



# BUDGET 2019/20 FACT SHEET

## Ovens Murray Regional Partnership

For almost three years, Regional Partnerships have been a cornerstone of how the Victorian Government has engaged with regional Victoria. Thousands of locals have attended Regional Assemblies in Ovens Murray and have told the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership what is important for this region; and in turn helped shape the priorities of the Partnership and the Victorian Government.

Partnerships are now maturing. Recently, the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership published its [Outcomes Roadmap](#), which outlines the key, long-term strategic areas of focus for the Partnership going forward, and where it is looking to make a real difference.

### The outcomes the Partnership is striving for:

**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** – 21<sup>st</sup> century education for future generations and lifelong learning for all

**Digital economy** - 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

### Budget 2019/20:

The Budget provides **\$2.6 billion** for the Government's ***Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program*** which will provide a whole of Government focus on delivering for communities across the state. The program will improve public transport, country roads, tourism infrastructure and TAFE facilities, and provide critical health facility upgrades for regional and rural Victoria, while supporting 4,500 jobs.

The ***Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program*** provides **\$134 million** to create jobs and deliver priority projects, including the Government's election commitments, across rural and regional Victoria.

The Budget also provides **further tax relief for rural and regional businesses**. The **regional payroll tax rate will be reduced to 25 per cent of the metropolitan rate by 2022-23**, while eligibility for the tax rate will be expanded with the current 'business location test' removed from 1 July 2019. The payroll tax-free threshold will be increased to \$700,000 by 2022-23. **A land transfer duty concession will also be introduced for regional Victoria** to encourage regional businesses to relocate and expand in regional areas.



### Victorian Budget initiatives that support Partnership priority outcomes include:

- **\$340 million for up to 18 new trains** to meet increased demand across the regional network, including for the North East line, Geelong and Ballarat lines, **with the North East trains being the priority.**
- **\$2.4 million** to commence infrastructure and service planning work for the redevelopment of Wangaratta hospital to ensure **world class care for Wangaratta patients**

### Other significant 2019/20 Budget investments in the Ovens Murray region include:

- **\$800,000** for the Benalla Splash Park, including water fountains, a water bucket, splash-down zones, landscaping work and seating

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

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

- **\$357 million** toward ongoing **regional road maintenance** to ensuring our highways and connecting roads are safe and well maintained
- **\$27 million** to ensure train **reliability and punctuality of services** is maintained and improved
- **\$136.2 million** for an **additional 500,000 specialist appointments** for rural and regional Victorians and an easy to access registry for General Practitioners to provide information on hospital waiting lists
- **\$5.2 million to boost Victorian wine exports** through a range of activities trade missions, symposiums and international marketing campaigns to increase export capabilities and capabilities of our wine industry
- **\$5.7 million for collaborative Aboriginal cultural heritage management**, ensuring Aboriginal voices are at the heart of government decision making
- **\$0.4 million for Young Farmer Scholarships** to up-skill the next generation of farmers for continued growth and success of the agricultural industry
- **\$3.2 million to make our farms safer** through continued support to the National Farmers Federation program to improve health and safety outcomes on farms
- A commitment to **upgrade camp sites and 4WD tracks** across regional Victoria using **\$35.1 million** to improve amenity and support regional tourism
- **\$4 million** to continue the good work of the **National Centre for Farmer Health** to support tailored health promotion
- **\$11.2 million for front line services** in regional Victoria for on ground wild-life management services and minimise the impacts of wild dogs on biodiversity, primary producers and community health



- **\$0.5 million for the Country Women's Association** to support its advocacy and policy work in advancing the rights of rural women in Victoria from 2019 to 2022, and to assist with costs associated with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference hosted in Melbourne in 2019
- **\$2.6 million for the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme** to continue the provision of subsidies for rural and regional Victorians who are required to travel long distances for medical care

### But not all initiatives take new money

Partnerships have been effective in bringing different areas and levels of Government and others together to address regional issues. The Ovens Murray Regional Partnership has been instrumental in attracting additional resources to the region to support local initiatives including:

- Advocating for **passenger rail improvements on the North East Line** - Working with the Australian Rail Track Corporation to keep the Ovens Murray community updated on progress of the **track upgrade** and with the Department of Transport as it progresses preparation to deploy **new standard gauge trains** on the line and seeks to deliver the best possible outcomes for passenger rail users
- Working with the Victorian Government on the development of the **Ovens Murray Digital Plan**, currently being progressed through the Connecting Regional Communities Program. The final plan will identify key barriers to digital inclusion; infrastructure, supply and service demand patterns and requirements; unmet digital needs and potential solutions, as well as **priority digital projects for the Ovens Murray**
- **Partnering with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning** to develop a regional 'roadmap' that supports the uptake of renewable energy opportunities in Ovens Murray and secures maximum benefit for communities from these new technologies.

In 2019, as part of the natural evolution of Partnerships, the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership will identify one or two key issues, mirroring the outcomes it is striving to achieve, where it will work with Government and stakeholders to make a substantial difference. It means in 2019, there will not be a large Regional Assembly, but smaller targeted meetings where the Partnership will engage with the community and stakeholders in a more decisive, focused and strategic way.

For more information on the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership, go to <http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-partnerships/ovens-murray> or follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/OvensMurrayRP>  
You can also read our May 2019 newsletter [here](#).