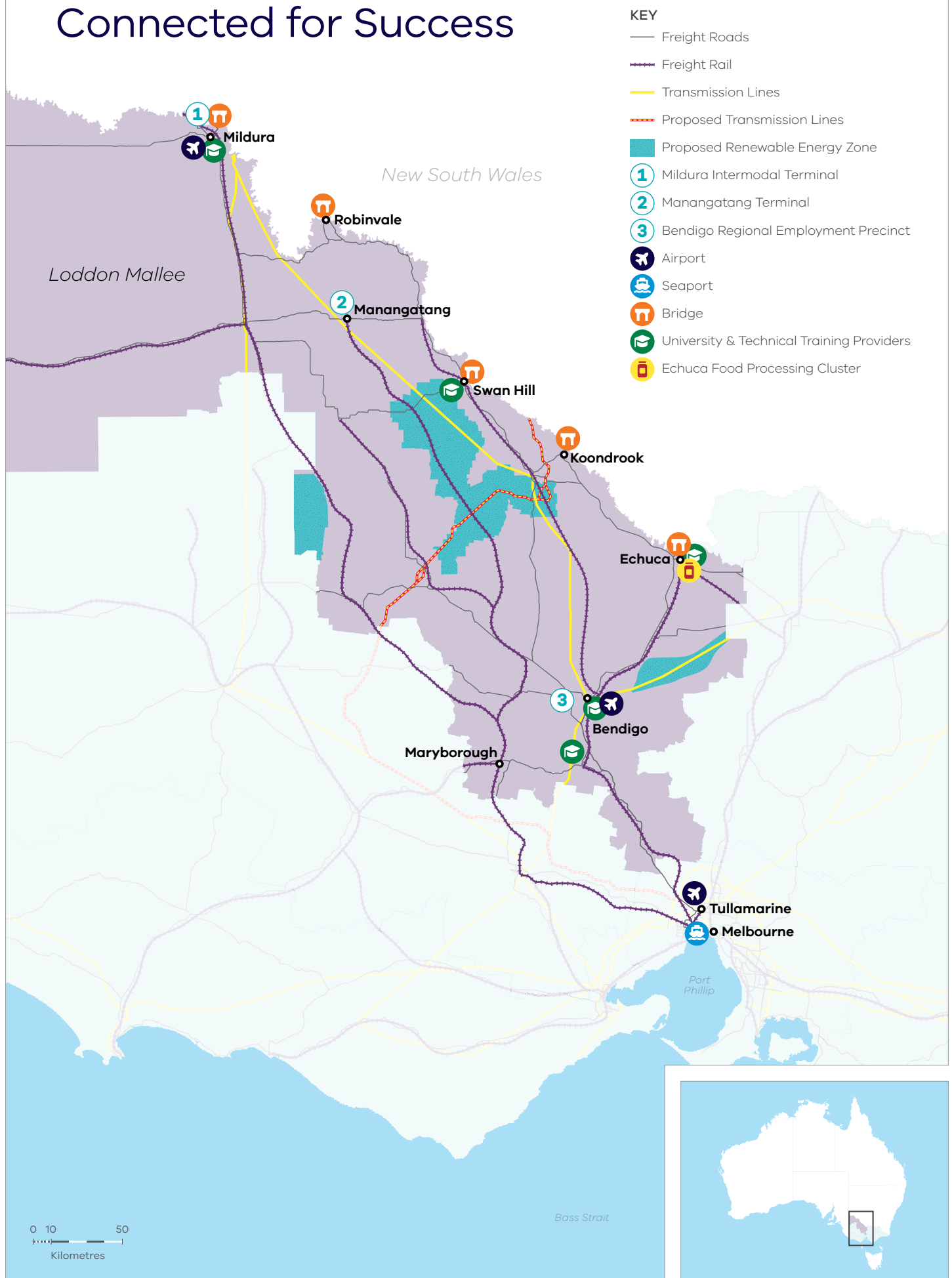
LODDON MALLEE REGION



Discover how our region can unlock your business potential

The Loddon Mallee region is where productive industries scale. Home to some of Victoria's largest food, energy and mining assets, the region combines skilled workers, competitive costs and strong infrastructure to help businesses invest, expand and compete.

Connected for Success





At a glance



\$22.1 billion

gross regional product



Population:

**355,870
residents**



**Victoria's
largest**

food and fibre
producing region.



The only

antimony mine in Australia.



1.2%

payroll tax rate for regional
businesses – the lowest
in Australia.



50% cheaper

than Melbourne on average,
industrial and commercial
land delivers greater value
for businesses and investors.

Advanced Food Production and Processing

As Victoria's largest producer of food and fibre, the Loddon Mallee region combines productive agricultural land, established irrigation infrastructure and abundant raw materials with advanced processing capability and export-ready supply chains. This creates opportunities to invest across the agrifood value chain – from resource-efficient food production to higher-value manufacturing and global markets.

Cann Group chose Mildura for its \$120 million medicinal cannabis facility, the largest in Australia. The company selected the region because of its established horticultural and manufacturing base, sizeable population, skilled workforce, university graduate pipeline and natural resources suited to sustainable production.

Working alongside CSIRO and university partners, Cann Group is advancing protected cropping and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Its use of irrigation systems demonstrates how the region can support high-value production while improving energy and water efficiency.

The project highlights Loddon Mallee's capacity to support technically advanced, export-oriented and research-linked production in emerging growth sectors.

Investment opportunities include protected cropping, AgTech, food processing and packaging, cold chain logistics, product innovation and export-oriented supply chains. The region's established food manufacturing ecosystem, including the Echuca Food Processing Cluster, provides direct access to processors, packaging capability and integrated supply chains, while key national industry organisations offer businesses access to market insights, industry leadership and strong commercial networks. The region is also home to globally competitive agribusinesses such as Select Harvests, recognised as the 2025 Regional Exporter of the Year, reflecting its global almond export success and Loddon Mallee's strength in value-added food production and international export markets.



The region also supports innovation in agricultural production through a growing AgTech ecosystem. The Mallee Regional Innovation Centre (MRIC) and local technology providers are helping producers improve productivity, reduce resource use and build climate resilience. At the SuniTAFE Smart Farm near Mildura, demonstration sites showcase technologies such as irrigation scheduling systems and insect detection. These innovation assets are driving productivity, accelerating technology adoption and enabling producers to implement climate-adapted farming practices that further enhance productivity and create greater opportunities for value-added processing.

Tongala Nutrition has reactivated a major food manufacturing site in Tongala, expanding the region's capability in high-value dairy products. The business is investing in modernising operations, increasing production capacity, diversifying product offerings and strengthening its ability to supply Australian retailers and export markets.

The project reflects northern Victoria's transition from commodity production to higher-value manufacturing through advanced processing, product innovation and integrated supply chains.

Renewable Energy Generation and Storage

The Loddon Mallee region is Victoria's leading regional market for utility-scale solar, with the state's largest concentration of operating solar farms, a proven delivery record and the infrastructure to support the next generation of renewable energy investment. Opportunities include utility-scale solar and wind generation, grid-connected battery storage and energy-intensive industries seeking reliable, low-cost renewable power.

Major transmission investments, including the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNI West), together with Renewable Energy Zone and network upgrades, are expected to unlock more than 3,000 MW of additional renewable energy capacity. This expanding network will improve grid access, increase project viability and create opportunities for new generation and storage projects.

With established renewable assets, a strong pipeline of projects, skilled workers and coordinated planning, the Loddon Mallee region provides investors with the scale, certainty and infrastructure to develop, store and supply renewable energy to Victorian and national markets.



Bortana is positioning Bendigo at the forefront of Australia's clean mining technology industry. The company is the only Australian manufacturer of battery electric vehicles purpose-built for hard rock underground mining, supporting the global shift to safer, lower-emissions mining operations.

Designed and manufactured in Bendigo, Bortana's vehicles meet Australian and international industry standards, offering a 10-year design life, modular battery systems and flexible charging options. Following successful trials in Australia, the company is scaling production to meet growing demand for zero-emissions mining equipment. Bortana demonstrates the Loddon Mallee region's strengths in advanced manufacturing, engineering and clean technology, while creating high-value jobs and strengthening Victoria's sovereign manufacturing capability.

Critical Minerals, Gold and Mining

The Loddon Mallee region combines active mining operations, a strong exploration pipeline and established technical capability. It is home to Victoria's largest gold producer, Fosterville Mine, which has extracted more than 4.6 million ounces of gold since 2005. The region also hosts Australia's only antimony mine, with access to an estimated 17,800 tonnes.

The region's mineral potential continues to grow through new exploration licences and emerging projects, including VHM Limited's Goschen Rare Earth and Mineral Sands Project. Ready to commence mining operations, the project has secured strategic partnerships and offtake arrangements that strengthen its commercial viability and support the establishment of an integrated rare earths supply chain.

The region presents significant investment opportunities across gold, antimony, rare earths and mineral sands, with opportunities spanning exploration, mine development, minerals processing and mining equipment, technology and services (METS). Bendigo is home to an established mining services ecosystem, including a network of specialist contractors and technical service providers supporting mining operations across Australia and international markets.

Strong Infrastructure – Strong Returns

Markets within Reach

The Loddon Mallee region's freight network connects major agricultural production areas with Melbourne, New South Wales and international export markets. Intermodal freight terminals at Mildura and Manangatang provide critical links for moving containerised commodities including citrus, table grapes, almonds, hay and grain, strengthening access to domestic distribution centres, ports and global supply chains. This underpins strong export relationships including with China, India, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, UAE, USA and Europe.

The region is further supported by airport infrastructure at Bendigo and Mildura, together with the Loddon Campaspe Employment and Innovation Corridor, which connects Echuca, Swan Hill and Mildura to Bendigo, Melbourne and Sydney via major road and rail networks. This integrated freight and transport system enables the efficient movement of products, people and investment across regional, national and international markets.

Cutting Edge Advanced Manufacturing in Bendigo

From Bendigo to the world, **Thales** Australia manufactures the Bushmaster and Hawkei protected mobility vehicles for the Australian Defence Force and international allies.

Employing more than 290 advanced manufacturing and technical specialists in regional Victoria, Thales recently secured a \$750 million contract to deliver 268 next-generation Bushmasters. The investment showcases Bendigo's skilled workforce and growing strength in advanced manufacturing and defence industries.





Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct

The Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct (BREP) is a major enabling infrastructure project supporting the Loddon Mallee region's growth as a centre for advanced manufacturing, logistics and industrial investment. Spanning approximately 294 hectares, the precinct is delivering a long-term supply of affordable, serviced industrial and commercial land to accommodate business expansion, attract new investment and support future employment growth.

Strategically located within the Loddon Campaspe Employment and Innovation Corridor, BREP will strengthen freight connections across Central and Northern Victoria while improving access to Bendigo Airport and national transport networks.

The precinct reinforces the region's established engineering, manufacturing and logistics capabilities, supporting businesses servicing high-value industries including mining, food processing, clean energy and digital infrastructure.

Backed by coordinated planning and infrastructure investment, BREP is ensuring Bendigo has the industrial land, transport connectivity and enabling infrastructure required to accommodate long-term economic growth, strengthen regional supply chains and maintain its role as one of regional Victoria's leading commercial and employment centres.

Capability that Competes

The Loddon Mallee region is building the talent and innovation capability that keeps industries competitive. Universities, TAFEs and training providers work closely with business to deliver the skills needed across advanced manufacturing, agriculture, food processing, health, clean energy and mining services.

La Trobe University provides a strong pipeline of highly skilled graduates while also supporting business innovation across the region. At its Regional Advanced Manufacturing 4.0 Hub, manufacturers collaborate with researchers and technology partners to adopt new technologies, lift productivity and strengthen their global edge.

Bendigo Kangan Institute provides specialist training across advanced manufacturing, engineering, health, trades and emerging industries, helping employers access the skilled workforce needed to expand and compete in changing markets.

In agriculture, the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre's partnership with SuniTAFE, La Trobe University and the University of Melbourne is demonstrated through SuniTAFE's Smart Farm, which showcases AgTech solutions such as advanced irrigation systems and automation to improve productivity, efficiency and climate resilience.



Regional Development Victoria

Loddon Mallee Investment Specialists

Regional Development Victoria has dedicated, expert investment-facilitation teams to support your investment journey that are located at both the Bendigo and Mildura offices.

Regional Development Victoria works closely with Invest Victoria to connect you with regional opportunities, local partners and relevant approvals.

Key services to help your business include:

- identifying potential sites and properties
- assistance navigating regulatory and planning approvals
- helping you build business cases to support your investment decisions
- advising development approvals
- matching research and development with universities to build partnerships
- responding to emerging workforce needs by connecting you to recruitment agencies, Victoria's high-performing TAFE network and targeted upskilling programs.
- connecting you with government departments, agencies and regulators, as well as incentives, grants and programs.

Connect with us today

Connect with our dedicated regional investment specialists located in your region via investregional@rdv.vic.gov.au or for general investment enquiries, visit the Investment Front Door.

