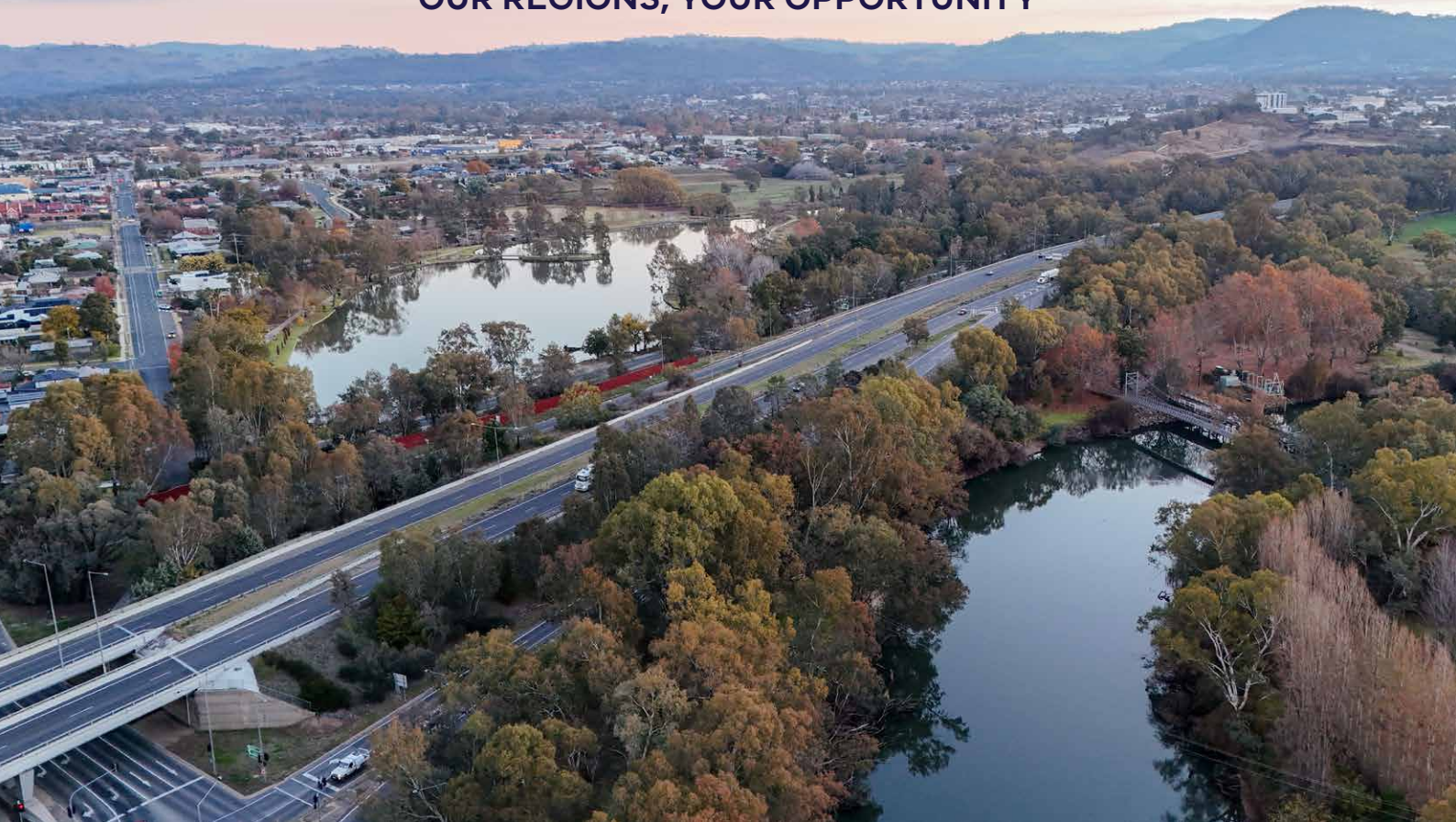


# VICTORIA

OUR REGIONS, YOUR OPPORTUNITY



## Regional Victoria is open for business, big ideas & investment.

Regional Victoria has all the right conditions for businesses to invest, grow and thrive.

Our regions are connected by high-quality road, rail and port infrastructure, giving businesses fast access to domestic and global markets. Victoria's compact supply chains include strong transport and freight connections between regional cities to Melbourne and major ports.

Our exports are strong and industries are evolving to meet demand and opportunities. We're home to a skilled, adaptable workforce and a talent pipeline ready to support business growth.

We offer affordable, industrial land in well-served precincts, making it easier for businesses to establish and scale with confidence.

Our regions host diverse industries, including food production, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and high-value mineral resources – offering strategic opportunities for investment.

The Victorian Government is leveraging the state's natural regional advantages through a suite of targeted investments that drive industry success.

## At a glance



**>\$119B**

Is the output contributed by Regional Victoria, making up a fifth of the state's economy.



**5.2%**

Is the population growth Regional Victoria has experienced in the last 5 years.



**1.2%**

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



**\$20B**

Worth of food and fibre exports comes from our agriculture, leading the nation.



**50%**

Cheaper, on average, is the cost of industrial and commercial land compared to Melbourne – with direct access to ports, highways and key markets.



**50%**

Is the stamp duty discount on commercial and industrial property purchases in regional Victoria.

## Helping regional businesses thrive

Victoria has dynamic and experienced businesses and industries, a stable, skilled and talented workforce, centres of research excellence, world class infrastructure and strong industry partnerships.

The Victorian Government is cutting red tape and backing businesses to invest, expand and innovate in regional Victoria through the Victorian Industry Policy, and a range of targeted initiatives, including:

- **A streamlined, single-entry point** – the **Investment Front-Door** – your gateway for investment in regional Victoria, making it easier to access information, support and services
- The **Regional Worker Accommodation Fund** has committed **\$150m** in new housing to attract key workers where they are most needed in regional areas
- Boosting **Agribusiness and Food & Fibre** with **\$54m** to maintain strong biosecurity and advanced research and development
- **Support for investment projects** – the **Victorian Investment Fund** is offering **\$50m** in funding for regional investments that align with priority sectors in Victoria's *Economic Growth Statement*; including advanced manufacturing and defence, agribusiness and the circular economy
- **\$15m for Trunk Infrastructure**, such as water supply and roads, to support regional industrial and commercial precincts
- **Reducing Red Tape** – investing **\$3.5m** in digitising and streamlining regulatory processes, such as Council approval systems, making it simpler to do business in regional Victoria
- **The Investment Coordinator General** – ensures doing business in Victoria is simple and efficient, and coordinates government decision making to streamline and expedite business investments
- **Reforming the Environmental Effects Statement** to reduce assessment times to less than 18 months.

## Regional Victoria's business edge

- Victoria is the **freight and logistics capital of Australia** that connects to the world through a network of international and domestic ports and reliable freight and logistics services. The state has two curfew-free 24-hour airports and **Australia's largest container port**
- High quality, business-grade broadband and extensive 4G and 5G mobile networks throughout the state make Victoria **a leader in digital infrastructure**
- Regional Victoria has **competitively priced commercial and industrial land** in close proximity to freight nodes
- Victoria offers easy access to **reliable energy**. We have the lowest power prices of any state in Australia, and the most ambitious renewable energy agenda
- To enable rapid deployment of new investments, such as renewable energy projects, Victoria is driving **workforce development in partnership with industry**, such as the Wind Worker and Renewable Hydrogen Worker Training Centres
- Regional Victoria is home to **5 Universities and 7 TAFEs** across more than 20 regional cities, with specialisations in areas such as sustainable food systems, water management and an Australian-leading hydrogen research laboratory.

**THERE HAS  
NEVER BEEN  
A BETTER TIME  
TO INVEST IN  
OUR REGIONS**



**COMPACT,  
SMART, SKILLED  
– REGIONAL  
VICTORIA IS  
INVESTMENT  
READY**

## Unlocking potential

**Our regional economy is strong and diverse – from world-leading food and fibre to fast-growing renewable energy, innovative advanced manufacturing and critical minerals.**

### Growing Smarter: Innovation and Industry in Regional Victoria

#### Agribusiness

Victoria's powerful agribusiness sector generated over **\$20 billion in exports** in the past year. This performance highlights Victoria's position as Australia's leading state food and fibre exporter by value, underpinned by strengths in dairy, beef, sheep, grains and horticulture.

Victoria's regions service growing domestic and global demand for **premium agricultural products**, including innovative value adding, while maintaining stringent biosecurity measures to protect against pests and diseases. Food product manufacturing is Victoria's largest and fastest-growing manufacturing sector.

#### Agtech

Victorian Agtech is transforming farming, **value adding products for growth markets and boosting productivity**. Victoria offers opportunities to invest in traceability technology, autonomous farming equipment and robotics and farm management software. Victoria is home to world class universities and more than 14 agricultural innovation and research centres, and has a dynamic AgTech ecosystem to support start-ups and innovation.

#### Renewable Energy

Victoria's renewable energy transition offers opportunities for an estimated **\$35 billion additional investment** in renewable energy and storage capacity over the next decade.

With abundant renewable resources to harness, sophisticated supply chain capabilities and strong economic credentials, Victoria is among the **fastest growing destinations for renewable energy investment** in the Southern Hemisphere.

#### Advanced Manufacturing and Defence

Regional Victoria is at the **forefront of manufacturing and defence industry capabilities**, from the production of transport equipment, such as armoured vehicles in Bendigo through to cutting-edge advanced manufacturing clusters in Geelong. The state is also capitalising on growth opportunities in aviation, aerospace and MedTech.

#### Medical Research

Regional Victoria is also home to specialised MedTech manufacturing, medicinal cannabis and opiate production. This provides **world-class expertise in cutting-edge medical research** and commercialisation opportunities.

These pioneering research facilities include Bendigo Health's Accelerator, La Trobe University's Biomedical Science Teaching and Research Hub, CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness and the Geelong Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

#### Critical Minerals

Almost **\$100 million was invested in mineral exploration** activities in Victoria's regions in the past year – this reflected a 260% increase over the last decade.

Globally significant **critical mineral-bearing sand deposits** in north-west Victoria, which could supply inputs for household products, medical devices and energy transition infrastructure, also present further opportunities for refinement and manufacturing in regional Victoria.

#### Visitor Economy

Regional Victoria offers diverse investment opportunities in **tourism infrastructure, accommodation and experience** development.

Destinations such as the Great Ocean Road, High Country and Goldfields are expanding their year-round visitor offerings, supported by strong domestic demand and transport and infrastructure upgrades.

# Regional Development Victoria

## Your gateway to regional Victoria

Regional Development Victoria is the Victorian Government's dedicated agency responsible for regional economic development.

Regional Victoria comprises five regions spanning diverse economic bases and each with unique opportunities.

**We have dedicated, expert investment facilitation teams in each region to support your investment journey.**

Our experts are globally connected and deliver tailored support, including real-time market intelligence and gateways to government. They draw on networks across all levels of government and industry to ensure you have the bespoke advice and support your business needs.

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 and coordinating development approvals
- Connecting you with Victoria's skilled and talented workforce
- Matching R&D with universities to build partnerships
- Responding to emerging workforce needs by connecting you to recruitment agencies, Victoria's high performance 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 dedicated regional investment specialists located in each region via [investregional@rdv.vic.gov.au](mailto:investregional@rdv.vic.gov.au)

