

REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA

Regional Development Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19





Front cover: Berry World, Timboon

Published by the Victorian Government
Regional Development Victoria
Annual Report 2018-2019

October 2019
Melbourne Victoria

© Copyright State Government of Victoria 2019
This publication is copyright. No part may be
reproduced by any process except in accordance
with provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.

Designed by DJPR Design Studio

ISBN 1448-9341 (press)
ISBN 2652-2101 (pdf/online/MS word)

Contact

Regional Development Victoria
Level 31, 121 Exhibition Street
Melbourne 3000
T: 13 22 15
E: rdv@rdv.vic.gov.au
rdv.vic.gov.au

Designed by DJPR Design Studio
Printed by Finsbury Green

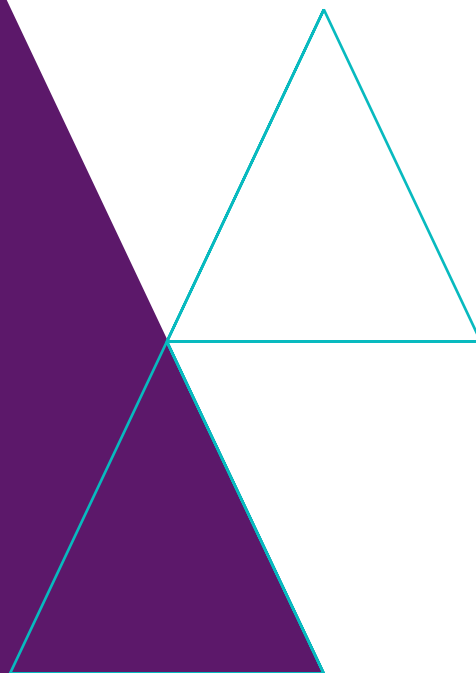
Disclaimer

The information contained in this report is provided for general guidance and assistance only and is not intended as advice. You should make your own inquiries as to the appropriateness and suitability of the information provided. While every effort has been made to ensure the currency, accuracy or completeness of the content we endeavour to keep the content relevant and up to date and reserve the right to make changes as required. The Victorian Government, authors and presenters do not accept any liability to any person for the information (or the use of the information) which is provided or referred to in the report.

Except for any logos, emblems, trademarks, artwork and photography this document is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.

Accessibility

This document is available in PDF
at rdv.vic.gov.au



Contents

Chief Executive foreword	3	GovHub	29
RDV Executive team	4	Regional reports	30
Regional Victoria – a vital part of our state’s prosperity	5	Barwon South West	31
Regional Development Victoria	5	Gippsland	36
Collaboration	6	Grampians	40
Organisational structure	6	Hume	44
Regional Investment and Trade	7	Loddon Mallee	50
Regional Infrastructure	8	Financials	56
Regional Programs and Recovery	9	Major grant announcements	57
Policy and Planning	11	Grant payments	62
Regional Communications and Engagement	13	2018-19 output targets and performance against Budget Paper 3 measures	69
Regional Partnerships	14	Revenue and expenses	70
Reporting on Regional Partnerships	15	Contact information	71
Barwon	16		
Great South Coast	17		
Wimmera Southern Mallee	18		
Central Highlands	19		
Ovens Murray	20		
Goulburn	21		
Mallee	22		
Loddon Campaspe	23		
Gippsland	24		
Cross Border Commissioner	25		
Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund	26		



Chief Executive foreword

Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is the Victorian Government's lead agency responsible for rural and regional economic and community development, focusing on building prosperous economies and thriving communities through employment, investment and infrastructure.



Since 2003 RDV has supported rural and regional Victoria through better infrastructure, facilities and services; strengthened the economic and social base of communities; created jobs and improved career opportunities for regional Victorians; and supported local project development and planning. We can be proud of our achievement as a driving force behind the state's ongoing economic prosperity. Our regions are home to one in four Victorians, and account for 700,000 jobs and almost 40 per cent of the state's small businesses. Together, these regions generate a \$76 billion regional economy that contributes almost 20 per cent of the state's overall economy and is responsible for a third of Victoria's total exports.

Tourism contributes \$11.5 billion to the regional economy. More than 80 per cent of Australia's dairy exports, 48 per cent of horticultural exports and 39 per cent of prepared food exports come from Victoria.

Over the past year, we have focused on modernising our approach so we're meeting the challenges of a rapidly changing and growing state and building on our strong legacy of success. Our future approach calls on us to better connect across government and with the community, to support more jobs for more rural and regional Victorians and to support effective partnerships and investments to enable the success of local businesses and communities.

A stronger regional presence

Our regions are full of innovation, drive and potential. Forming a new Regional HQ for RDV in Ballarat and establishing GovHub offices in Ballarat, Bendigo and Latrobe will bring more public sector jobs to regional Victoria.

During the year, the Victorian Government's commitment to regional development was reaffirmed by initiatives provided for in the 2019-20 Victorian Budget.

For example, the Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program initiated a whole-of-government package for regional development and has been designed to inject \$2.6 billion into the regional Victorian economy and generate 4500 new jobs. The program helps underpin key industries, boosts regional tourism and delivers the infrastructure and services upon which regional communities rely.

It also improves public transport, country roads, TAFE facilities and provides critical health facility upgrades. Also provided for in the 2019-20 Victorian Budget is the \$134 million Regional Development Priorities initiative that allocates investment to a range of projects across the state and delivers on key election commitments.

The Regional Development Priorities initiative includes funding to renew the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund that, over the past four years has supported more than 700 projects valued at \$1.72 billion – creating or retaining more than 8570 jobs.

The Regional Partnerships continue to play an essential role in bringing regional priorities to the heart of government. More than 2000 community members have attended regional assemblies across Victoria in 2018-19 and Outcomes Roadmaps produced by the Partnerships will be vital to guide future government efforts to tailor our support to priority projects.

During the year, RDV's teams have supported the significant work of Victoria's Regional Partnerships, demonstrating their commitment to facilitating business investment, infrastructure and community development for regional Victoria.

RDV is proud of its achievements in the past 12 months. We look forward to continuing our journey of transformation in 2019-20 and remain resolute in our commitment to working across government and with business and regional and rural communities to enable the prosperity of rural and regional Victoria

Beth Jones

Deputy Secretary Rural and Regional Victoria
Chief Executive Regional Development Victoria

RDV Executive team



Anthony Schinck
Regional Director, Grampians
Executive Director
Infrastructure (Acting)



Ben Ferguson
Executive Director
Regional Policy and Planning



Kate Millar
Executive Director
Regional Programs and Recovery



Kerri Erler
Regional Director
Barwon South West (Acting)



Matt Nelson
Regional Director
Hume



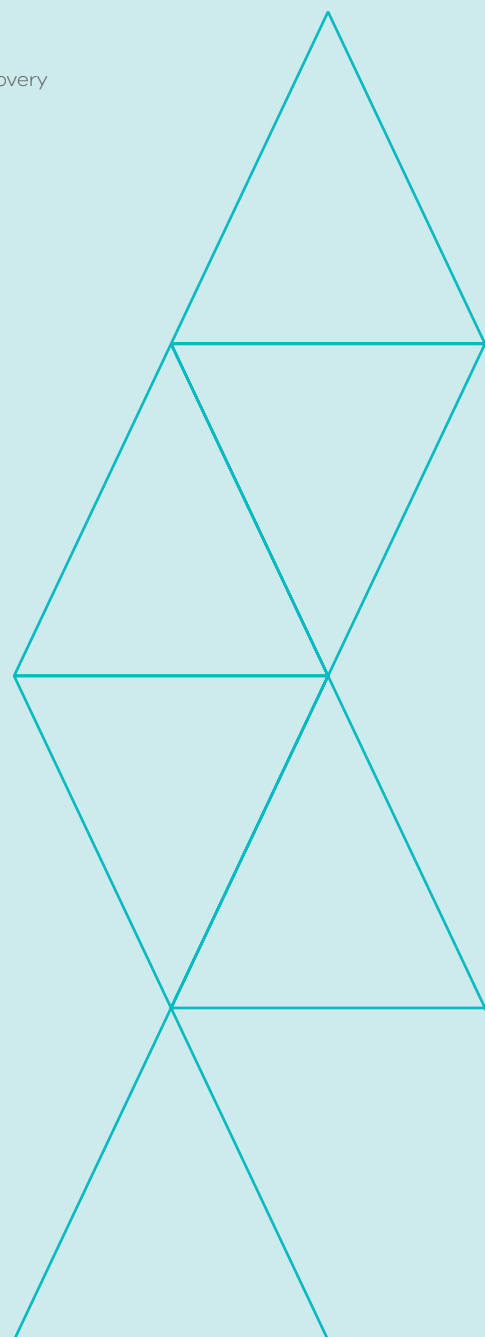
Rachel Lee
Regional Director
Loddon Mallee



Rob Byrne
Executive Director
Regional Investment
and Trade



Tim McAuliffe
Regional Director
Gippsland (Acting)



Regional Victoria – a vital part of our state's prosperity

Rural and regional Victoria is home to one in four Victorians, and accounts for 700,000 jobs and 24 per cent of the state's small businesses. Together they generate a regional economy of over \$76 billion that contributes almost 19 per cent to the Victorian economy.

Regional Development Victoria

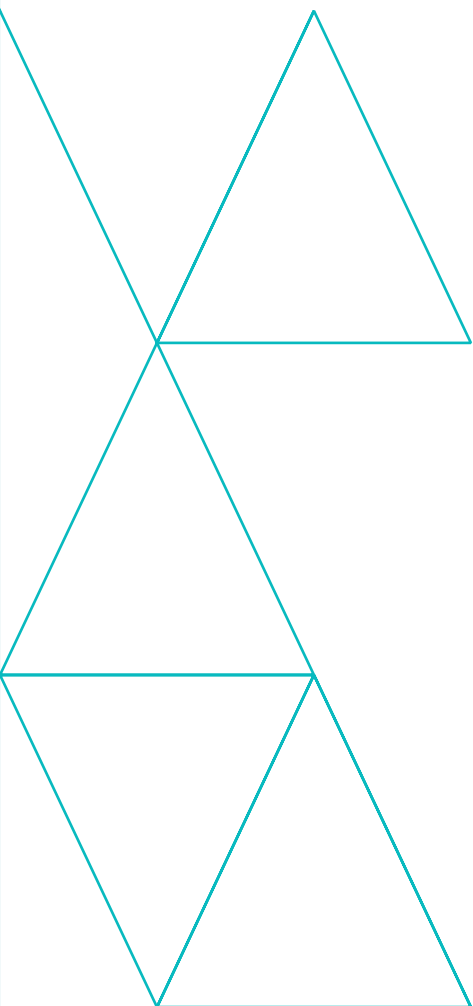
RDV is the Victorian Government's lead agency for developing rural and regional Victoria.

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 facilitates and supports the growth, diversity and resilience of regional economies, with a focus on inclusion to help tackle pockets of disadvantage.

RDV is always ready to help regional Victorians recover economically after emergencies and unplanned events.



Collaboration

RDV works closely with people across the state including regional businesses, all levels of government and local communities.

RDV makes access to government resources easier through our Victorian Government Business Centres and close working relationships with other government agencies.

We encourage rural and regional Victorians to have a say about what matters to them and how they want the future of their area to take shape. We enable this communication through the nine Regional Partnerships and regional leadership programs designed to build consensus and assemble evidence-based cases for targeted investment.

Organisational structure

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

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

RDV incorporates five central teams:

- Investment and Trade
- Infrastructure
- Programs and Recovery
- Policy and Planning
- Communications and Engagement.



Regional Investment and Trade

Role

The RDV Investment and Trade team supports the growth and competitiveness of regional businesses by working with them to facilitate new investment, increase exports, generate new jobs, help overcome barriers and provide strategic financial support where required.

Financial support is aimed at attracting and activating projects, bringing forward investment decisions and where appropriate, increasing the scope of projects to maximise the outcomes and benefits for rural and regional Victoria.

Located in each of Victoria's regions, Investment and Trade team members report to Regional Directors and work closely with Melbourne-based investment and trade specialists.

2018-19 activities

In 2018-19 the Regional Investment and Trade team delivered its outcomes of facilitating new jobs, investment and additional exports through a culture of working alongside other parts of government, both inside and outside DJPR. This included working closely with Invest Victoria, Agriculture Victoria and the Latrobe Valley Authority on a range of projects across regional Victoria. Highlights included:

- Facilitating \$1.177 billion of new investment in regional Victoria that will create 1910 direct jobs, exceeding the targets for regional Victoria in Budget Paper 3.
- Supporting projects from a range of priority industry sectors, including major investments in food and fibre, manufacturing, professional services and renewable energy, with a focus on developing supply chain relationships for businesses in regional Victoria.
- Completing the \$10 million Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund, creating hundreds of new jobs from projects supported.
- Assisting manufacturers that are large energy users in regional Victoria with projects to encourage investment and adapt to higher energy costs. Supported projects focussed on alternative energy generation, energy efficiency and energy savings investments that helped to increase manufacturing competitiveness.
- Assisting regional manufacturers with initiatives under the Future Industries Manufacturing Program (FIMP) including facilitating the establishment of Regional Manufacturing Clusters.
- Managing the Victorian Government's four-year support package with joint venture partners in the Portland Aluminium smelter.
- Delivering the Food Source Victoria program, working with Agriculture Victoria, supporting new and existing agri-food business alliances with innovative business growth opportunities.
- Delivering Round 3 of the Wine Growth Fund, with 78 projects funded in regional Victoria that assist with developing tourism and visitation to wineries and wine regions, including supporting new cellar door projects, further building on two previous highly successful funding rounds of this program.
- Directly assisting major new dairy industry investments such as ACM Holdings at Girgarre, Freedom Foods at Shepparton and Organic Dairy Farmers at Geelong, which created new jobs in the dairy industry with a focus on high value exports following the closure of processing plants by Murray Goulburn.
- Delivering projects under the Regional Skills Fund, such as to Barker Trailers in Woodend, which was also awarded a Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame award for training.
- Latrobe Valley business, Safetech, was awarded Victorian Manufacturer of the Year for 2019 in the medium sized business category, at a time when RDV worked with the company to expand and increase its employment in Moe.
- Delivering the Digital Innovation Festival in regional Victoria on behalf of DJPR
- Advising the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs on the Regional Sponsored Migration Stream (RSMS) Direct Entry Stream employer nomination applications, using local area knowledge to clarify the need for the position and availability of appropriate local labour.

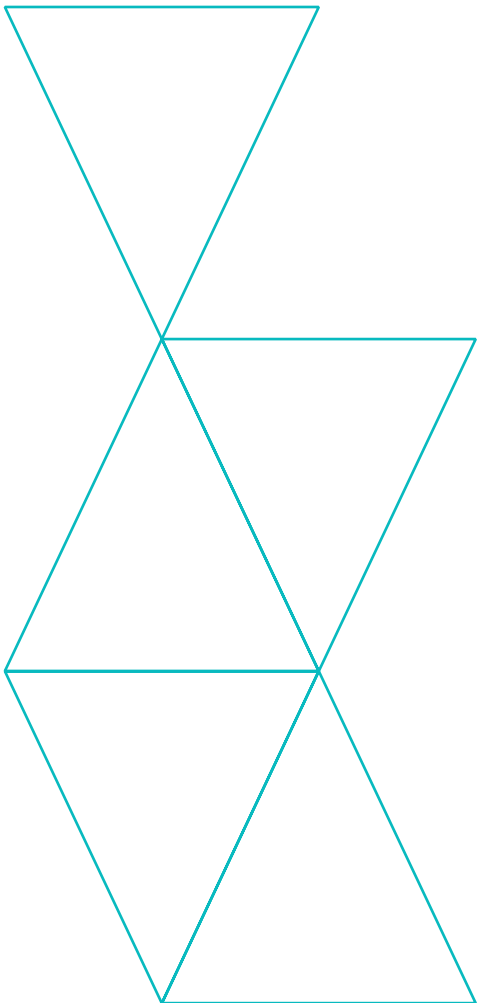
Regional Infrastructure

Role

The Regional Infrastructure team works with key stakeholders including local government, departmental agencies and Victorian Government Business Centres, to identify and support regional infrastructure priorities aimed at achieving economic and social outcomes. The team leads the facilitation and delivery of complex and large infrastructure projects.

The team has expertise in energy, water, gas, transport, tourism and cultural infrastructure, as well as the commercial acumen to negotiate strategic outcomes with the private sector.

The Regional Infrastructure team regularly contributes industry expertise to develop evidence-based policy advice and program design that informs the Government's development of regional policies, governance, programs and investment.



2018-19 activities

In 2018-19, the Infrastructure team provided oversight that facilitated the approval of five economic infrastructure projects under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, with a total of \$17.25 million in grants towards overall project costs of \$44.3 million.

The team helped more than 45 projects progress under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund as well as the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, realising the delivery of more than \$51.81 million in grant payments against a total project value of \$435.77 million.

RDV provided significant project facilitation and oversight towards the \$17 million Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland Innovation Centre that is being funded through the Latrobe Valley Economic Development Program.

RDV also undertook an extensive engagement process with regional businesses to understand energy challenges and identify how to support businesses in response to rising energy costs. As a result, four projects worth \$4.5 million with total support of \$2.2 million were facilitated via the Investment Attraction and Assistance Program.

During the year the Regional Infrastructure team helped enable significant projects around the state, including:

- Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment Project
- Ballarat West Employment Zone
- Creswick Woollen Mills Enhancement
- Eureka Sports and Events Centre
- Gippsland Logistics Precinct – Stage 2
- Ballarat, Bendigo and Latrobe GovHubs
- Grampians Peaks Trail – Stage 2
- Leopold Community Hub – Stage 2
- Twelve Apostles Masterplan
- Sovereign Hill by Night
- Warrnambool CBD Development.

Regional Programs and Recovery

Role

The Regional Programs and Recovery team coordinates RDV's support of locally driven regional development and recovery initiatives. It works closely with the Policy and Planning team to design and implement funding programs.

The team also works to build RDV's capacity in program and grant management, and regional project management and delivery.

In line with Victorian emergency management arrangements, the team facilitates and delivers collaborative recovery activities before, during and after emergency events, and major disruptions.

2018-19 activities – Programs

The Programs team delivered key projects around the state supported by the Victorian Government's \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

This work included helping Victorians in rural areas make the most of access to the Rural Development Stream of the Regional Infrastructure Fund. These activities were augmented by the team's facilitation of the Stronger Regional Communities Plan.

Key projects under the Regional Skills Fund were approved to support regional industry and business skills and capability to ensure the long-term sustainability of employment and business growth.

The Programs team supported the delivery of the third round of the Government's Wine Growth Fund – working with regional teams to develop and grow the wine industry in Victoria and help the industry's ongoing viability.

To improve the experience for applicants, the team also worked to make the grants process more streamlined.

Working with Regional Development Australia

The RDV Programs team continued to implement the Regional Development Australia (RDA) charter that runs to 31 December 2020. The RDA arrangement in Victoria is an integrated model with the Victorian Government that is administered through RDV. This more effectively aligns regional economic development priorities and investment.

2018-19 activities – Recovery

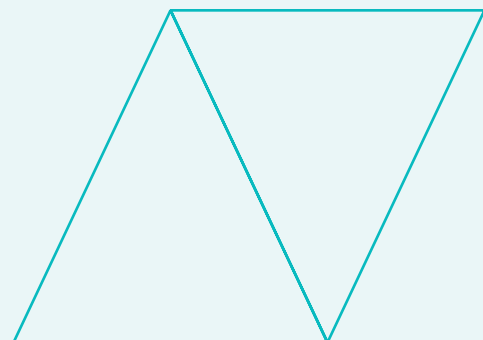
RDV leveraged its strengths, systems, networks and experience in economic recovery in collaboration with key agencies such as Agriculture Victoria, Emergency Management Victoria and local councils. The following are examples of RDV economic recovery facilitation in rural and regional Victoria during the year.

Regional Victorians were challenged by various incidents during the year including extreme heat events, bushfires and severe weather/flash flooding.

Between 1 July 2018 to 4 April 2019 there were 6566 grass and bushfires around the state that burnt 219,424ha and caused 5609 structure fires. Flood and storm activity caused 20,379 requests for assistance, and severe wind and severe weather events caused 2645 requests for assistance.

The Recovery team managed state-level coordination, supporting regional staff and representing RDV on the Regional Recovery Committees for the Bunyip complex fires and the broader Gippsland fires. This involved RDV's economic development partners in local government.

In January, Victoria experienced extreme heat that significantly increased electricity demand and consumption. As a result, approximately 200,000 customers lost electricity for up to two hours on 24 and 25 January. This was compounded by brown coal-fired generator plants in the Latrobe Valley operating below capacity due to maintenance issues. RDV staff worked closely with affected businesses to assess impacts and plan for future resilience.



Victorian Government response to drought

East Gippsland and Wellington Shires received funding under the RDV Community Resilience Drought Program. This supported community events that bring communities together, build resilience and raise awareness of drought support, especially in towns that service drought affected farmers. Other small infrastructure projects such as improvements to community hubs, halls and precincts were also included.

The program enables the most drought-affected towns in both shires to undertake activities and events that help local communities deal with the affects of drought. Gippsland RDV staff worked closely with councils to develop, implement and report activities and events under the program. RDV's central recovery team manage the program, and provide advice and reports to Agriculture Victoria for the Minister.

Exercises in code red to build capability

Like other government departments and agencies, RDV partners to minimise the impact of emergencies through effective preparation, coordination response and recovery. This is supported by a commitment to test plans, arrangements and procedures, and determine their vulnerabilities. RDV conducted code red exercises in the Barwon South West, Loddon Mallee and Gippsland regions to explore the arrangements for a code red event in a regional setting. This involved assessing accountabilities, staff safety and wellbeing, and planning for anticipated capacity.

10th anniversary of the 2009 Victorian bushfires

RDV was represented on the Inter-Departmental Committee (IDC) established to oversee a coordinated Victorian Government approach to planning the tenth anniversary of the 2009 Victorian bushfires in February 2019. Through the IDC and the working groups that helped promote and deliver anniversary activities, RDV contributed to the development of the work plan, wellbeing toolkit, stakeholder map and communications strategy and developed strategies to mitigate risks and issues preceding the anniversary.



Policy and Planning

Role

The Policy and Planning team provides evidence-based policy advice and program design to inform the Victorian Government's development of regional policies, governance, programs and investment. The team aims to strengthen government understanding of regional issues, and influence policies and programs that may affect Victorian regions.

The experience and skills of the team cover policy, programming, governance, economic analysis, monitoring and evaluation, and complement the work of RDV regional teams. The team enables RDV to have input on Ministerial, Parliamentary and Cabinet processes. It also monitors, reports and evaluates regional programs including working with auditors.

2018-19 activities

During the year the Policy and Planning team continued to support and coordinate the Government's nine Regional Partnerships and the Regional Development Advisory Committee (RDAC).

The team coordinated government responses to priority actions identified by the Regional Partnerships and its support for RDAC led to advice on significant policy matters under consideration by the committee.

The team contributed to evidence-based policy advice on regional development. This included briefing the incoming Minister, input into the Rural and Regional Improvement Project and maintaining the RDV Information Portal.

In addition, the team coordinated all fund and project level reporting in relation to the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, as well as the Victorian Government's 2018 regional development election commitments.

Working with Regional Development Australia

The Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government coordinate regional development through Regional Development Australia. Regional Development Australia supports the operation of six Victorian Regional Development Australia Committees that advise all levels of government on economic development opportunities and productivity. RDV provides significant in-kind support and contributes funds to the Regional Development Australia initiative.

Regional Development Advisory Committee

The Regional Development Advisory Committee is the Victorian Government's lead body for regional development policy advice. RDAC membership consists of the chairs of each of the nine Regional Partnerships.

While the work of the partnerships and RDAC is closely linked, RDAC has a separate legislated role (under the Regional Development Victoria Act 2002) as a source of policy advice to the Minister for Regional Development on matters affecting regional Victoria.

Summary of RDAC policy priorities in 2018-19

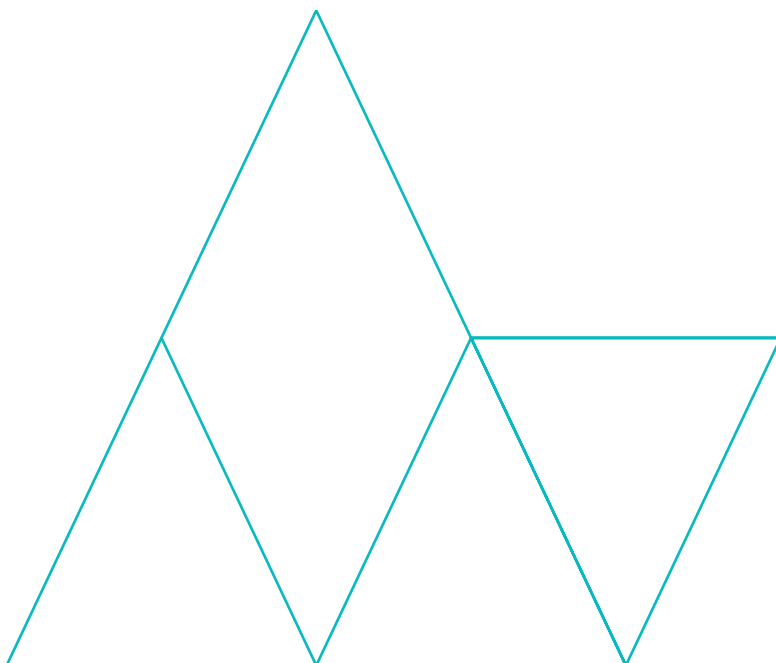
Structural adjustment was the primary policy priority for RDAC in 2018-19. RDAC commissioned work to develop a resilience framework and supporting principles that directly apply to the specific requirements of regional Victoria. The objective of this work is to enable regional communities of all kinds to thrive and prosper in an environment of constant change.

Other policy priorities RDAC worked on included:

- Examining the disparity in preventative health funding between rural and regional Victoria, and metropolitan Melbourne.
- Land management issues in regional Victoria, including environmental obligations for private landholders, land use regulation and management (such as responsibilities between public land managers and private land holders), and resourcing public land management and proper usage.
- Public and private sector support for agricultural extension programs.
- Research on collective impact of place based approaches, and the distinction between government led and citizen led place based approaches to early childhood interventions.
- RDAC also provided strategic advice to the Rural and Regional Improvement Project that focused on strengthening policy and governance arrangements in regional Victoria.

RDAC members:

- **David McKenzie**
Chair RDAC, Goulburn Partnership Chair
- **Win Scott**
Mallee Partnership Chair
- **Maree McPherson**
Gippsland Partnership Chair
- **Kylie Warne**
Barwon Partnership Chair
- **David Pope**
Great South Coast Partnership Chair
- **David Richardson**
Loddon Campaspe Partnership Chair (Acting)
- **George Fong**
Central Highlands Partnership Chair
- **Irene Grant**
Ovens Murray Partnership Chair
- **David Jochinke**
Wimmera Southern Mallee Partnership Chair



Regional Communications and Engagement

Role

The Regional Communications and Engagement team provides strategic communications, stakeholder and community engagement support, and marketing advice across RDV and to other Victorian Government departments and agencies working in rural and regional Victoria.

The team ensures all stakeholders have access to the information and advice RDV provides that helps to make regional Victoria a great place to live, visit, work and invest. The team also manages RDV's web and digital presence and major RDV stakeholder events and sponsorships.

2018-19 activities

In 2018-19, the Regional Communications and Engagement team's activities included:

- Communications support for Ministerial events through media releases and speech writing.
- Ongoing support for Victoria's Regional Partnerships by assisting each region with their community engagement initiatives.
- Ongoing communications support for RDA.
- Continuing the Ready When You Are digital marketing campaign to highlight the benefits of living in regional Victoria to a Melbourne audience.
- Communications and stakeholder engagement for major projects including the Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment and GovHub projects in Ballarat, Bendigo and Morwell.
- Managing community sponsorships, including the Regional Achievement and Community Awards, Royal Melbourne Show, Bendigo Business Awards and the Western Bulldogs AFL match in Ballarat.
- Maintaining RDV's web presence on rdv.vic.gov.au and regionalliving.vic.gov.au.



Regional Partnerships

This year Victoria's nine Regional Partnerships achieved a new level of maturity.

The year started with the Barwon and Goulburn Regional Partnerships holding their third round of large, town-hall style Regional Assemblies in July 2018. In total, more than 2000 stakeholders and community members attended the third round of Regional Assemblies (the other seven Assemblies took place in May and June 2018).

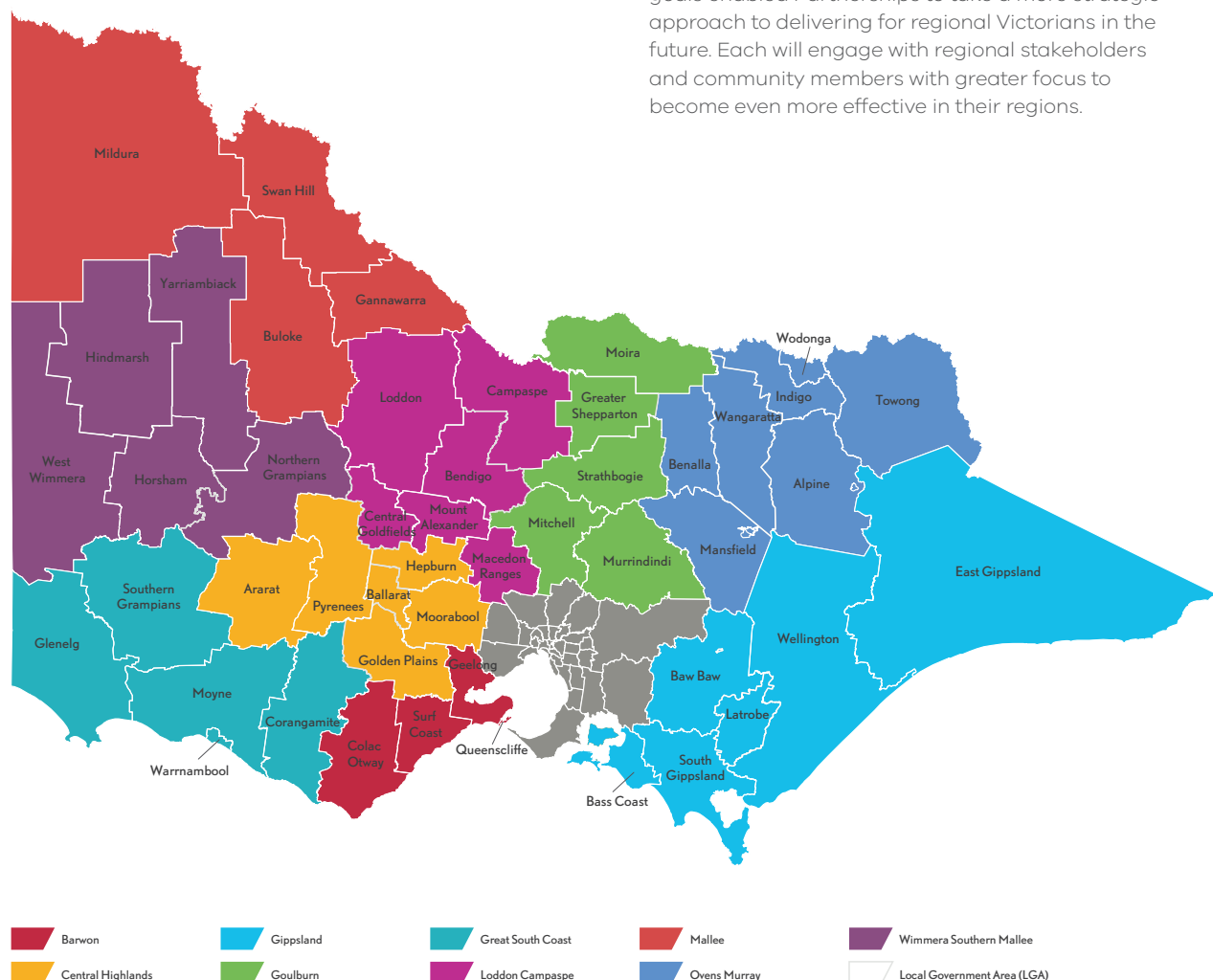
Outside the Assemblies, in 2018-19 each Partnership continued meeting stakeholders and community members to refine thinking on regional priorities, and develop related projects.

This year a number of these projects (funded over the past three years) took shape. For example, the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner (a Mallee Regional Partnership priority) was appointed in September 2018, while the Healthy Heart of Victoria (a Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership priority) and the Prevention Lab (a Central Highlands Partnership priority) continued to develop throughout the year.

During 2018-19, Partnerships also continued to affect activities on the ground. They helped improve communication between government departments and encourage collaboration on local priorities. They advocated for local place-appropriate responses and helped bring local groups together to further regional agendas. This work included the Barwon Regional Partnership's championing of the Geelong City Deal that received over \$370 million from the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments in 2018-19.

After hearing from hundreds of people at three large Assemblies, in May 2019 each Partnership published an Outcomes Roadmap – a summary of the key long-term outcomes the Partnership aims to achieve. Roadmaps also describe key projects and actions, and what success will look like for the region. These documents are available in the Partnership section of the RDV website and will be regularly updated.

The Outcomes Roadmaps and articulation of long-term goals enabled Partnerships to take a more strategic approach to delivering for regional Victorians in the future. Each will engage with regional stakeholders and community members with greater focus to become even more effective in their regions.



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. Together they listen to local people to ensure local views are presented directly to government.





Barwon

The Barwon Regional Partnership held its third large annual Regional Assembly on 19 July 2018 in Wallington on the Bellarine Peninsula. Attended by 160 community members, it was an opportunity to hear what the Partnership had achieved to date, and for further discussion on four key areas: young people are our future, the economy we need, coastal infrastructure and housing for all.

Through the rest of the year, the Partnership continued to meet with a range of local stakeholders, particularly around:

- Championing the Geelong City Deal.
- Advocating to raise the leaving age for Out of Home Care from 18 to 21. The Government began a \$11.6 million trial to give young people the option of remaining with a carer until the age of 21.
- The reform of management arrangements for the Great Ocean Road to preserve and enrich the iconic region along Victoria's south-west coast, including advocating to establish a dedicated authority to protect the area and its environment.
- Developing an evidence-based regional digital plan to address demand for digital infrastructure, services and skills.

The City Deal will deliver \$370 million of investment in the Geelong and Great Ocean Road economy, and realise a number of the Partnership's priority projects. These include the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Safe Harbour Project and Central Geelong revitalisation.

Long-term priorities 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

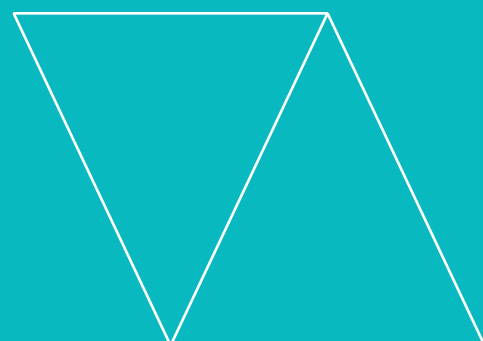
Through 2018-19, the Great South Coast Regional Partnership continued to meet with a range of local stakeholders including the region's local government, education and community organisations, particularly around:

- Developing a Regional Disability Sector Workforce Needs Analysis and Action Plan. The Partnership is leading this initiative with Community Southwest and received \$195,000 from the Government's Stronger Regional Communities Plan to progress this work.
- Kicking off a feasibility study with South West TAFE to explore the possibility of using the TAFE's facilities in Warrnambool, Hamilton and Portland as community education hubs for local tertiary students studying remotely.
- Identifying opportunities for the Great South Coast's economy working with Deakin University and the region's local government agencies.
- Addressing population decline and building a skilled and dispersed workforce that meets the future needs of the region.
- Bringing social sector agencies together to find ways to counter rural and regional disadvantage and inequity.
- Commencing the Great South Coast Creative Industry Strategy, partnering with Regional Arts Victoria, Creative Victoria, the region's local government, Aboriginal and creative community.
- Developing the Great South Coast Regional Digital Plan to address the digital divide.
- Amplifying the voice of community and industry to prioritise investment on upgrading the Princes Highway in the Great South Coast.

The City Deal will deliver \$370 million of investment in the Geelong and Great Ocean Road economy, and realise a number of the Partnership's priority projects. These include support for Stage 2 of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan that is a Great South Coast Partnership priority.

Long-term priorities 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

In 2018-19, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership continued to meet diverse local stakeholders, including families, social service providers and leaders in the agriculture, tourism and education sectors. The Partnership was instrumental in facilitating change and attracting additional resources to the region. The following is an overview of its work.

The Partnership advocated for new Mobile Black Spot (MBS) towers in priority locations, with proportional funds from the \$11 million Victorian MBS Program and the Commonwealth Government's \$380 million MBS Program. Six towers will be built at Bellfield, Langkoop, Telopea Downs, Toolondo, Yanac and Grampians Road (Halls Gap to Dunkeld).

The Partnership provided support to secure funding for two agricultural innovation projects. One project is to establish a digitally enabled AgTech Demonstration Farm at Longerenong College. This received \$2.55 million from the Victorian Government, in partnership with Longerenong College, Skillinvest and Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water.

The second is a collaboration between Birchip Cropping Group, Skillinvest, Federation University and the University of Melbourne to develop and deliver education and extension programs to students, growers, agronomists on the use and benefits of AgTech on farms. The Partnership helped finalise the Wimmera Mallee Tourism Destination Management Plan (DMP) to promote tourism assets and diversify the economy for the Wimmera Southern Mallee.

The Partnership helped secure \$500,000 to activate the 10 year Grampians Cycling Strategy that will advance work on the branding of cycling across the region. The funding will also help Hindmarsh Shire Council build the first section of the Wimmera River Discovery Trail, a priority multi-use trail along the Wimmera River corridor between Dimboola and Lake Hindmarsh.

It supported two workforce forums in the last year and made a submission to fund a region wide Wimmera Southern Mallee Workforce Coordinator.

The Partnership advocated for more home-based care options for children and young people in the 'out of home' care system through the Government's Made to Measure Care project.

It fostered collaboration between local governments in the region to submit applications to the \$20 million Rural Councils Transformation Program.

The Partnership also helped local groups and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) co-design a response to issues of family violence and secured more than \$1.3 million in government funding to help purchase six properties for use as emergency accommodation.

The By-Five initiative got fully underway this year, driven by the Partnership with the Department of Education and Training (DET) and DHHS, and supported by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. By-Five evolved from discussions at the 2016 Regional Assembly about the need to improve early years provision in Wimmera Southern Mallee. The initiative works with five cluster groups in the region and aims to achieve place-based solutions to local needs.

Long-term priorities 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 – focussed 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

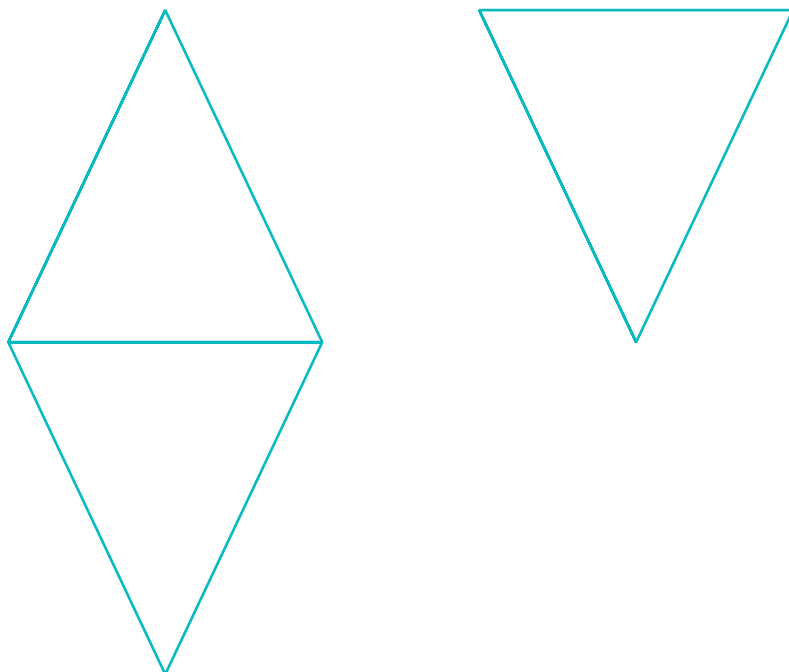
Through 2018-19 the Central Highlands Regional Partnership continued to progress a range of projects and initiatives related to its identified priority areas, particularly around:

- The development of the Central Highlands Digital Plan, which will identify infrastructure, supply and demand of services, digital needs and potential solutions, as well as priority projects.
- Supporting the development of a Central Highlands and Grampians Pyrenees Sport, Active Recreation, Health and Wellbeing 10 Year Action Plan.
- Developing a Roadmap for Zero Emissions for the Central Highlands. This work is being led by the Grampians New Energy Taskforce that includes all Grampians local government areas, RDA Grampians, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership, DELWP and RDV. This initiative received \$500,000 from the Victorian Government in July 2018.
- Social welfare and community – responsive, place-based social services.
- Visitor economy – a vibrant, growing visitor economy.
- Education and training – meaningful engagement in employment and education.
- Advanced manufacturing – an innovative, collaborative manufacturing industry.
- Workforce planning – a strong labour force that meets the needs of job markets.
- Shared services – transformational rural and regional council service delivery.

In June 2019, the Partnership-driven initiative, the Central Highlands Prevention Lab, entered its second phase. The lab came about following support at Regional Assemblies and aims to improve the long-term health of people in the region. A business case was completed in 2018-19 and work is now underway to engage local leaders to design and embed prevention initiatives and thinking into business-as-usual for the region. The lab won't be a physical place but will activate a network of leaders to drive tailored initiatives to help get the community moving and improve health outcomes.

Long-term priorities presented in the Grampians Partnership Outcomes Roadmap:

- Better health – a healthy community that embraces physical activity and healthy eating.
- Transport connectivity – integrated and accessible transport across Central Highlands.
- Digital connectivity – digital access for all.
- New and renewable energy – sustainable, secure and affordable energy.
- Agriculture – productive, diverse and resilient food and agriculture industry.





Ovens Murray

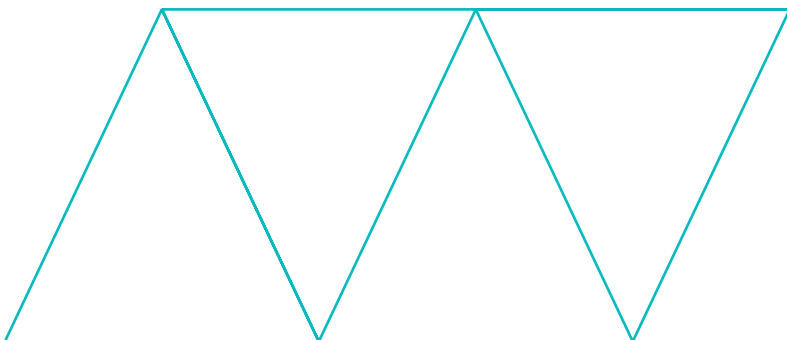
In 2018-19, the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership continued to meet a range of local stakeholders including community members, business leaders, service providers and government representatives, particularly around:

- Developing the Wangaratta Digital Hub and the Wodonga Business Innovation Hub, funded in the 2018-19 Victorian Budget.
- Progressing action on regional tourism projects such as Ride High Country and Alpine Resort initiatives.
- Advocating for passenger rail improvements on the North East line by 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 (DoT) as it progresses preparations to run new long haul VLocity trains on the line.
- Working with the Victorian Government to develop the Ovens Murray Digital Plan.
- Partnering with DELWP to develop a regional 'roadmap' that supports the uptake of renewable energy opportunities in Ovens Murray and secures maximum benefit for communities from this new technology.

To promote the region's leadership in digital innovation and entrepreneurship, in March 2019 the Partnership launched a series of short videos and fact sheets profiling great digital innovation success stories from across the region. The videos showcase local achievements and were shared widely on Facebook.

Long-term priorities presented in the Ovens Murray 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 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.





Goulburn

The Goulburn Regional Partnership held its third annual Regional Assembly on 18 July 2018 in Shepparton. Attended by 195 community members, it was an opportunity to hear what the Partnership had achieved to date, and for further discussion on some of the difficult issues facing the region. These included breaking down barriers to education, developmental vulnerability in children, encouraging healthy lifestyles, improving digital connectivity, public transport, reducing social isolation and improving mental health, reducing persistent unemployment, supporting young people to be happy and healthy and tackling crime and substance abuse.

During the rest of the year, the Partnership continued to meet various local stakeholders including community groups, local and neighbouring water management authorities, health care service providers, not-for-profit organisations, STEM education leaders and tourism industry groups, particularly around:

- The revitalisation of Seymour, a Goulburn Regional Partnership priority, which was supported by the Government in late 2018.
- Developing the resilience and adaptive capacity of the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.
- Building the Partnership's understanding of the issue of youth mental health in the region.
- Identifying opportunities to develop the tourism potential of Lake Eildon.
- Connecting the region's producers to the most up-to-date and useful information on climate change.
- Building awareness of the benefits of renewable energy and exploring opportunities to increase its generation in the region.
- Developing the cultural tourism potential of the Barmah Forest and creating more pathways for local Aboriginal employment in the natural resource management industry.

The Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Masterplan Project was launched in June 2019. Supported by the Victorian Government and championed by the Partnership, the project seeks to develop a more resilient and adaptive region. It will engage with regional stakeholders to examine the impacts of various current and future challenges for the region. It will explore opportunities for development and investment that builds on the area's strengths and competitive advantages.

Long-term priorities 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

In 2018-19, the Mallee Regional Partnership continued to meet with a range of local stakeholders including local governments, health providers and primary producers. Discussions covered workforce planning (including migration), models for primary health provision in the Mallee, and resilience in the face of dry season conditions.

The Partnership helped develop the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre. Officially opened in May 2019, the Centre (a Mallee Regional Partnership priority supported in the 2018-19 State Budget) combines the research capabilities of the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, with the knowledge of regional partners including SuniTAFE. Research at the new centre will focus on the key sectors of renewables, technology, agriculture, water management and sustainability.

In partnership with DET, it advocated to improve public transport connectivity and develop flexible transport solutions. This included engaging through community forums and local government to identify priority needs for the Mallee, and working with DoT to produce a supply chain study to identify and prioritise roads for investment.

The Partnership also helped produce an economic vision for the Mallee region to drive future growth and worked on the regional Economic Growth Strategy with the RDA.

The Partnership helped bring together key stakeholders including the Commonwealth Government to progress development of a Mallee migration concierge and settlement packages, and progress a new energy roadmap for the Mallee.

In September 2018, the inaugural Victorian Cross Border Commissioner was appointed. This was a Mallee Regional Partnership priority.

Long-term priorities 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.



Loddon Campaspe

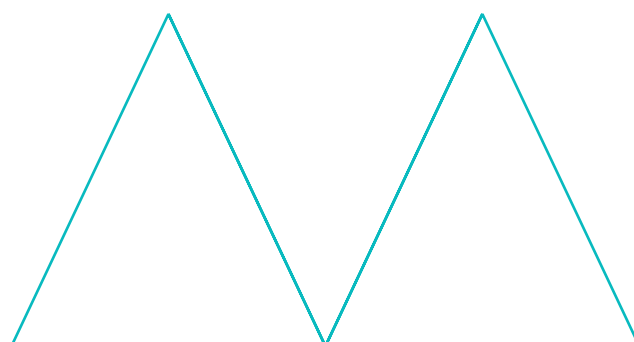
Through 2018-19, the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership continued to meet with a range of local stakeholders including young people, youth workers, parents, educators, Traditional Owners, business and industry, particularly around:

- Developing a localised Early Years Language and Literacy Strategy. This work with DET and DJPR was funded through the Regional Strategic Planning Fund.
- Piloting a 'Parents as literacy Champions' project in the township of Heathcote. This project supports parents and caregivers to be their child's first educator.
- Producing an economic vision for the Loddon Campaspe region, to drive future economic growth. Work on the Regional Economic Growth Strategy is being undertaken with the RDA.
- Co-designing a project with hundreds of young people from the region that will help minimise the stigma around Youth Mental Health and provide support, so people know where to go for help.
- Partnering with DELWP to develop a renewable energy roadmap for Loddon Campaspe.
- Exploring better ways of interacting, using and taking care of our national parks so they can be accessible for future generations, in partnership with Parks Victoria, DELWP and Traditional Owners.
- Developing a Regional Engineering Advanced Manufacturing Skills Roadmap to identify short and long-term initiatives to support the future of workforce needs in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.
- Advocating for improved public transport capacity and connectivity and flexible transport solutions in partnership with DoT, including engaging with the community and local government to identify priority needs for Loddon Campaspe.

The Partnership driven initiative, the Healthy Heart of Victoria, continued to expand after it received \$5 million in the 2018-19 State Budget. As part of this, in June 2019 the Healthy Heart of Victoria Active Living Census was sent to households in Loddon Campaspe.

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.





Gippsland

In 2018-19, the Gippsland Regional Partnership continued to meet with a range of local stakeholders including the Gippsland Local Government Network, the Committee for Gippsland, the RDA and the community, particularly around the following initiatives.

The Partnership developed the Gippsland Destination Management Plan including identifying priority projects and programs to drive growth across the visitor economy.

The Partnership focused on the future of food and fibre in Gippsland. Having received \$700,000 to develop an action plan for food and fibre in the 2018-19 State Budget, the Gippsland Regional Partnership established the Food and Fibre Working Group, made up of senior professionals from industry, government, innovation, education and the community, to identify and drive forward regional priorities.

Among the first initiatives was the launch in May 2019 of Food and Fibre Gippsland, a single leadership entity to advocate for the industry and drive activity in the region. The Food and Fibre Working Group commissioned Food and Fibre Gippsland to prepare a paper that establishes a definitive growth target for the sector in the region. The paper sets a five per cent a year by 2025 growth target. Also included are six capability platforms that will underpin that growth.

The Partnership helped establish a workforce strategy for Gippsland's health and community services, including skills development for Aboriginal communities.

It championed better mentoring and career counselling services in secondary schools. From 2019 students will begin career education sooner, with a new online platform, training for more than 400 teachers, and a program of industry immersion experience.

The Partnership also collaborated to develop the Gippsland Digital Plan that includes a series of priorities and recommendations to focus future investments.

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

- Skills and education – increased aspiration and improved infrastructure to participate and succeed in education at all levels.
- Family and community wellbeing – residents 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.
- Energy and resources – Gippsland has sustainable, secure and affordable energy and resources and considers new energy technologies.
- Visitor economy and tourism – a vibrant and thriving tourism industry that delivers outstanding visitor experiences.

Cross Border Commissioner

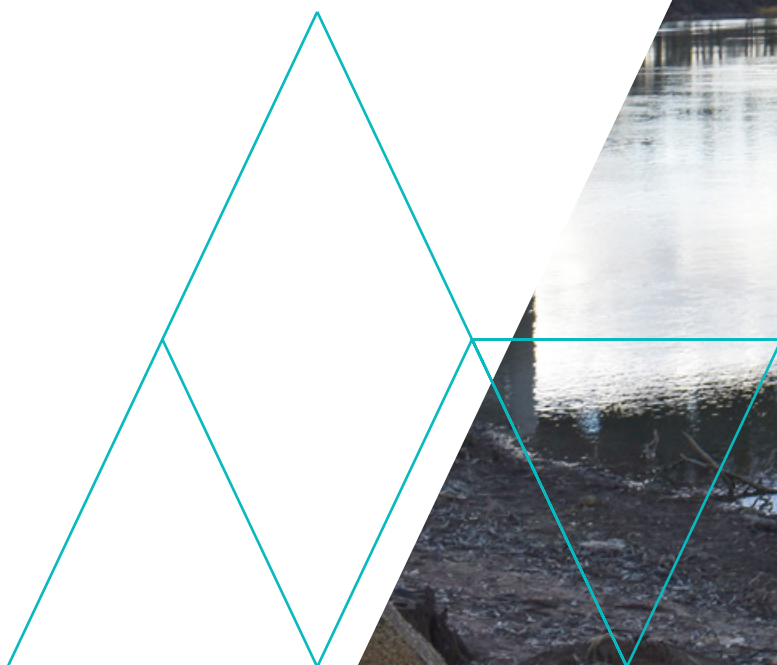
Luke Wilson commenced as Victoria's first Cross Border Commissioner on 15 October 2018, after work by the Mallee Regional Partnership to prioritise the appointment and funding in the 2018-19 State Budget.

Based in Wodonga, the role has taken the Cross Border Commissioner to every local government area along more than 2500km of border Victoria shares with New South Wales and South Australia. He met border residents, businesses, Regional Partnerships, local, state and Commonwealth government leaders and staff, and many border MPs and Councillors. More than 170 border issues have been raised to date. These include:

- Varying approaches and rules between states, such as those for L and P plate drivers, or multiple licensing for tradespeople.
- Requirement for better cross border collaboration on shared issues, such as tourism marketing.
- Issues created due to different state rules and practices around TAFE access.
- Responsible Service of Alcohol – despite a national accreditation being introduced for the Responsible Service of Alcohol, there are rules and practices in each State that make it impractical to use the accreditation interstate.

The Cross Border Commissioner has now started working with departments, regulators and other agencies in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia to address these issues. Some issues, such as L and P plate rules, also bring Tasmania into play.

Work also commenced 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 deliver positive change.



Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund

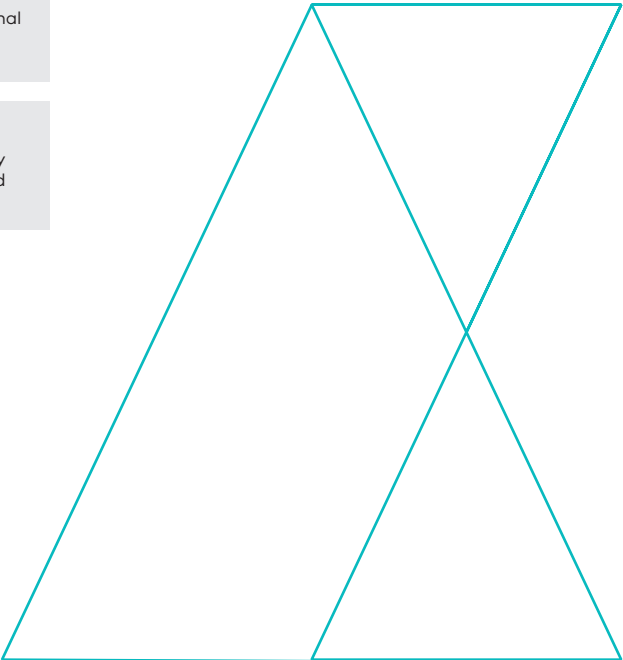
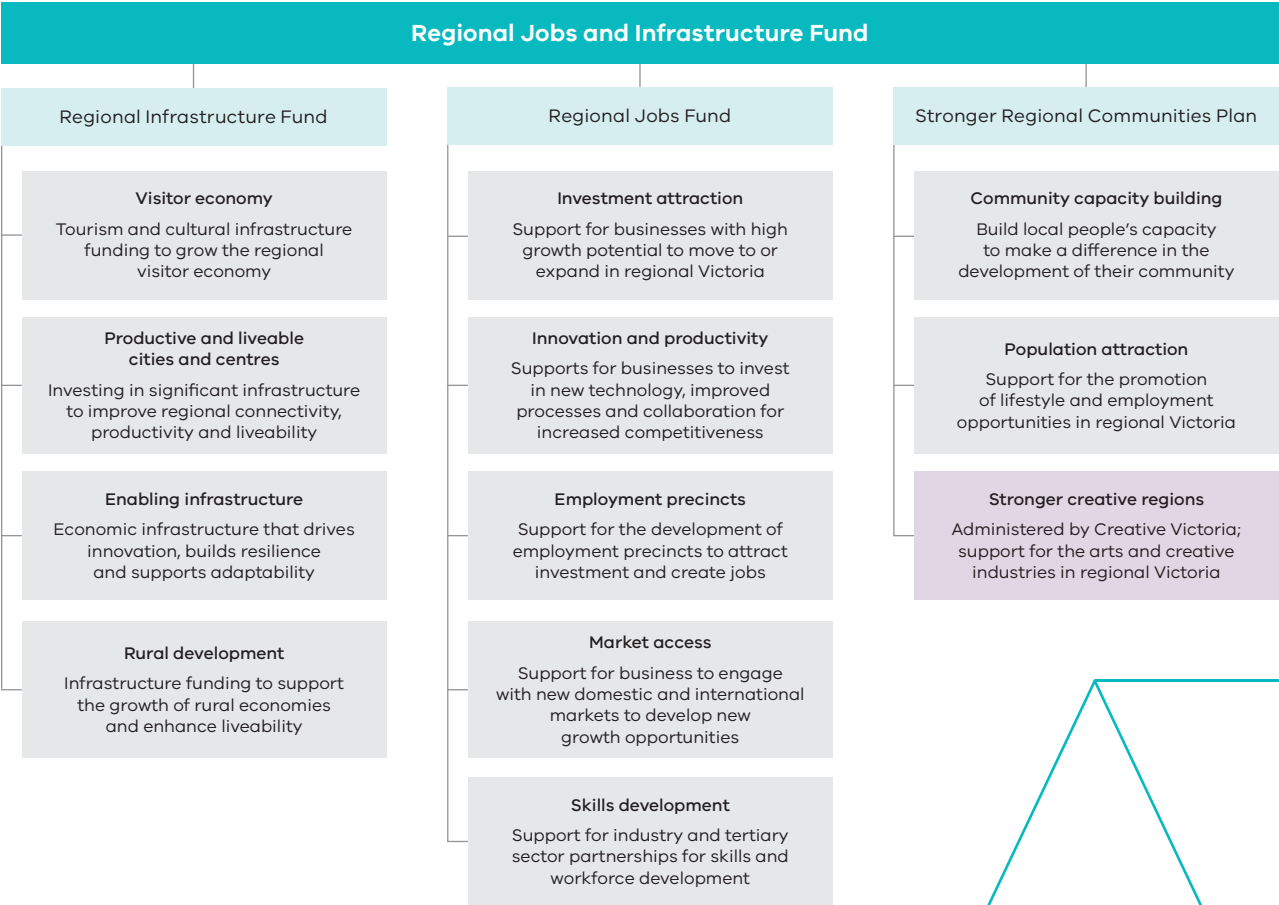
Operating from 1 July 2015, the \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund is the Victorian Government’s overarching regional development package.

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 Plan.

Throughout 2018-19, RDV continued to work with proponents to progress commitments and other high value and high impact projects in regional Victoria.



Regional Jobs Fund

The Regional Jobs Fund aims to facilitate employment growth and to retain jobs. It helps attract and facilitate investment that focuses on regional competitive advantage or high-growth potential businesses, and helps diversify the employment base.

The fund aims to improve regional capacity and innovation and realise the potential of emerging industry sectors, particularly the Victorian Government's priority sectors and new export markets.

The Regional Jobs Fund provides support for strategic projects and infrastructure through four program streams:

- Investment Attraction.
- Innovation and Productivity.
- Market Access.
- Employment Precincts.

In addition, Food Source Victoria, a targeted grants program under the Regional Jobs Fund, is building alliances across the agrifood sector to grow exports and increase industry capabilities.

Regional Infrastructure Fund

The Regional Infrastructure Fund invests in major infrastructure projects that focus on creating or enhancing the conditions for economic growth, helping build diversified, sustainable and resilient regional economies.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund operates under four program streams:

- Visitor Economy.
- Productive, and Liveable Cities and Centres.
- Enabling Infrastructure.
- Rural Development.

To address the needs and capacity of rural communities, the Regional Infrastructure Fund includes a Rural Development program stream to support projects in towns and communities in the 38 rural local government areas.

Regional Skills Fund

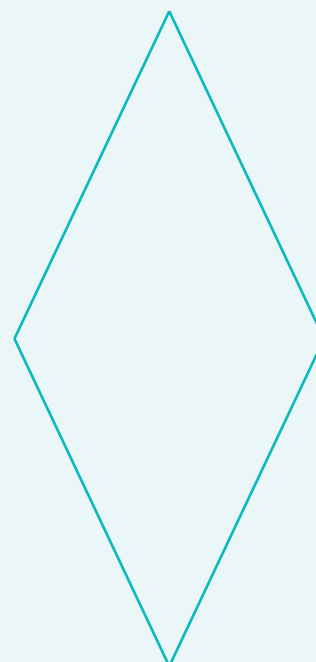
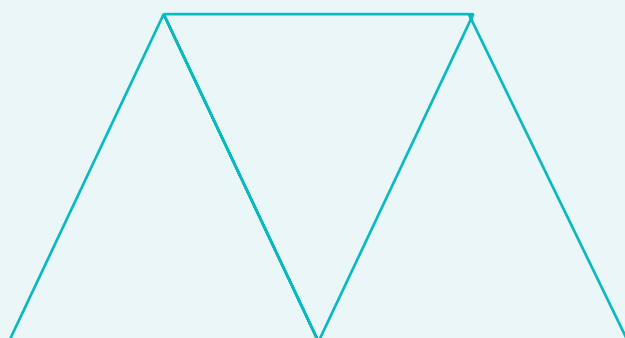
The Regional Skills Fund sits under the Regional Jobs Fund and is a collaboration between RDV and DET. The Regional Skills Fund is a targeted, place-based regional skills grants program driven by industry in partnership with the tertiary sector, working to build local capacity, resilience and support jobs creation. The Regional Skills Fund supports regional industry and business skills and capability to ensure the long-term sustainability of employment and business growth. The fund aligns with the Victorian Government's education and training reforms as well as initiatives to support innovation, skills and workforce development.

Stronger Regional Communities Plan

The Stronger Regional Communities Plan helps rural and regional towns attract families and young people to live and work locally. It invests in community-led initiatives and partnerships that create or enhance the conditions for economic growth, building community capabilities to drive change and improve liveability.

The Stronger Regional Communities Plan supports small grants of up to \$50,000 under two program streams:

- Community Capacity Building.
- Population Attraction.





Regional Arts and Creativity Package

Delivered by Creative Victoria and funded through the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, the \$20 million Regional Arts and Creativity package includes a touring strategy for regional Victoria (involving major exhibitions, performances and programs from leading arts organisations) and support for significant and long-term creative projects and residencies (including the continuation of the successful Small Town Transformation).

Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund

The Government's \$103 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund is separate from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund. It is designed to help realise the potential of regional Victoria's visitor economy, which attracts more than 14 million domestic and international visitors every year.

The Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund's main objectives are to increase regional visitation, tourism investment and regional sector jobs. The Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund supports high value projects that demonstrate significant benefits for the visitor economy, particularly those that boost regional visitor numbers and yield, improve tourism experiences and stimulate private sector investment.

GovHub

GovHub is a new integrated government service activity model that is a major part of the Victorian Government's initiative to decentralise and consolidate key operational areas, skills and activities to benefit regional communities and economies.

Three GovHubs are currently under development around Victoria – Ballarat, Bendigo and Latrobe. When complete, they will provide opportunities to 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.

Ballarat

The Government provided \$47.8 million to support the development of the Ballarat GovHub. The Ballarat GovHub will be home to up to 1000 Victorian Government employees, including up to 600 public sector positions relocated from Melbourne. This will help revitalise a major part of 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 will be located on the 'Civic Hall Site', which sits on Crown land, in Ballarat's CBD. Development Victoria is leading the construction development in partnership with RDV, the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and the City of Ballarat. This will complete a community, government and commercial precinct in the Ballarat CBD.

Kane Nicholson Joint Venture was awarded the construction and demolition contract in October 2018. Work commenced on the project site in January 2019 and more than 30 Ballarat businesses will subcontract to and supply the project that is expected to be complete by the end of 2020.

Complementary government activities and functions integrated into the GovHub model include key tenants such as the State Revenue Office, VicRoads, Consumer Affairs Victoria, Service Victoria, Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), DET and RDV. RDV worked closely with all tenants to ensure a smooth transition to Ballarat in early 2021.

Bendigo

The Bendigo GovHub was identified as a key project to address a range of issues and stimulate the economic growth of the city into the next decade. Issues include the need to revitalise the CBD and address the 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.

As Bendigo is already home to public servants from DET, DELWP, DJPR and Parks Victoria, the Government identified the benefits of consolidation and allocated \$16 million for the project in the 2018-19 State Budget. The investment will go towards a project valued at more than \$90 million, to build and fit-out the new office building.

Planning and design is underway, with a construction tender for the project to be awarded in May 2020 and completion scheduled for mid-2022.

The City of Greater Bendigo and a range of Government departments and agencies will be co-located in the new building, making it home to up to 1000 employees, including 100 new positions.

Latrobe

The Latrobe GovHub will bring an additional 300 jobs to the CBD of Morwell. This commitment forms part of the Government's response to transitioning the Latrobe Valley post the closure of Hazelwood Power Station and Mine and also delivers on the Government's decentralisation policy to strengthen and grow regional economies.

The Latrobe GovHub will be a new, purpose-built facility that will see the construction of a three-storey employment hub to support economic growth, create jobs and drive industries of the future.

Key agencies to take up a presence in the hub are Parks Victoria, Earth Resources Regulation and Solar Victoria.

The building will be constructed by Castlerock Property as the lead contractor. Community consultation, planning, design and site demolition works are complete. Castlerock Property is working closely with the Industry Capability Network to maximise local procurement. Construction is scheduled for completion late 2020.

Regional reports

Barwon South West

Gippsland

Grampians

Hume

Loddon Mallee



Regional report

Barwon South West



Acting Regional Director's report

The Barwon South West is an economic rural 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 2018, the region had about 412,640 residents (the most populated 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 covers nine local government areas of Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Greater Geelong, Moyne, Queenscliffe, Southern Grampians, Surf Coast and Warrnambool.

Within its 30,000 square kilometres are significant areas of State Forest and National Park. Much of the rural area is used for timber plantations, farming, grazing, cropping, dairy, mining and viticulture. Tourism is an important industry, especially in the southern section along the Great Ocean Road and the Bellarine Peninsula. The Bellarine is home to a number of fine wineries and is experiencing new growth in gin and whiskey distilleries.

The region features culturally significant Aboriginal sites including Budj Bim, Tower Hill and the You Yangs. RDV has invested funds into each of these locations 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 2018-19, 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.

During the year the Geelong visitor economy City Deal came to fruition 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.

This will be a major boost to regional growth and enhance the visitor experience along the Great Ocean Road and in Geelong. Of major significance is the commitment to the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre. This long-awaited project will position Geelong as a key conference destination for Victoria.

RDV Barwon South West is leading the implementation of the Geelong City Deal, which includes 33 projects. With additional private sector investment and investment from the City of Greater Geelong, this equates to projects valued at more than \$370 million.

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

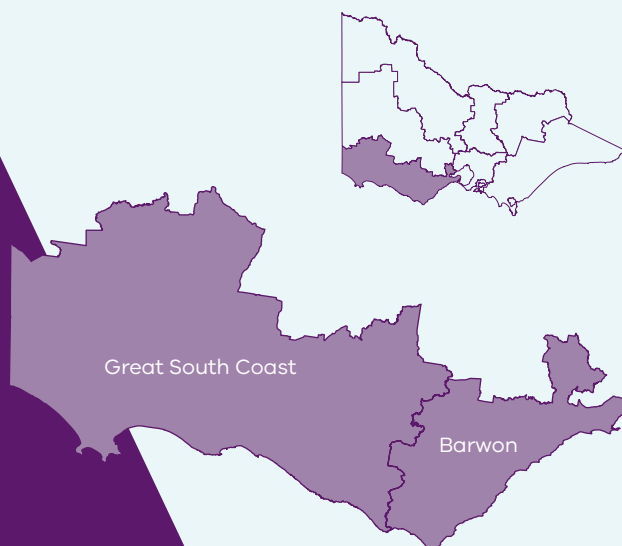
In 2018-19, RDV Barwon South West undertook a diverse range of projects designed to strengthen the regional economy and improve social wellbeing.

Kerri Erler

Acting Regional Director, Barwon South West

Regional highlights

- Great South Coast Regional Digital Plan.
- Great South Coast Economic Migration pilot project.
- Skills Fund Disability Tourism Project.
- Budj Bim UNESCO World Heritage listing.
- Mariestad/Warrnambool Renewable Energy and Sustainable Future Information Exchange.
- Collaboration with neighbouring and cross border RDA Committee's and the Victoria's Cross Border Commissioner.
- Rural and Regional Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Sector Round table series.
- Geelong City Deal.



Partnerships and collaborations

RDA Barwon South West welcomes Commonwealth Treasury

RDA Barwon South West hosted Commonwealth Treasury officials in the region to help them better understand regional priorities in Victoria's southwest. Delegates from Canberra and Melbourne were introduced to over 25 local leaders and businesses from Warrnambool and Port Fairy to foster new relationships and inform Commonwealth policy development through a greater understanding of the issues and opportunities in the Barwon South West region.

Geelong City Deal

The Geelong City Deal agreed in March 2019 is a 10-year plan to revitalise Geelong and unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road visitor economy. The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, and the City of Greater Geelong will invest \$370 million in the region to strengthen Geelong's economic diversification, visitor economy and thriving city centre.

Great South Coast workforce

With representation from the five Great South Coast local governments, Deakin University, the Office of the Victorian Skills Commissioner and Leadership Great South Coast, the Great South Coast Jobs Led Population Growth Working Group worked on diverse initiatives to address current and projected workforce supply shortages in the region.

Over 25 workforce development and population attraction initiatives were undertaken across the region. These included establishing the Great South Coast Designated Area Migration Agreement in partnership with the Commonwealth Government and the Jobs4Portland project and the Great South Coast Economic Migration pilot project.

RDV worked closely with Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism, local government and industry representatives to develop a workforce plan to support the visitor economy workforce on the Great Ocean Road. Work also commenced on the Great South Coast Designated Regional Disability Sector Workforce Needs Analysis and Action Plan.

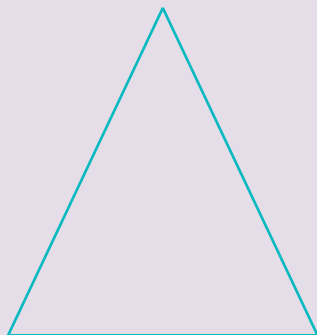


Great South Coast Creative Industries Strategy

Creative industries in the Great South Coast are diverse. They range from lively festivals, street art and renowned galleries to Aboriginal art and cultural sites.

They're important for liveability and making the region a great place to live, but they're also important for attracting visitors to the region, who come and stay, and spend money in the area.

The Great South Coast Regional Partnership, the five local government areas, Creative Victoria, Regional Arts Victoria and RDV Barwon South West worked together to develop a roadmap for the region's creative industries sector.



Investment and trade

Avalon Airport Activation – International Terminal

Twice daily flights from Avalon to Kuala Lumpur commenced in December 2018 following the completion of the new terminal building. Passenger numbers are on track to achieve the first year target of 440,000 passengers travelling internationally and export capacity for about 7300 tonnes of fresh Victorian produce a year. Jack Rabbit winery from the Bellarine Peninsula secured a contract to provide inflight beverages to Air Asia X.

Business expansion

Carbon Revolution

With Victorian Government support, Carbon Revolution, the manufacturer of the world's first one-piece carbon fibre wheel, expanded its facility at Deakin University Warrn Ponds campus to meet growing export sales to clients including Ford and Ferrari. Its five-year growth plan will generate 500 new advanced manufacturing jobs.

Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia

RDV is helping the Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia transform their business in North Geelong with a new milk drying facility, and a butter and spread line. The expansion will create 59 new jobs and millions of dollars of exports per annum.

Investment Attraction and Assistance Program

RDV supported a number of businesses in Barwon South West under pressure from increasing energy prices. Projects included installing solar voltaic panels at MC Herd, Australian Lamb and Little Creatures, and energy efficiency upgrades for EP Robinson.

Renewable energy

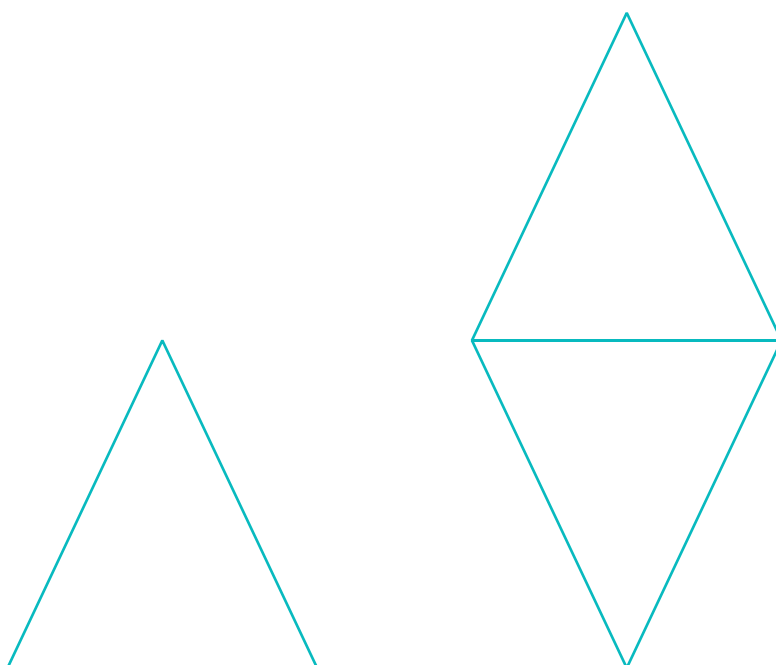
A number of wind farm projects commenced in the Barwon South West region after the announcement of the result of the Victorian Renewable Energy Target reverse auction process. This led to Vestas establishing a Victorian assembly site in Geelong in partnership with Marand Engineering. The facility will be responsible for making 4MW drivetrains and turbine hubs as well as component testing for the Dundonnell Wind Farm and Berrybank Wind Farm projects.

Boost Your Business voucher

RDV provided Boost Your Business vouchers to nine businesses in Barwon South West as part of rounds 2 and 3. These businesses were IXL Systems, Diversitat Institute of Education and Training, Southern Grains Storage, Lyndoch Living, Air Radiators, PrepareMe, the Little Red Roaster, and Worn Gundidj. The vouchers will enable them to access specialist advice and assistance in relation to business growth and development.

Developing the food supply chain

The final year of the four-year Food Source Victoria program supported projects including Mantzaris Fisheries prawn production, mapping the supply chain for the Native Bush Foods Agricultural Trail for Worn Gundidj Enterprises, and the trial of an extract from abalone processing waste for Southern Ocean Mariculture.



Economic development

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

The Great Ocean Road Action Plan released in October 2018 outlines major reform including a commitment to prepare legislation that will establish a new land management authority for the Great Ocean Road area. It sets out an overarching planning framework for the Great Ocean Road area and introduces a range of supporting initiatives.

RDV and DELWP co-chair the Strategic Framework Plan Steering Group to provide a coordinated approach across state agencies, local government and Crown land managers to implementation activities.

Central Geelong projects

Projects progressed in the Geelong CBD include the \$38.5 million Geelong Performing Arts Centre, Stage 2 of the Ryrie Street Redevelopment and the Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour Precinct project.

Leopold Hub

Construction was completed on stage 2 of the \$9.25 million Leopold Community Hub in November 2018. The new hub features a civic space, a library and life-long learning centre, community kitchen, community and youth meeting space, and circulation space to link services.

The BASE Hospitality

RDV helped establish the BASE Hospitality, a cafe in Central Geelong that provides training and work experience in hospitality and retail for justice clients, disadvantaged youth, and others facing barriers to getting a job. The BASE opened in May 2019 and is supported with a grant of \$485,000 from the Regional Skills Fund.

The cafe supports up to 200 participants a year, with Diversitat working with DJCS, the Jobs Victoria Employment Network and Jobactive to identify potential participants. The cafe also works with groups of newly arrived refugees who undertake hospitality and retail training with Diversitat.

Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland is a purpose-built ice skating rink and snowfield at Queenscliff Harbour. It operated in the school holidays to help increase visitation to the Borough of Queenscliffe in winter and strengthen return for retailers during this off-peak period. The project received \$50,000 through the Stronger Regional Communities Plan.

Reardon Theatre

The Reardon Theatre redevelopment in Port Fairy was completed in 2018-19, delivering a significant community asset for the Port Fairy community. To date it has supported events including the Port Fairy Folk Festival and Spring Jazz festival. RDV provided \$292,166 from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund towards a total project cost of \$438,250.

Ni Hao – China Host Program

The China Host Program helped Warrnambool City Council address skills gaps in the tourism industry. A workshop series provided tourism and hospitality businesses with tools, knowledge and information to drive inbound tourism. The program also helped South West TAFE deliver a unit on the China tourist market. The program received \$150,000 from the Government through the Regional Skills Fund towards a total project cost of \$240,000.

Budj Bim Master Plan Stage 1 and 2

Implementation of the Budj Bim Master Plan (Stages 1 and 2) involves infrastructure development on five sites across the 50km landscape to cater for increased visitation. It will include installing boardwalks, bridges, a cantilevered lookout, signage and plantings. A key element will be the construction of an aquatic cultural centre focused on the sophisticated eel farming, preserving and trading that supported the lives of Aboriginal people for thousands of years. Work on Cultural Heritage Management Plans commenced for each site in June 2019. The master plan received \$8 million from the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, including \$350,000 for a UNESCO world heritage bid for the significant cultural landscape.



Regional report Gippsland



Acting Regional Director's report

The Gippsland region covers a major part of eastern Victoria with an area of 41,600 square kilometres. The region is comprised of six local government areas and extends from its western end, which adjoins metropolitan Melbourne's southeast boundary, to Cape Howe the most easterly point of Victoria.

The region's southern boundary is defined by 700km of Victorian coastline and contains the largest area of public land in Victoria. Gippsland has a wide range of strategic assets that are important to both the region and Victoria, contributing to a gross regional product of approximately \$14.1 billion.

RDV Gippsland has a continued focus on investment attraction, job creation and on supporting our existing regional businesses to grow. Our focus remains on supporting growth and diversification across our regional sectors of strength including food and fibre, tourism, transport and logistics, engineering and manufacturing, and professional and community services.

In the last 12 months, the RDV Gippsland team has worked closely with industry to facilitate the creation of 657 new full time-equivalent jobs. After the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and Mine, Carter Holt Harvey's Morwell Sawmill and more recently, Steelvision, the team continued providing ongoing support to supply chain businesses that were directly affected. A total of 57 businesses were supported through the Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Package, receiving assistance to look at revenue diversification and new ways of doing business.

RDV Gippsland collaborated with local government and the Industry Capability Network to connect Gippsland's small and medium sized businesses with government funded infrastructure projects, to support local business capability and participation in line with the Victorian Industry Participation Policy.

RDV Gippsland supported the development of many major economic and community development projects across the region including the Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland, Latrobe Creative Precinct, Latrobe GovHub and the Phillip Island Nature Park Redevelopment.

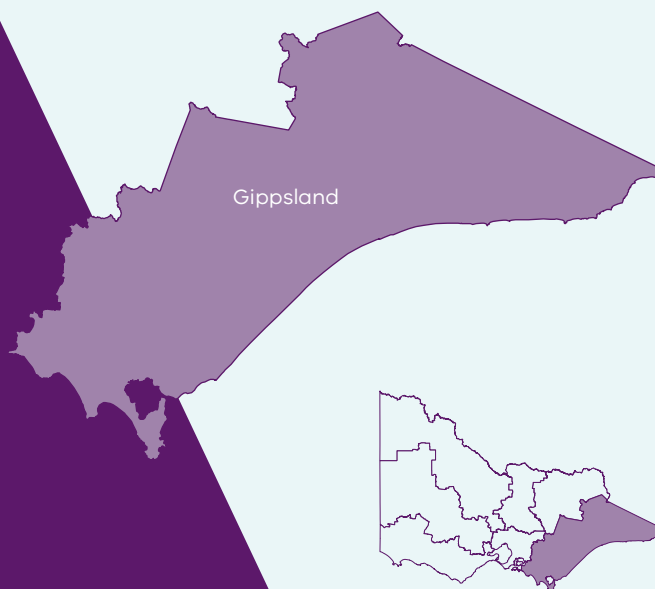
The Gippsland Regional Partnership continued its program of successful advocacy collaborating with key stakeholders including Gippsland Local Government Network, Committee for Gippsland and Regional Development Australia Gippsland. A focus on job creation, education and community wellbeing has resulted in significant investment. This included 2018-19 State Budget announcements – \$7 million for the redevelopment and expansion of the Latrobe Regional Hospital, expanding free TAFE courses to include early childhood education, Bairnsdale Secondary College funding for upgrade planning, three year-old kinder and \$1.4 million for the Gippsland residential rehabilitation facility.

Tim McAuliffe

Acting Regional Director, Gippsland

Regional highlights

- 657 new jobs created across the region.
- Commencing construction of the Innovation Centre at Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland.
- Planning underway to deliver the \$30 million Regional Carpark Fund; 800 free car parks in Traralgon and Morwell.
- Commencement of the Latrobe GovHub in Morwell that will house up to 300 positions, including the establishment of Solar Victoria.
- Delivery of a Gippsland Destination Management Plan.
- Development of the Gippsland Digital Plan.
- Enhanced broadband and free public Wi-Fi delivery in the Latrobe Valley.



Partnerships and collaborations

Creating local connections

Gippsland continues to play an important role in supporting a 'One Gippsland' collaborative approach between stakeholder groups in the region, including the Regional Partnership, Regional Development Australia, Gippsland Local Government Network and the Committee for Gippsland.

The Gippsland Regional Partnership with its reference groups continues to strengthen its connections to the broader community. In 2019 the Gippsland Outcomes Roadmap was released. The roadmap documents the strategic approaches and actions that Gippsland's stakeholder coalition will undertake with community to improve outcomes for Gippslanders.

Destination Management Plan

Previous funding of \$400,000 enabled the development of a long-term strategic framework for Gippsland's visitor economy for the next 10 years. The Destination Management Plan will guide tourism development, marketing and industry involvement, improve visitor experiences and facilities and strengthen the Gippsland visitor economy through sustainable visitation and investment.

Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland

Government support of \$17 million is helping deliver an Innovation Centre located within the Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland site in Morwell.

Early site works for the Innovation Centre were completed in November 2018, and the main construction works commenced in April 2019. Completion of the Innovation Centre is expected in May 2020.

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 of tech-based jobs, business incubation and research.

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 and retain young people to Gippsland and support the growing agri-food industry.

Also supported via the Regional Skills Fund is a project lead by Hancock Victoria Plantations based in Gippsland. The project is developing and delivering a training package to educate forestry workers across Victoria on the latest forest harvesting equipment, optimisation principles, best practices and processes.

Leveraging the Stronger Regional Communities Plan

A broad range of small grants helped to strengthen communities and attract people to live and work in the Gippsland region. Funded projects have included small infrastructure projects such as the development of a community performing space in Baromi Park, Mirboo North, and new retractable seating for the Foster Arts Music Drama Association in Foster.

Projects that address local economic challenges include the Live Like A Local campaign by East Gippsland Marketing. The project aims to attract skilled workers to East Gippsland, and to promote career opportunities within the attractive lifestyle offered in East Gippsland.

Drought assistance

In October 2018 East Gippsland and Wellington Shires received funding to support community events that bring communities together, build resilience and raise awareness of drought support services with a focus on towns that service drought affected farmers. Each council received \$250,000 for community wellbeing and resilience.

RDV Gippsland worked closely with both councils to discuss a number of projects that will strengthen the resilience of drought-affected communities. Community events including barbecues, fire shed meetings, community forums, field days, local agriculture shows, workshops and family getaways were held as part of the program.

Investment and trade

Greenham Gippsland – Tanjil South

Funding through the Regional Jobs Fund was provided to Greenham Gippsland Pty Ltd to enable an investment of \$8.4 million at the company's Moe meat processing facility. The investment is anticipated to increase the company's export revenue from \$24 million to \$84 million, an increase of \$60 million per annum by financial year 2020 and create 170 new full time equivalent jobs.

The investment will reconfigure the existing building infrastructure and upgrade plant and equipment to enable an output increase of up to 500 head per day of cold boned high value export cuts.

Serco – Newborough

In 2018-19, the Government announced a new contact centre for Serco at the former Moe Hospital. RDV worked with Serco in relation to an investment attraction package of financial assistance to help with the outfitting cost of the Newborough facility that would see Serco commit to the site, supporting the creation of 100 full time equivalent new jobs in the Latrobe Valley.

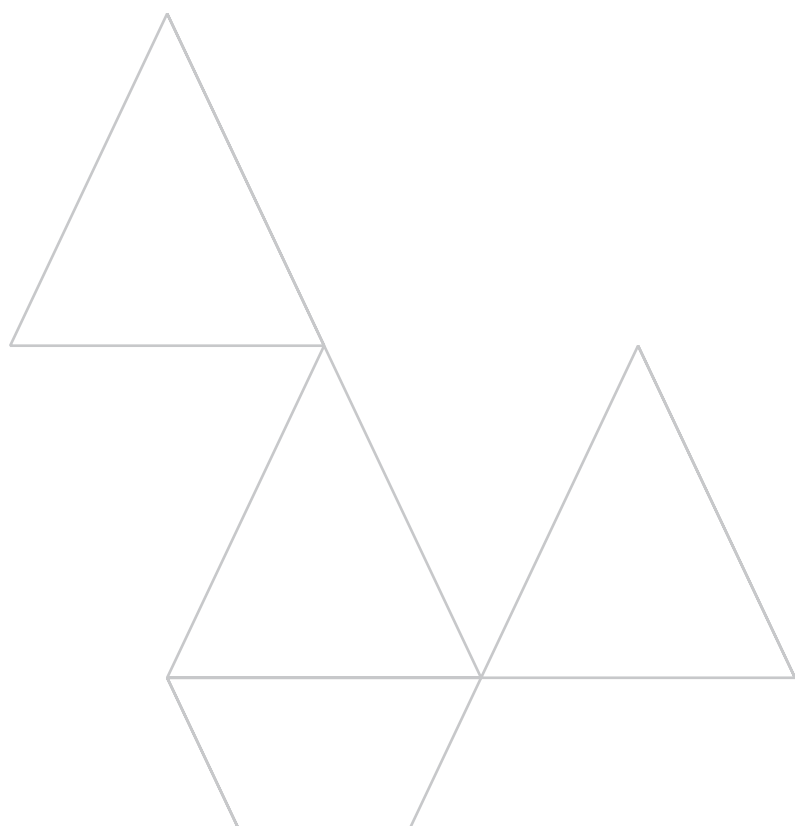
Skilled and Business Migration Program

In collaboration with the Skilled and Business Migration Program, Global Victoria and RDV's Gippsland team hosted a Vietnamese and Chinese investor delegation to Bairnsdale in March 2019. The delegation was given an overview of Gippsland and introduced to investment opportunities in the retirement living sector.

Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program

The Victorian Government's Hazelwood Supply Chain Transition Program continued supporting businesses affected by the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station. In August 2017 the expanded program was renamed as the Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program to reflect the closure of the Carter Holt Harvey Timber Mill in Morwell.

RDV's Gippsland team worked with more than 60 Latrobe Valley based businesses to develop transition plans, equipping them with options and strategies for transition and assistance to implement key recommendations. In January 2019, the program was further expanded to help Latrobe Valley supply chain companies affected by the collapse of the private manufacturing company, Steelsvision Pty Ltd.





Economic development

Latrobe Creative Precinct

Key architectural designs were completed for the \$30 million precinct project that involves developing a new 750-seat performing arts facility and Creative Industries Training Centre. The initiative aims to boost social and economic outcomes in partnership with Federation University and TAFE Gippsland by establishing new post-secondary and tertiary creative arts programs, along with a significant events calendar at the new performing arts facility.

Cowes Revitalisation Project

This \$1.8 million project will deliver significant revitalisation of central Cowes. Works include redevelopment of the Village Green, Cenotaph, Jetty Road Access, Piazza, upgrading of the main Esplanade, and development of a car park and transit centre. The project is on track for completion by November 2019 and will complement another significant project being delivered nearby; the \$58.2 million redevelopment of the Phillip Island Nature Park.

Regional Carpark Fund

Part of the Victorian Government's election commitment of \$30 million was to deliver 2000 car parks in regional Victoria. The project will include constructing 800 car parks across Traralgon and Morwell. Work is underway to identify potential locations, with the focus being on the use of public land, primarily VicTrack, or Council owned land. Private/public partnership opportunities are being explored via an expression of interest process.

Omeo Mountain Bike Park Destination project

Commonwealth, State and local governments are supporting a \$4 million project to develop and deliver a new mountain bike park in Omeo. The proposed 112km trail aims to establish Omeo as an international mountain bike destination and attract more visitors to the region, boosting tourism and diversifying Omeo's economy.

Through the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, the Government is providing up to \$1 million towards the business case and construction of the trails. Design and formal planning of the project commenced in early 2019, with construction of the trails due to begin in early 2020.

Latrobe GovHub

The Latrobe GovHub will bring an additional 300 jobs to the CBD of Morwell. This commitment forms part of the Government's response to transitioning the Latrobe Valley post the closure of Hazelwood Power Station and Mine and also delivers on the Government's policy to strengthen and grow regional economies. Construction is expected to be complete by the end of 2020.

Regional report

Grampians



Regional Director's report

The Grampians region continues 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.

Ground breaking projects in digital agriculture, a resilient manufacturing sector and strong regional visitation have underpinned a stable workforce, with key employment centres in Ballarat, Horsham, Ararat and Bacchus Marsh all experiencing unemployment rates below the Victorian average.

RDV Grampians continues to focus on collaboration across our functional areas of economic development, trade and investment and planning and coordination, and collectively we have supported and facilitated investment attraction of more than \$78 million last year.

Our Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership has led a ground breaking approach to early years service design in rural communities, and the Central Highlands Regional Partnership is tackling obesity head on through the roll-out of its Prevention Lab project.

We celebrated a number of milestones during the year, including the opening of Runway Ballarat, a \$4.2 million investment to support the establishment of a business start-up eco-system in Ballarat. Establishing Runway HQ in Ballarat's Flecknoe Building, through a partnership with Federation University, has activated a stunning co-working space to help drive Ballarat's new business culture.

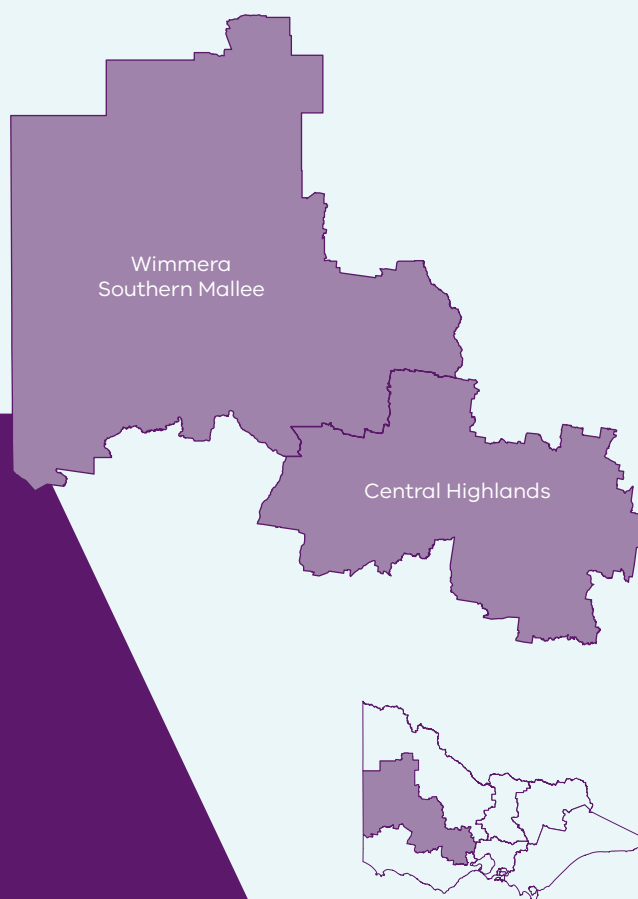
Ararat Rural City opened its new Arts Hub, a \$7.7 million redevelopment of Ararat Art Gallery and Ararat Town Hall, made possible through a \$5.2 million contribution from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.

The \$50 million Ballarat Station redevelopment continues to take shape, with the opening of a 405 space multi-deck commuter car park, and work is underway on a 77 room Quest Apartment Hotel. Groundwork is progressing on the \$100 million GovHub building in Ballarat's CBD that will house 1000 Victorian Government workers once complete.

In July the Minister for Regional Development announced \$500,000 in funding to help the Rupanyup community purchase the town's supermarket that will secure the future of the business by turning it into a social enterprise, activating six jobs in the process and protecting the viability of a vibrant farming community.

Anthony Schinck

Regional Director, Grampians



Regional highlights

- \$24 million Ballarat Sport and Events Centre due for completion in July 2019.
- Opening the \$4.3 million Horsham North Children's Hub.
- Completing Stage 1 of the Creswick Trails mountain bike project.
- \$2.5 million funding announced for a digital demonstration farm as part of the AgTIDE project.
- Construction started on the \$100 million Ballarat GovHub.

Partnerships and collaborations

Roadmap to a low carbon economy

In July 2018, the Government announced \$500,000 for the Grampians New Energy Taskforce (GNET) to develop a roadmap to transition the region to a low-carbon economy by 2050.

Established in December 2017, GNET is a partnership between RDV, RDA Grampians, the Central Highlands and Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnerships, the 11 Grampians local government areas, the Wimmera Development Association, the Committee for Ballarat, DELWP and the Clean Energy Council.

Work on the roadmap is well underway with the team undertaking a baseline exercise to quantify current emissions by sector. This work will be finalised by the end of 2019.

The Grampians region has significant renewable energy opportunities. The Wimmera Southern Mallee region's energy opportunities centre around solar and wind, and parts of the Central Highlands have considerable wind energy resources.

Leading local solutions in Wimmera Southern Mallee

Now in its second year, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Early Years project, By Five, was one of the first Regional Partnership-driven projects to be initiated and is forging ahead with its purpose to achieve place-based solutions to local needs.

As stated earlier in this report, By Five was the result of 2016 Regional Partnership Assembly discussions about improving early years outcomes as a regional priority. The project builds on existing resources and skills to ensure children in the Wimmera Southern Mallee have the best early years learning experience.

It covers five geographic clusters in Wimmera Southern Mallee noted as areas for significant change around five developmental outcomes for children up to five years of age who are starting school.

During the year, the five clusters mapped local services as a child moves between parent, maternal child health services, childcare, kinder, health services, and school. Each map will be used to see where improvements can be made so the services in each project community are most effective for families and children.

More than 90 members of the five geographic clusters also undertook training with the Bastow Institute in Horsham.

Prevention Lab

Following extensive consultation with the community and stakeholders, the Central Highlands Regional Partnership identified improving the health of those living in the Central Highlands as one of its top priorities.

Since 2017, the Government has provided \$650,000 to help develop a business case and embed the idea of a Prevention Lab in the region.

Working with DHHS and RDV, a business case was developed by regional social enterprise, Health Futures Australia.

The Prevention Lab will engage a network of leaders to develop initiatives to help get the local community moving and improve health outcomes. The objective is to achieve a five per cent reduction in obesity in the region by 2025.

Phase 2 of the project is now developing the Prevention Lab brand, and working with local leaders to design prevention initiatives and make prevention part of everyday thinking in the region.

Economic development

Rupanyup Community Retail Hub

In July 2018, the Government announced \$500,000 funding to support a community-led plan for a purpose-built shopping centre with a supermarket, cafe, pharmacy, council service desk and open spaces for events in Rupanyup.

A partnership between Bendigo Bank, Yarriambiack Shire Council, Enterprise Rupanyup and the local community raised more than \$700,000 to develop a precinct that will breathe new life into the region and capitalise on the visitor growth of the Silo Art Trail.

Designs are currently being undertaken and the precinct is expected to be complete by the end of 2019, generating up to eight full-time jobs in the town.

Collaborative approach to new resident attraction

The Government invested \$250,000 from the Stronger Regional Communities Plan program towards a \$421,000 project to help rural and regional towns attract families, and young people to live and work.

Grampians Tourism, Ararat Rural City, Horsham Rural City, Northern Grampians Shire and Southern Grampians Shire Councils are partnering to address the economic and social challenges associated with the poor retention and lack of growth in new residents and workforce.

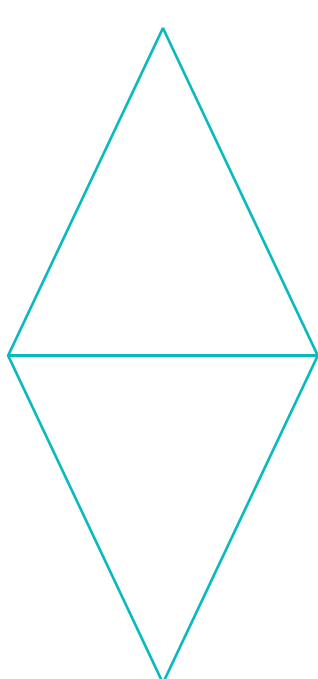
The project partners are working together to deliver a marketing campaign and develop a Grampians New Resident and Workforce Attraction Strategy and Action Plan. This collective approach will achieve more than each council and Grampians Tourism could on its own.

Outcomes and research will be made available to local councils around Victoria.

Harmony Van building jobs and community

The Centre for Participation received Government funding of \$50,000 from the Stronger Regional Communities Plan program to establish the \$62,860 Harmony Van project in the Wimmera Southern Mallee region.

The project will develop a food van to deliver training showcasing multi-cultural cuisines and give new culinary experiences between trainees of different cultures by connecting communities with new arrivals, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. These shared experiences will create community conversations, cohesion and connection as well as provide learning opportunities and workforce development.



Investment and trade

Regional Skills Fund

The Regional Skills Fund provides an opportunity to address locally identified skills issues.

In 2018-19, the Regional Skills Fund projects approved in the Grampians region included:

- A project to help businesses in the Wimmera employ culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) workers.
- Business support to up-skill operators along the Goldfields Track from Ballarat to Bendigo to attract and accommodate cycling visitors.
- A collaborative project between Visit Ballarat and Grampians Tourism, in partnership with Sovereign Hill Skills, to undertake a gap analysis and strategic plan to address future capacity and capability in the region's visitor economy sector.
- Support for world class education and up-skilling programs tailored to industry professionals and novices in the rapidly expanding craft beer service and brewing sector at the Australian Craft Beer Centre of Excellence, based in Ballarat.
- \$300,300 to develop the Ballarat Innovation and Research Collaboration for Health, a research collaboration between Ballarat's hospitals and universities.

Wine Growth Fund – Round 3

The third round of the Wine Growth Fund was well received by the wine industry in the Grampians region. Funding of \$309,500 was attained by the local wine industry, supporting almost \$2 million in investment across 12 projects.

Investment Attraction and Assistance Program

Through the Investment Attraction and Assistance Program, Frewstal Pty Ltd has undertaken a project designed to improve energy efficiency, increase productivity and address energy cost increases at its facility. The project includes upgrades to existing equipment and infrastructure, purchase and installation of new equipment, and improving production processes.

CT4

With support through the Regional Jobs Fund, CT4 is relocating and investing \$1.8 million to establish a Virtual Security Operations Centre at Ballarat Tech Park, Mount Helen. The project will create 62 jobs for Ballarat, with CT4 working collaboratively with Federation University to develop cybersecurity skills in the region. Founded in 2009, CT4 is a global cloud hosting service provider, software developer and data monitoring business with a focus on cyber-security.

Artisanal Sector Program

Workshops were held in Horsham and Avoca in early 2019 to support potential applicants of the Artisanal Sector Program Stage 1 grants. Thirty two businesses successfully applied to the program across the Grampians region.

Digital Innovation Festival

Almost 50 events were held across the Grampians region as part of the 2018 Digital Innovation Festival, including events in Horsham, Warracknabeal, Rupanyup and Ballarat. Topics covered include an e-sports tournament, tourism capability building for the Silo Arts Trail and a guest experience mapping workshop, AgTech in farming, open days at the Ballarat Hackerspace, Runway Ballarat master classes, GovHack, digital events at Ballarat Library, a new entrepreneur's 'meet-up' and a pilot exploring how live streaming might improve the lives of nursing home residents.

Regional report Hume



Regional Director's report

The Hume region is strategically located, with direct access to 70 per cent of Australian markets along two national transport corridors that traverse the region, providing a competitive advantage for many industries.

The region is also rich in environmental assets, with highly productive agricultural land, access to water close to its source and four distinct seasons. Its tourism offerings include world-class food and wine, tracks and trails, and five of Victoria's six alpine resorts, as well as historical and cultural attractions.

Hume's robust and diverse economy incorporates a thriving manufacturing sector, including food processing, technical equipment, timber and scientific products. This diversity provides an extensive range of resources, skills and opportunities for industries, including freight transport and logistics, and growing export markets for food and fibre.

The region also responded to climatic and economic challenges such as bushfire, drought, flood and fluctuating commodity prices.

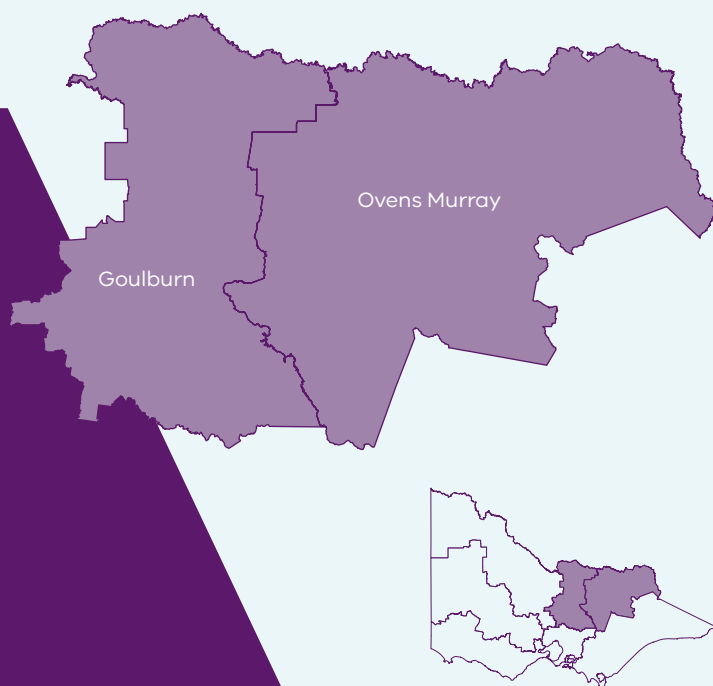
Hume has strong regional leaders with a solid foundation of knowledge on which to build through the Regional Partnerships. Throughout the year, RDV's Hume region continued to progress key projects, facilitate and initiate new projects, and provide valuable economic and social benefits to local communities.

Matt Nelson

Regional Director, Hume

Regional highlights

- Commenced the Seymour Revitalisation Initiative.
- Conducted an expression of interest process for business investment into cycle tourism.
- Coordinated the Lake Eildon Activation Plan and Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Masterplan.
- Constructed the first stage of the \$5.7 million Beechworth to Yackandanda Rail Trail.
- Facilitated major investment, creating more than 247 jobs.
- Began planning to establish an Inland Port at LOGIC in Wodonga.



Partnerships and collaborations

As well as two regional assemblies held in 2018-19, the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership continued to lead a range of engagement activities with community and business to build an understanding of priority issues for the region.

A focus for Ovens Murray was highlighting and supporting the region to continue to build capacity as a leader in digital innovation and entrepreneurship. A key deliverable during 2018-19 was the creation and launch of a series of short videos showcasing digital successes from across the region. The videos profiled young entrepreneurs that started a high-tech tightrope business in Bright, regional students travelling the world with robots, and a business controlling Gold Coast transport services from Wangaratta.

As well as case studies, the Partnership prioritised establishing new digital innovation hubs in Wangaratta and Wodonga, both of which received support in the 2018 Victorian State Budget.

The Goulburn Regional Partnership continued to collaborate with local and Victorian Government agencies to deliver priority-funded projects, including:

- Seymour Revitalisation.
- Activation of Lake Eildon.
- Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture.
- Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Masterplan.
- Goulburn Renewable Energy Strategy (incorporated into Hume Region Renewable Energy Roadmap).
- Goulburn Digital Plan.

Significant engagement was also initiated to understand more about the mental health of the Goulburn region's young people, what interventional and preventative programs/initiatives are available around this critical issue, and where service gaps exist.

Working with Regional Development Australia

Hume RDA continued to support advocacy at all levels of government as well as undertake key research, analysis, planning and industry engagement to generate greater investment and economic capacity in the region. In 2018-19 work included the following initiatives.

Hume regional growth and change analysis

Hume RDA identified the need to support renewal of the long-term regional strategy. To support this it reviewed the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities (2010-2020) to understand achievements to date, determine the success of progress so far and highlight what still needs to be done for the region. Analysis was also undertaken to identify some specific approaches.

Decentralisation opportunities in the Hume region

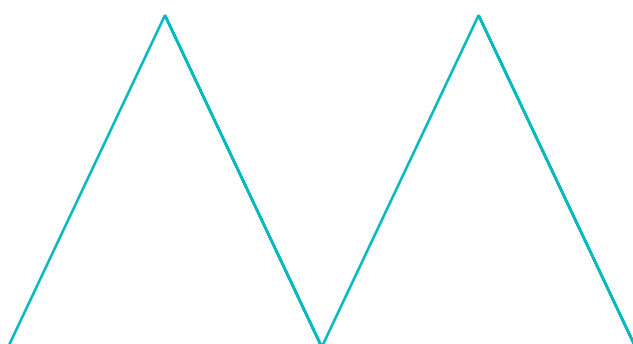
Hume RDA identified the need to better understand opportunities for decentralisation in the region. It commissioned research to identify relevant agencies that may be encouraged to relocate into the region.

Defence industry a priority

Hume has a strong defence sector presence, with barracks at Bandiana and Puckapunyal, as well as significant defence sector manufacturing facilities in Benalla, and large service contracts between defence and Wodonga TAFE.

The sector currently generates \$556 million of gross value-added product for the region and supports 2730 direct defence personnel jobs, in addition to private sector jobs.

Hume RDA is committed to ensuring this sector reaches its full potential and has held a number of facilitated round table sessions with key industry stakeholders. Work is underway to understand how it can better support the defence sector across all levels of business.





Investment and trade

During 2018-19, Hume's Investment and Trade team engaged with industry clients across food and fibre, agribusiness, manufacturing, defence, tourism, transport, distribution and logistics and wine industries. The team supported the creation of more than 240 jobs and \$191.5 million in capital investment, provided facilitation services to industry clients to deliver business growth and sustainability, and assistance to overcome increasing energy costs.

Overcoming challenges for business

Hume is experiencing industry growth and diversification, with businesses navigating the effects of increasing costs and changing market conditions. The 2018-19 year presented some challenges, particularly for some of the larger businesses located in Wodonga, Shepparton and Broadford affected by redundancy of workers. RDV facilitated delivery of the Workers In Transition Program for these businesses by providing information, support and resources to help both the business and workers through retrenchment processes and into new opportunities.

RDV maintained close contact with multinational businesses in the region that were for sale. The sale of SPC Ardmona in Shepparton was announced in early June. Other significant sales processes underway in 2018-19 were Campbells Soups at Lemnos near Shepparton and Lion Dairy and Drinks.

Food and fibre

A number of Hume business projects were supported to help create new jobs in the food and fibre sector:

- RDV provided Investment Attraction and Assistance Program help to Freedom Foods to facilitate a \$118 million production expansion and renewable energy voltage optimisation project, creating 80 new jobs in Shepparton.
- The Regional Jobs Fund supported a \$750,000 capital investment by the Perry Group, Valentine's Bakery, to enable an operational expansion in Rutherglen and create 20 new jobs.
- The Investment Attraction and Assistance Program supported an investment by Cannatrek to establish a medicinal cannabis growing and processing facility in the Goulburn Valley, creating 75 new jobs.

Manufacturing

The region experienced growth in the food production, renewable energy and agribusiness sectors, resulting in the expansion of supply chain businesses in packaging, engineering and metal fabrication. Manufacturers that received support to expand included SureWeld Pty Ltd that invested \$2.9 million in a new manufacturing facility in Wangaratta, creating an additional 10 jobs in the business.

The Trafford Group, manufacturers of polyethylene tanks located in Nathalia, invested \$1 million to improve production efficiency. The company was supported by the Future Industries Manufacturing Program.

Tourism and wine

The Wine Growth Fund supported 22 wineries in the Hume region during the year. Projects ranged from cellar door developments, vineyard upgrades, wine production equipment upgrades to export market access activities.

Fowles Wine built a new \$1.8 million cellar door and cafe at Avenel and created five new jobs.

The Victorian Government's Ride High Country program is encouraging investment in cycle tourism in north-east Victoria. RDV's engagement and investment attraction work through the program facilitated development of a private investment prospectus with 38 potential projects under consideration.

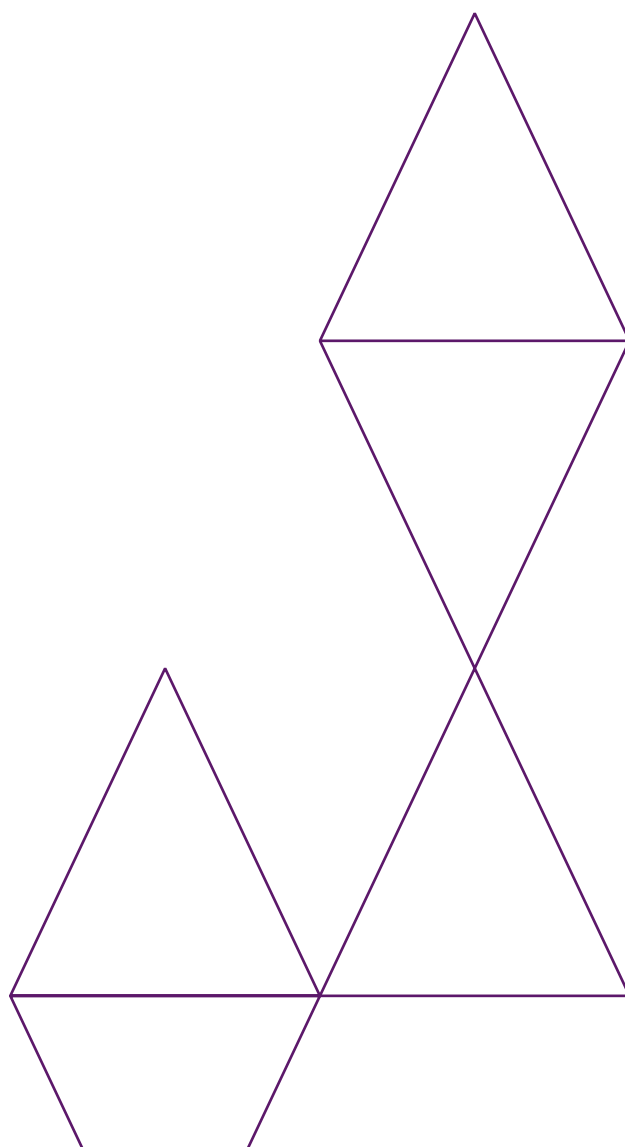
Transport distribution and logistics

The Hume region has a competitive advantage in the transport, distribution and logistics sector by being located on the Melbourne to Sydney transport route.

The Investment and Trade team continued its important role facilitating projects with business, local government, Transport for Victoria and Regional Roads Victoria.

In 2018-19, funding through the Ovens Murray Regional Partnership supported research on an inland port proposed for the Logic Intermodal Hub in Wodonga.

The industry association, Summer Fruit Australia, was supported through Food Source Victoria to complete a China supply chain development study that will facilitate export market entry to coincide with free trade agreement activities.



Economic development

The Hume Economic Development team works in partnership with key stakeholders, including 12 local government authorities, most of Victoria's alpine resorts and key regional tourism boards.

In 2018-19 the team continued its focus on helping deliver community outcomes such as jobs growth and retention, enabling better and new local infrastructure, and strengthening local communities.

These priorities were largely supported and delivered through government programs, primarily directed at sectors including transport and logistics, manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. The following are highlights for the year.

Ovens Murray workforce development

\$1.45 million was provided by the Government through the Regional Skills Fund to expand the Year 9 agriculture and horticulture workforce and aspiration development pilot program across the region, after the successful delivery of a similar program at Mansfield Secondary College from 2009 to 2015. The project extends the program to three more community/school sites in north-east Victoria and works with 21 businesses in the region.

Wangaratta Gateway Precinct

The Government allocated \$2.5 million from its Regional Cities commitment to the \$5 million Wangaratta Gateway Precinct. This project will revitalise the experience at the main transport hub in Wangaratta. It includes activating the railway precinct, connecting it to the central business area and encouraging private sector investment.

GoFish Nagambie lifestyle festival

The lifestyle expo component of GoFish received \$50,000 from the Government to ensure free entry to the inaugural event. Attendance was excellent and positive feedback helped build momentum for the forthcoming year's event.

Seymour Railway Heritage Centre strategy and business plan

RDV has worked with the Seymour Railway Heritage Centre for several years to help create a sustainable development strategy that would enable the centre to attract Victorian Government funding to implement its plans.

The centre received \$50,000 through the Sustainable Regional Communities Program to develop a business case on the heritage value of its rolling stock. This work resulted in an arrangement for the Central Victorian Goldfields Railway to provide heritage rolling stock in conjunction with the 'Tudors to the Windsors' art exhibition at Bendigo Art Gallery.

Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension project

The Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension project infrastructure works began in 2018-19 and significant progress was made towards obtaining the numerous regulatory approvals. The trail extension will connect two significant tourist towns and when complete, will extend the existing Murray to Mountains Rail Trail by approximately 31km and attract more than 7000 additional visitors annually.

The Great River Road project

The Great River Road project is delivering key infrastructure and promotional material for the iconic touring route along the Murray River Road in the Upper Murray. The project will highlight the spectacular nature and experiences along the route. The Upper Murray is traditionally reliant on agriculture, and this project aims to help diversify its economy as well as strengthen several small rural communities by attracting more visitors and encouraging them to stay longer.



Regional report Loddon Mallee



Regional Director's report

The Loddon Mallee region is expansive and diverse, encompassing almost 59,000 square kilometres, from central Victoria to the Murray River and across to the north-west of the state. Because of the region's size and diversity it is often considered as two sub-regions; the north and the south, which reflects the different challenges and opportunities that each face.

In 2018-19, RDV Loddon Mallee delivered a diverse range of projects to strengthen the regional economy and improve social wellbeing.

During the year we continued working with the Loddon Campaspe and Mallee Regional Partnerships, implementing a number of major initiatives including the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative in Loddon Campaspe, and helping establish the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre in Mildura. The two Regional Partnerships and RDA Loddon Mallee prepared Economic Growth Strategies for the region.

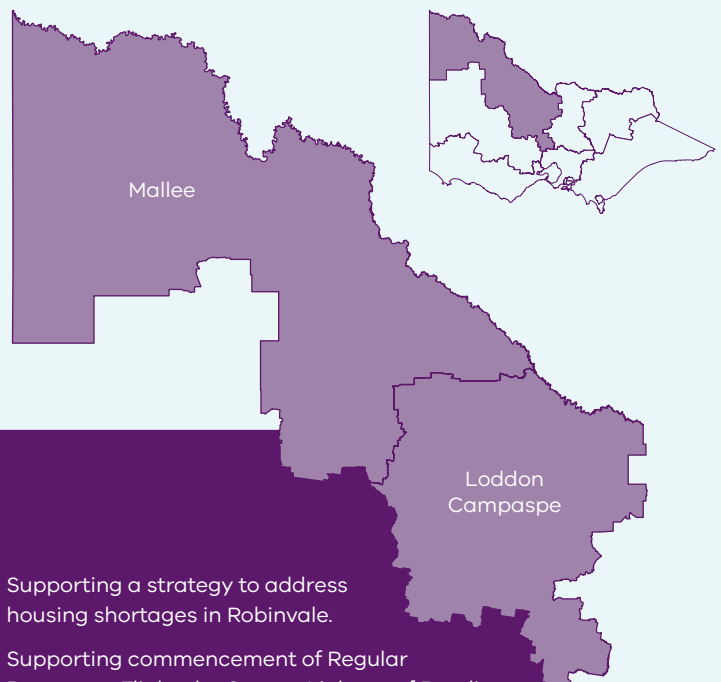
Projects delivered by RDA Loddon Mallee included the feasibility study of a collaborative export alliance for the Sunraysia district, an investigation into the current and future workforce development and training needs for the dryland areas of the Mallee, and coordinating business case development and analysis training for economic development professionals in the Loddon Mallee.

Through structured business engagement, RDV's Investment and Trade team delivered investment projects for the region beyond traditional sectors of food and fibre and manufacturing. These included information and communication technology, tourism, professional services, and renewable energy related projects.

In 2018-19, RDV Loddon Mallee's Economic Development team supported large-scale tourism and community projects. The team also provided essential support for communities managing growth and change through facilitation and access to services.

Rachel Lee

Regional Director, Loddon Mallee



Regional highlights

- Launching the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre.
- Implementing the Healthy Hearts of Victoria program.
- Supporting the establishment of ACM's new greenfield milk processing plant at Girgarre.
- Facilitating the planned investment by Rationale Skincare in its new global manufacturing, and research and development centre to be based at Kyneton.
- Facilitating support for new tourism infrastructure at Lake Tyrrell.
- Supporting completion of the Mildura Riverfront Stage 2 Masterplan and Feasibility Assessment.
- Developing the Robinvale Community Hub.
- Supporting a strategy to address housing shortages in Robinvale.
- Supporting commencement of Regular Passenger Flights by Qantas Link out of Bendigo.
- Investing in the Victorian Goldfields Railway – Service Reorientation Project.
- Investing in the development of the Castlemaine State Festival's Creative Industries Hub.
- Supporting the creation and arrival of Bendigo new Imperial Dragon – Dai Gum Loong.
- Supporting several community investments through the Stronger Regional Communities Plan.



Partnerships and collaborations

Focusing on economic growth

The Mallee and Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnerships and Loddon Mallee RDA completed 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. Each was developed with regional stakeholders including local government. Their implementation will be a shared responsibility.

Loddon Mallee RDA – developing opportunities for business growth

The Loddon Mallee RDA committee worked on a number of projects aimed at supporting businesses and growing economic opportunities. These projects include an investigation into the need for an agribusiness forum in the Mildura and Swan Hill horticulture areas. The committee worked on a case to increase flights from Bendigo and workshops to support better business case development. It also helped local businesses and organisations access Commonwealth funding, with seven regional projects successful in Round 4 of the Building Better Regions fund.

Law courts and TAFE expansion for Bendigo

Two priorities of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership had funding confirmed in the year, including \$152 million to establish new law courts. The modern courts will better accommodate family violence needs, and generally improve safety and efficiency.

The rejuvenation of the Bendigo TAFE was given extra momentum with almost \$60 million to develop a new education precinct that includes a learning hub, a new Industry Innovation Centre and relocating the current Bendigo Technical Education Campus.

Together with the development of the Bendigo GovHub, the region will have over \$300 million in building development in the CBD over the next three years.

Mallee Regional Innovation Centre launched

The Mallee Regional Innovation Centre was launched in May, filling a need for research and development that supports industry in the Mallee.

The new centre is a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University. Both universities are working with local partners to fast-track development in the key sectors of renewables, technology, high value agriculture, water management and sustainability.

The centre was a priority of the Mallee Regional Partnership and received \$1.7 million from the Government.

Robinvale Community Hub

Swan Hill Rural City Council will partner with Robinvale College to provide students and the community of Robinvale with a static library facility and multiservice community hub on the grounds of the College.

Consistent with Victorian and local government priorities, the proposed library will accommodate both school students and the local community with a service delivery model based on other successful shared facilities operating in regional Victoria.

The Mallee Regional Partnership priority to develop a community hub within Robinvale College received \$2.3 million in support. Design work is well advanced for the building project that is being delivered by the Victorian School Building Authority.

A focus on skills

The Mallee and Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnerships focused on the need for better skills development in the region. In the Mallee, the emphasis was on implementing recommendations from the Mallee Skill Demand report prepared by the Victorian Skills Commissioner.

Two Mallee Regional Partnership priorities were supported this year, including the development of a worker housing strategy and exploring the difficulties of providing training to businesses in more remote areas. The Loddon Campaspe Partnership developed a Regional Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Skills Road Map.

Implementation of the Healthy Heart of Victoria program

The Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership received funding for its Healthy Heart of Victoria program that involves local and Victorian Government collaboration to reduce high levels of preventable health issues in the region.

This funding was used to appoint 'health brokers' in each shire to ensure coordination of programs that encourage better health and supporting infrastructure aligned with the particular needs of people in the shire.

Funding was also directed towards small infrastructure projects that encourage more active living, and an 'active living' survey was sent to all residents in the region.

Walking Together – Balak Kalik Manyá

Walking Together 'Balak Kalik Manyá' is a priority project of the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership to trial more intensive management regimes for public land management, especially in areas near large population centres. The project aims to increase the appreciation and use of local public land by locals, and improve environmental outcomes.

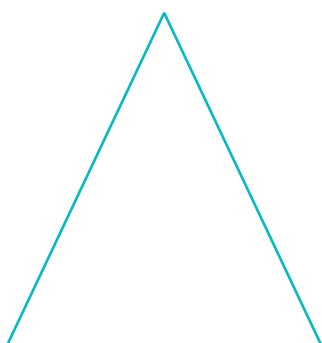
Two pilot sites were selected near Bendigo and Castlemaine. The project is being delivered by the local Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners, with funding from DELWP.

Youth – our essential asset

Throughout the year the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership worked with the Youth Advisory Council of Victoria to hear from younger people about how to help them increase resilience. Discussions resulted in two youth workers being employed to travel in a van to where young people gather. The project also supports developing a mobile app to help young people find information about local support services.

Early years literacy

A strategy was developed to guide early years literacy skills, with a focus on coordinating community and government initiatives such as the introduction of universal three year-old kinder.



Investment and trade

Australian Consolidated Milk

Australian Consolidated Milk established a new greenfield milk processing plant to predominantly produce organic milk products, including fresh milk, cream, butter, cheese, whey protein concentrate, adult milk powders and infant formula at a total project cost of \$55 million. The organic milk market is growing exponentially and the company intends to export a significant proportion of its value-added milk products. The project created 50 new full-time equivalent jobs.

Hardwick's Meatworks

Hardwick's is investing approximately \$11.5 million in three stages at its meat processing facility in Kyneton, which will generate 80 new full-time equivalent jobs.

The project will include a renewable energy project, upgraded wastewater treatment facilities and an expanded meat processing facility. The renewable energy project incorporates a \$4.04 million solar photovoltaic system, storage battery and micro-grid to help reduce the effect of increasing energy prices.

Rationale Skincare

Rationale Skincare is a Victorian-owned skincare product manufacturer. Its niche market products are supplied to and through dermatologists, cosmetic surgery clinics and skincare clinics. Rationale is investing \$6 million to relocate and expand its manufacturing, and research and development facility from Melbourne to Kyneton. The Kyneton Manufacturing Project will take place in two stages and create 103 full-time equivalent skilled and semi-skilled jobs in Kyneton.

Bendigo Airport Regular Passenger Transport – Qantas

RDV helped the City of Greater Bendigo and Qantas start regular flight services between Bendigo and Sydney in March 2019. The project involved upgrading infrastructure and equipment at Bendigo Airport and three years of Bendigo to Sydney route marketing support as part of \$2.43 million in establishment costs identified by Qantas.

RDV also worked with Qantas to develop its Regional Pilot Training Academy, with Bendigo included on the final list of eight national locations being considered by Qantas.

Mortlock Hydroponics

Mortlock Hydroponics Pty Ltd is a family owned and operated hydroponic business in Carisbrook in the Central Goldfields Shire. The business has operated for over 20 years and supplies glasshouse-growing varieties of cherry and truss tomatoes to major supermarkets and health food retailers around Australia. Mortlock invested \$7 million to build more glasshouses at its horticulture facility at Carisbrook. This expansion doubled its hydroponic growing capacity and created 41 full-time equivalent jobs in addition to its existing 55 full-time equivalent workforce.

Bridgewater Compost

This project involves ScatoPlus investing \$7.81 million to build Stage 1 of the Advanced Organic Mushroom Production Facility. It will produce 25 tonnes of organically grown mushrooms a week and create 20 new full-time equivalent jobs. The Advanced Organic Mushroom Production Facility is a \$24.91 million multi-staged development at the existing ScatoPlus manufacturing site in Newbridge. All stages of the expansion project are expected to be complete in 2024, when the expanded facility will employ 50 new full-time equivalent staff.

Southern Phones

RDV helped Southern Phones establish its new telecommunication and data facility in Bendigo as part of its secondary base to support its NSW headquarters. The project created 30 new full-time equivalent jobs, with a total project cost of \$463,500.

Australian Turntable Co

The Australian Turntable Co specialises in the manufacture of high-precision rotational movement systems and has installed projects in over 15 countries with future export opportunities to South Africa, South America and India.

The company invested \$1.9 million to redevelop and upgrade its manufacturing facility in Kangaroo Flat, to increase production capacity and enhance production efficiencies through automation. The project created 15 new full-time equivalent jobs and enabled exports of \$5 million per annum.

Australian Eatwell

Australian Eatwell Pty Ltd invested \$935,000 in a new meat analogue development facility at its existing manufacturing plant in Donald. The project helped the company expand and secure its position as market leader in the vegetarian and vegan segment of the processed food industry. It created 11 new full-time equivalent jobs, as well as up-skilled the existing 21 staff in the small community.

Wine Growth Fund

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.

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 businesses True Foods, Kagome, Greenham's, Kyabram Cold Storage and Hardwick Meat Works. RDV also collaborated on renewable energy sector development, including working with DELWP on renewable energy initiatives and the Northern Victorian NETS Roundtable.

Regional Manufacturing Cluster Initiative – Bendigo

RDV increased engagement with the Bendigo Manufacturing Group and the new regional manufacturing cluster initiative to respond to growing needs in skills and workforce development.

Economic development

Donald Community Hub

The Government confirmed an additional \$500,000 towards Donald's \$2.85 million sports stadium and function centre that it had previously supported with \$1 million. Recent years of drought and flood have made the local sports stadium even more important to the 1700 people in town. More than 600 people use the facility each week. The project will transform the stadium into a vibrant multipurpose facility to serve the community for generations.

Charlton Park Community Hub

The Charlton Park Community Hub received \$350,000 in addition to \$1.5 million previously provided by the Government towards the \$4.2 million multi-purpose sport and recreation centre. The community-driven project will consolidate buildings to create a modern multi-purpose facility with shared resources and a better layout.

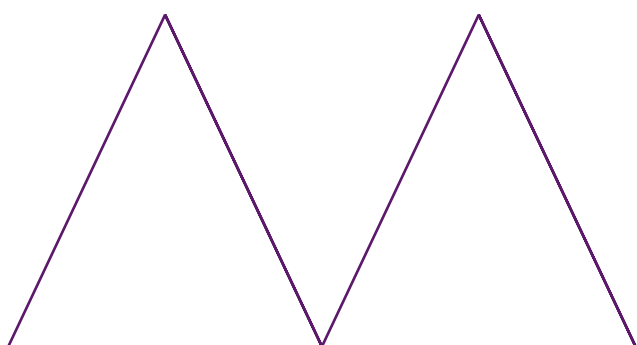
Swan Hill Live Better campaign

The 'Live Better' project was supported to develop a targeted marketing and liveability program that encourages population growth, addresses ongoing skill shortages and introduces a local community pride movement for the Swan Hill region. The initiative addresses relocation-related opportunities associated with employment and liveability.

Swan Hill Regional Arts, Indigenous and Cultural Precinct

The Government provided \$300,000 to the Swan Hill Rural City Council to develop the Swan Hill Regional Arts, Indigenous and Cultural Precinct that incorporates the development of an arts precinct along the Swan Hill Riverfront.

The project will involve producing detailed design plans to redevelop the current Swan Hill Art Gallery and create a living art and sculpture story along 4.2km of riverfront. Designs will incorporate recommendations and opportunities from the recently completed Commercial Development Strategy and Murray River Interpretative Centre Feasibility Study.



Mildura Riverfront Development – Stage 2

RDV continued to lead stakeholders in 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.

Mildura Chocolate Company

The Government provided \$38,000 towards a total project cost of \$58,884 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 grant will enable the Mildura Chocolate Company to purchase a conveyor belt, combined hopper and packing machine. The new equipment will increase production of premium quality chocolate by 35 per cent and mean the company can employ a more diverse range of people with a disability, including those with greater needs or people in wheelchairs.

The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion

The 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. Building the Great Stupa structure (phase 1) is nearly complete. The top of the structure (including the hand crafted gold finial) is scheduled to be lifted into place by December 2019.

A new dragon for Bendigo

The Government provided \$250,000 for a \$750,000 project (in partnership with the Golden Dragon Museum and the City of Greater Bendigo) to build a new Imperial Dragon that will replace the culturally and historically significant, Sun Loong Dragon. The project enabled the new Imperial Dragon, Dai Gum Loong, to successfully parade at Bendigo's Easter Festival in front of more than 80,000 people and has conserved Sun Loong to ensure the dragon can continue to be enjoyed for many generations.

Go Goldfields

The Government provided a further \$1.4 million over two years to ensure this alliance of agencies can continue to deliver community-driven approaches that improve the health, education and social outcomes for children, teenagers and families in the Central Goldfields Shire. The alliance addresses complex issues faced by vulnerable children, young people and families in an area of concentrated disadvantage, and where a single agency would not be able to respond adequately.

Victorian Goldfields Railway

The Government provided \$500,000 to support delivery of the Victorian Goldfields Railway's \$750,000 Service Reorientation (Stage 2) project. The project will provide locomotive servicing facilities within the Castlemaine Station Precinct and is the first major infrastructure component of a larger vision for growth. Specifically, it will allow the railway to stable trains and commence visitor operations from a new base in Castlemaine.

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

Creative Industries Hub

The Government provided \$500,000 towards the \$992,452 Creative Industries Hub that will be constructed inside the existing Castlemaine goods shed building. The redevelopment of the goods shed will transform the currently underutilised Victorian era heritage building to strengthen the creative sector in Castlemaine and the region. The project will also accommodate the administrative functions of the Castlemaine State Festival.

Growing regional opportunities for work

Commencing in late 2018, \$750,000 will be provided over three years to help establish GROW Bendigo. The Government supported the original Geelong based GROW initiative (a partnership between the Give Where You Live Foundation and the G21 Geelong region Alliance) to be delivered in another five regional areas. In the last three years, \$750,000 has been provided to help establish GROW Bendigo, expanding.

Financials



Major grant announcements

In 2018-19 the following payments were made:

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Economic Infrastructure Program		
Ararat Rural City Council	Ararat Arts Precinct Redevelopment	300,000
Enwave Victorian Networks Pty Ltd	Energy for the Regions – Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Supply for Eleven Regional Towns	13,250,000
Gippsland Ports Committee of Management	Port Welshpool Long Jetty (pedestrian access) Rehabilitation	500,000
Multinet Gas Distribution Partnership	Supply of Natural Gas to Warburton	108,131
Queenscliff Harbour	Queenscliff Fisherman's Wharf Precinct Rejuvenation Project	1,000,000
SANB Assets Trust T/A Benben	Ballarat Student Accommodation Project	540,000
Wellington Shire Council	Port of Sale Cultural Hub Project	1,500,000
Geelong Advancement Fund		
City of Greater Geelong	Central Geelong (Malop Street to Myers Street) Revitalisation Project	1,000,000
Goulburn Valley Industry and Infrastructure Fund		
W Ryan Abattoirs Pty Ltd	Ryan Export Upgrade Project	300,000
Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund		
Anglicare Victoria	Gippsland Infrastructure Upgrade Project	50,000
Australian Berry Farmers Trust	Feasibility Study – relocation field production Yarra Valley to protected production Latrobe Valley	17,520
CRRC Times Electric Australia Pty Ltd	Facility for traction assembly/electrical testing of HCMT components	CIC*
Dynamic Industries Gippsland Pty Ltd	Dynamic Industries Gippsland Pty Ltd – Powder Coating Plant Expansion	80,000
East Gippsland Food Cluster Inc	Developing new capabilities to optimise value from Gippsland's imperfect and surplus vegetable	6,000
Elite Pack Pty Ltd	LVEFF – Elite Pack – Expansion of Production Line at Existing Facility in Drouin	50,000
Executive Media Pty Ltd	Executive Media Latrobe Valley Branch office	15,000
Federation University Australia	Brown Coal Innovation Australia – Regional Carbon Innovation Centre Feasibility	70,000
Federation University Australia	Federation University Feasibility Study Gippsland Additive Manufacturing Centre	75,000
Flavorite Hydroponic Tomatoes Pty Ltd	Business expansion (4.3ha glasshouse and packaging equipment)	CIC*
Gippsland Solar Pty Ltd	Gippsland Solar Expansion	25,000
Holland Customized Services Pty Ltd	HCS Expansion – New Facility Expansion Project, Wurruk	15,000
JH Cuthbertson Proprietary Limited	Quarry Crushing and Screening Plant Upgrade	30,000
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe City Aerospace Precinct – Feasibility Study	25,000
Neptune Apparel Clothing Company	Neptune Apparel Printing Expansion Project – Stratford	25,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
On Site Machining and Pipeline Services Australia Pty Ltd	LVEFF – Onsite Machining and Pipeline Services Australia Pty Ltd (OMT) Valve Workshop Development and Renovation	CIC*
R Radford and Son Pty Ltd	LVEFF – R Radford and Son – Tier 1 Export Expansion Project	CIC*
Riviera Farms Pty Ltd	LVEFF – Riviera Farms Production and Processing Expansion	CIC*
Serco Australia Pty Limited	Newborough Contact Centre	CIC*
Steelvision Pty Ltd	Precast Concrete and Steel Building Products	CIC*
The DocShop (Vic) Pty Ltd	The Doc Shop Plant Expansion Project	CIC*
The Gippsland Field Days	Lardner Park – Feasibility Study Multi-Discipline Livestock Pavilion Facilities	CIC*
The Trustee for Gippsland CNC Cutting Unit Trust	Gippsland CNC Cutting – Workshop Relocation and Upgrade	CIC*
Top Welding and Construction Pty Ltd	TOP No.5 Workshop	CIC*
Trafalgar Medical Centre	Trafalgar Medical Practice Expansion	CIC*
Valley Court Laundrette Pty Ltd	Valley Court Laundrette Pty Ltd New Flatwork Linen Processing Facility	CIC*
Valley Windows Pty Ltd	EmployXpress (Melbourne East and Inner South)	CIC*
Victoria Valley Meat Exports Pty Ltd	Stage 2 Export Market Growth Project	CIC*
Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification Program (Vic)		
Select Harvests Limited	Best in Class Supply Chain Stages 2 and 3	750,000
Regional Blueprint – Industries for Today and Tomorrow		
Graincorp Limited	Crushing Capability Expansion	CIC*
Meredith Dairy Pty Ltd	Meredith Dairy Expansion	CIC*
Nu-Edge Solutions Australia Pty Ltd	Mildura Fertiliser Facility	CIC*
Quickstep Holdings Limited	Global Technology and Research and Development Centre	CIC*
Regional Infrastructure Fund		
Ararat Rural City Council	Ararat Arts Precinct Redevelopment	1,500,000
Bass Coast Shire Council	Revitalisation of the Cowes Precinct – Delivering on the Phillip Island Vision for the Future	830,000
Buloke Shire Council	Charlton Park 2020 Multi-Purpose Facility Development	700,000
Buloke Shire Council	Donald Multipurpose Community Facility Redevelopment	700,000
City of Ballarat	Eureka Stadium and Sports Infrastructure – Ballarat Sports and Events Centre component	2,000,000
City of Greater Geelong	Leopold Community Hub Stage 2 Project	1,200,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	Shepparton Art Museum	4,500,000
Latrobe City Council	Latrobe Creative Precinct	1,500,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Halls Gap Activation – Stage 1	600,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	Stawell CBD Revitalisation	440,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	Hamilton CBD Liveability and Economic Revitalisation Project	1,000,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Sovereign Hill Museums Assocn	Sovereign Hill By Day and By Night: Driving Regional Tourism Dispersal	2,000,000
The Trustee for PGPD Trust No. 2	Ballarat Station Precinct Redevelopment	4,096,873
Towong Shire Council	Corryong Airport Precinct Development	250,000
Warrnambool City Council	Reid Oval Redevelopment	500,000
Regional Jobs Fund		
AT Richardson Wines Pty Ltd	AT Richardson Wines cellar door/visitor facility and demonstration barrel cellar	9,175
ACM Holdings Co Pty Ltd	Construction and Operation of a New Dairy Manufacturing Facility	CIC*
Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company Australia Pty Ltd	Regional Operations Centre	CIC*
Albins Performance Transmissions Pty Ltd	Albins Advanced Manufacturing Facility Development	CIC*
Alpine Wine Shop	Upgrade and Complete Regional Cellar Door	1,000
Ashton Pty Ltd	Expansion of Swan Hill Abattoir	CIC*
Austin's Wines Pty Ltd	Moorabool Valley Wine Club	8,000
Australian Eatwell Pty Ltd	Meat Analogue Development Project	CIC*
Australian Tea Masters Association Pty Ltd	Coffee and Tea Export and Wholesale Facility	10,000
AVBC Holdings Pty Ltd	Cellar Door Capacity Improvement Project	4,000
Ballarat Regional Industries Inc	Food Packaging Expansion	CIC*
Bass River Winery	Bass River Winery – Online Engagement Strategy between organic tourism and viticulture	4,000
Bendigo Winegrowers Association Inc	Bendigo Wine Brand Awareness Project	16,000
Booth Transport Pty Ltd	Strathmerton Milk Logistics Hub	CIC*
Box Grove Vineyard	Website development	2,000
BP Jean and JA Jean T/As Guildford Vineyard and Cellar	4 tonne Grape Project: adapting to new wine industry operating environment	3,000
BP Jean and JA Jean T/As Guildford Vineyard and Cellar	Improvements to grape production promoting innovative biological methods	6,750
Buller Wines Pty Ltd	China Export Development Program	2,000
Chalmers Wines Australia Pty Ltd	Future Grapes Research Project	5,000
City of Greater Bendigo	Regular Passenger Transport	350,000
Cofield Wines	'Say It With Vino' and website upgrade	1,627
CT4 Pty Ltd ATF The Broadway Mall Trust	CT4 Virtual Security Operations Centre	CIC*
Dal Zotto Wines Pty Ltd	Vineyard Floor Management	2,000
Darling Estate Wines Pty Ltd	E-commerce Website Development	500
Debortoli Wines Pty Ltd	Rutherglen Estates Upgrade of Irrigation and Associated Systems	16,000
Dennison Foods Manufacturing	Manufacturing Expansion Project	CIC*
Eldorado Road	Cellar Door Redevelopment – Food and Wine Experience	4,250

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
Fonterra Australia Pty Ltd	Stanhope: rebuild, modernise and expand project	CIC*
Forest Lodge Racing Pty Ltd	Establishment of a Thoroughbred Racehorse, Training and Rehabilitation Centre	CIC*
Fresh Produce Group of Australia Pty Limited	New Table Grape Export Processing Facility in Karadoc	CIC*
GJ Lewis Homes (Wodonga) Pty Ltd	New Steel Truss and Frame Manufacturing Facility	50,000
Give Where You Live Inc	G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) Project	200,000
Glenelg Shire Council	Continuation of RPT Aviation Services	125,000
GMIC Ltd	Cleantech Innovations Geelong – 2018-2021	100,000
Goldacres Trading Pty Ltd	Capacity improvements	50,000
Grampians Wildflowers T/A Australian Flower Investment	International Market Expansion and Modernisation	CIC*
Granite Hills Wines Pty Ltd	Developing Export Growth into Asia	1,555
Grape Fine Winery	Grape Farm Winery Hospitality Expansion	2,888
Greenham Gippsland Pty Ltd	Greenham Gippsland – Facility Upgrade	CIC*
Hofmann Engineering Pty Ltd	Hofmann FLEXPRO – Flexible Production Line (Bendigo)	CIC*
IMMIX Integrated Metal Management	IMMIX Wodonga Phase 1	CIC*
Indigo Wine Company Limited	Cellar Door Expansion	5,000
JMAR Engineering Pty Ltd	Laser cutting line Project	CIC*
Katunga Fresh Produce Pty Ltd	Katunga Fresh Propagation Facility	CIC*
Keppel Prince Engineering Pty Ltd	Wind Tower Production Expansion	CIC*
Kinross Farm Pty Ltd	Kinross Farm Euroa Expansion	CIC*
Lake Moodemere Estate	Cellar Door Expansion – Estate Experience	4,000
Laminex Group Pty Limited	New Equipment for Laminate Technology	CIC*
Latrobe City Council	Gippsland Logistics Precinct Site Activation	800,000
Merriwa Industries Ltd	New Food Packing Line	37,604
Pacific Hydro Pty Ltd	Retail Head office Establishment and New IT Platform – Geelong	CIC*
Passing Clouds Pty Ltd	A Wine and Train Tourism Venture	10,000
Pentarch Agricultural Pty Ltd	Ultima Fodder Processing Facility	CIC*
Pinegro Products Pty Ltd	Mt Wallace Composting Facility	CIC*
Pizzini Wines Pty Ltd	Kiln Transformation – Enhancing the Cellar Door Experience	4,000
Pondalowie Vineyards	Redevelopment of Online Marketing Strategy	4,500
Pyrenees Grapegrowers and Winemakers Association Inc	Avoca Food and Wine Festival 2018	1,500
Rigbee Group Pty Ltd T/A Harrybilt Engineering and Weldi	Harrybilt Engineering Market Growth Strategy	40,000
Rosdal Wines Pty Ltd	New Purpose Built Cellar Door	20,000
Sandy Farm Vintners	Walking tracks	3,000
Scion Enterprise Pty Ltd	Redevelopment of Cellar Door and Winery Experience	10,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Project	Payment \$
SEM Fire and Rescue Pty Ltd	Building capacity to capture Defence contract	40,000
Smallaire Pty Ltd	Increase capability to manufacture full air movement kits	60,000
Southern Phone Company Limited	Setup of New Telecommunication and Data Facility in Bendigo	CIC*
Southern Spreaders Pty Ltd	Hansa business expansion	CIC*
Tallangatta Meat Processors	TMP Processing Expansion	CIC*
Tatura Fresh Pty Ltd	Tatura Fresh Expansion of Murphy Fresh to Tatura	CIC*
The Trustee for Fowles Wine Trust	Expansion of Fowles Wine's Cellar Door and Cafe at Avenel	CIC*
The Trustee for Fowles Wine Trust	Upton Run Climate and Vineyard Management project	4,000
The Trustee for Summerfield Wines Hybrid Unit Trust	Expansion of Cellar Door and Creation of Cafe	4,000
The Trustee for The S M K Investment Trust	Baie Wines – Digital Innovation	2,000
Tribal Group Pty Ltd	Establishment of Corporate Regional Headquarters and New Platform Development Centre in North Geelong	CIC*
V Cordoma Properties Pty Ltd	New Warehouse and Cold Storage Facility	50,000
Victorian Alps Wine Company P/L	Export Samples Preparation Facility	2,000
Victorian Wines Show Inc	2017 Victorian Wine Show	5,000
Wangaratta Turf Club Inc	Wangaratta Turf Club Stage 2 Development Upgrade	100,000
Warrabilla Wines	Winery Website Upgrade 17/18	500
Wellington Shire Council	West Sale Airfield Infrastructure Upgrades – AIR5428	4,000,000
Whelans Group Investments Pty Ltd	Bruthen Quarry Expansion	75,000
Wilimee	Sustainable Vineyard Practices	1,600
Wine in a Glass Pty Ltd	WIAG – Much More Than A Winery	16,000
Grand Total		56,273,960

Grant payments

Organisation	Payment \$
2014 Bushfires Economic Recovery Fund	
Latrobe City Council	236,000
Armstrong Creek Infrastructure Project	
City of Greater Geelong	4,444,000
Ballarat GovHub	
Department of Justice and Community Safety	1,024,000
The Trustee for PGPD Trust No. 2	2,000,000
Bushfire Recovery Fund 2015/16	
Country Fire Authority	5,000
Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism Ltd	5,000
Life Saving Victoria Limited	4,000
Community Recovery Fund	
Murrindindi Shire Council	62,858
Community Regional Industry Skills Program	
Lawleg Pty Ltd	50,000
Food Source Victoria	
Australian Bio Fert Pty Ltd	125,000
Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat Pty Ltd	10,000
Ballarat Regional Tourism Inc	20,000
City of Greater Geelong	75,000
Dairy Cropping Australia Pty Ltd	2,301
Destination Gippsland Limited	4,000
Dried Fruits Australia Inc	30,000
East Gippsland Food Cluster Inc	10,000
ELTSAC Pty Ltd T/As Koallah Farm	80,000
Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations Ltd	50,000
Fresh Cheese Co (Aust) Pty Ltd	1,180
Fruit Innovation Processing Pty Ltd	100,000
Goulburn River Valley Tourism Limited	3,000
Goulburn Valley Walnuts Pty Ltd	7,330
Greenacres Vineyard	2,000
Kilter Pty Ltd	125,000
Macedon Ranges Vignerons Association Inc	5,000
Mantzaris Fisheries Pty Ltd	157,500
Mount Moriac Olives	75,000
Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens	11,250

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
Murray River Region Tourism Limited	10,000
North East Victoria Tourism Board Inc	10,000
Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia Limited	CIC*
P&A Vigliaturo Orchards Pty Ltd	1,800
Pyrenees Grapegrowers and Winemakers Association Inc	6,000
Pyrenees Shire Council	20,000
Sampano Pty Ltd	44,000
South Gippsland Shire Council	25,000
Southern Ocean Mariculture Pty Ltd	129,879
Sticky Balsamic Pty Ltd	60,000
Summerfruit Australia Ltd	100,000
The Trustee for Food Purveyor Trust	60,000
The Winemakers of Rutherglen Inc	10,000
Timboon Fine Ice Cream Pty Ltd	3,035
Titanga Estate	5,286
Victorian Farmers' Markets Association Inc	75,000
Victorian Wine Industry Association	75,000
Warrawee Pastoral Company	4,000
William Angliss Institute of Tafe	30,000
Wines of The King Valley Inc	110,000
Woorinen Holdings Pty Ltd	CIC*
Worn Gundidj Aboriginal Co-Op Ltd	20,000
Latrobe Valley Growth and Innovation Program	
Federation University Australia	570,000
Living Regions Living Suburbs	
Ballarat Regional Tourism Inc	150,000
Campaspe Shire Council	5,000
Cohuna Neighbourhood House Inc	5,000
iiNet Limited	109,997
Indigo Shire Council	5,000
Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Inc	3,750
Regional Australia Institute Limited	190,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	100,000
The Country Womens Association of Victoria Inc	90,000
Wodonga City Council	10,000
Woodend Winter Arts Festival Inc	10,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
Marysville Economic Recovery	
Kinglake Ranges Business Network Inc	11,776
Marysville Triangle Business and Tourism Inc	3,000
Putting Locals First Program	
City of Greater Bendigo	30,000
Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	10,000
Hepburn Shire Council	50,000
Moorabool Shire Council	315,000
South Gippsland Shire Council	60,000
Regional Development Australia – Regional	
Bendigo Community Health Services Ltd	5,000
Campaspe Shire Council	1,200
City of Greater Bendigo	6,250
Committee for Greater Shepparton Inc	1,000
East Gippsland Food Cluster Inc	20,000
GHD Pty Ltd	500
Latrobe City Council	60,000
Mansfield Shire Council	30,000
North East Victoria Tourism Board Inc	25,250
Nuffield Australia	15,500
Runway Geelong Limited	7,500
Towong Shire Council	32,000
William Angliss Institute of TAFE	20,000
Wines of The King Valley Inc	20,000
Growing Regional Opportunities for Work	
Be.Bendigo	260,000
Committee for Greater Shepparton Inc	300,000
Give Where You Live Inc	150,000
Highlands Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	300,000
Drought Community Resilience Program 2018	
East Gippsland Shire Council	250,000
Wellington Shire Council	250,000
Flood Recovery Community Infrastructure Fund 2017	
Glenelg Shire Council	111,900

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
Victorian Bushfire Rebuilding and Recovery Authority Projects	
Murrindindi Shire Council	57,180
Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space (BILDS)	
Runway Geelong Limited	888,000
Regional Partnerships	
Agribusiness Gippsland Inc	35,000
Beyond the Bell Great South Coast Limited	400,000
City of Ballarat	23,000
City of Wodonga	65,000
Department of Education and Training	2,300,000
Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning	170,000
Department of Health and Human Services	50,000
East Gippsland Food Cluster Inc	100,000
Federation University Australia	50,000
Food Next Door Co-Op Ltd	30,000
Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network	23,445
Hepburn Shire Council	15,000
Indigo Shire Council	70,000
Latrobe City Council	50,000
NE Tracks Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	130,000
North East Victoria Tourism Board Inc	1,155,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	200,000
Parks Victoria	168,659
Pyrenees Shire Council	15,000
Runway Geelong Limited	800,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	200,000
The University of Melbourne	700,000
Warrnambool City Council	348,750
Regional Skills Fund	
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations	519,000
Ballarat Regional Tourism Inc	60,000
Barker Trailers Pty Ltd	CIC*
Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	5,250
Berry Street Victoria Inc	37,110
Birchip Cropping Group Inc	300,000
Central Grampians Local Learning and Employment Network Incorporated	128,000
City of Ballarat	100,000
East Gippsland Food Cluster Inc	145,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
Geelong Ethnic Communities Council Inc	194,000
Glenelg Shire Council	20,000
Goldfields Track Inc.	60,000
Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism Ltd	176,000
Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty Ltd	135,000
Mountain-Top Experience	2,300
Murray Dairy Limited	35,000
Murray Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	60,000
Nhill Neighbourhood House Learning Centre	200,000
St John of God Health Care Inc	250,000
The Gordon Institute of TAFE	370,400
Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund	
Alpine Shire Council	100,000
Borough of Queenscliffe	362,800
City of Greater Bendigo	180,000
City of Greater Geelong	33,992
Creswick Woollen Mills Pty Ltd	170,000
East Gippsland Shire Council	50,000
Gunditj Mirring Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation	650,000
Holgate Group Pty Ltd	200,000
Hop Temple Pty Ltd	75,000
Parks Victoria	100,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	25,000
The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion Limited	290,500
Walhalla Goldfields Railway Inc	90,000
Winton Wetlands Committee of Management Incorporated	900,000
Rural Development	
Campaspe Shire Council	30,200
Castlemaine State Festival	225,000
Hepburn Shire Council	210,000
Indigo Shire Council	80,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	50,000
Mitchell Shire Council	250,000
Moira Shire Council	200,000
Moyne Shire Council	463,720
Murrindindi Shire Council	200,000
Northern Grampians Shire Council	175,000
Pyrenees Shire Council	142,190

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
South Gippsland Shire Council	100,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	110,700
Towong Shire Council	130,000
Wellington Shire Council	35,000
West Wimmera Shire Council	50,000
Worn Gundidj Aboriginal Co-Op Ltd	22,062
Stronger Regional Communities Plan	
Alpine Shire Council	24,000
Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program	160,645
Ames Australia	18,200
Ballarat Regional Tourism Inc	50,000
Ballarat Regional Trades and Labour Council Inc	45,000
Bass Coast Shire Council	73,500
Campaspe Shire Council	32,120
Central Goldfields Shire Council	690,000
Centre for Participation	32,305
Christie Centre Inc	30,000
City of Greater Bendigo	50,643
CMG Cooperative Limited	36,000
Committee for Ballarat Inc	120,000
Committee for Geelong Ltd	180,000
Committee for Gippsland Inc	160,645
Community Southwest Inc	100,000
Corangamite Shire Council	104,375
Corryong Health	37,500
Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning	200,000
Department of Health and Human Services	800,000
East Gippsland Marketing Inc	45,000
East Gippsland Rail Trail Committee of Management Inc	45,000
East Gippsland Shire Council	105,000
FAMDA Inc (Foster Art Music and Drama Association)	50,000
Foggy Mountain Inc	10,000
Friends of East Gippsland Rail Trail Assoc Inc	18,900
Gofish Nagambie Pty Ltd	40,000
Goldfields Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	230,000
Goulburn Murray Community Leadership Program Inc	160,645
Goulburn River Valley Tourism Limited	45,000
Hepburn Shire Council	45,000

* Commercial in confidence

Organisation	Payment \$
Kyneton Agricultural Society Inc	4,500
Lead Loddon Murray Inc	210,000
Leadership Great South Coast Incorporated	59,460
Loddon Shire Council	60,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	40,000
MADEC Australia	160,432
Mansfield Shire Council	58,850
Mildura Rural City Council	30,000
Mitchell Shire Council	162,500
Mount Alexander Shire Council	10,000
Moyne Shire Council	210,645
Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Inc	37,500
Phunktional Limited	35,000
Queenscliff Harbour	45,000
Queenscliff Music Festival Inc	35,000
Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Incorporated	90,000
RMIT University	40,000
Rural Councils Victoria Inc	1,094,215
Seymour Business and Tourism Inc	50,000
Seymour Railway Heritage Centre Inc	75,300
South Gippsland Shire Council	119,250
South West Institute of TAFE – Warrnambool	37,500
Southern Grampians Shire Council	30,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	187,500
The Funding Network Australia Limited	10,530
Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine Inc	72,500
Towong Shire Council	30,000
Victorian Regional Community Leadership Programs Secretariat Inc	4,500
Violet Town Action Group Incorporated	45,000
Visit Ballarat	37,250
Warrnambool City Council	27,000
Wimmera Development Association Incorporated	193,116
Victorian Bushfire Business Investment Fund	
Frenchco Pty Ltd	10,000
Grand Total	38,262,326

2018-19 output targets and performance against Budget Paper 3 measures

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2018-19 actual	2018-19 target	Performance variation (%)	Result
Quantity					
Actual export sales generated for regional businesses as a result of participation in government programs.	\$ million	56.5	55	2.7	✓
Economic development and service delivery projects supported.	number	215	120	79.2	✓
Jobs in regional Victoria resulting from government investment facilitation services and assistance.	number	1910	1200	59.2	✓
New investment in regional Victoria resulting from government facilitation services and assistance.	\$ million	1177	700	68.1	✓
Quality					
Participant satisfaction with implementation of RDV programs.	per cent	92	90	2.2	✓

Revenue and expenses

Controlled income and expenses for the period ended 30 June

Income from transactions	2019	2018
Output appropriations	37,129	56,833
Special appropriations	-	-
Fund appropriations	125,000	125,000
Grants	18,373	16,910
Sale of services	-	-
Interest income	3,301	3,232
Fair value of assets & services received free of charge	-	37
Other income	-	1
Total income from transactions	183,803	202,014
Expenses from transactions		
Grants and other transfers	(107,808)	(165,854)
Employee expenses	(21,522)	(28,917)
Capital asset charge	(1,296)	(2,076)
Depreciation and amortisation	(534)	(1,153)
Interest expense	(7)	(43)
Other operating expenses	(7,211)	(3,593)
Total expenses from transactions	(138,377)	(201,636)
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	45,426	378

Contact information

Regional Development Victoria regional offices

Ballarat

111 Armstrong Street North
Ballarat 3350
Tel: (03) 5327 2800
Fax: (03) 5327 2830

Mildura

131 Langtree Avenue
Mildura 3500
Tel: (03) 5051 2000
Fax: (03) 5051 2020

Wangaratta

1st Floor, 62 Ovens Street
Wangaratta 3676
Tel: (03) 5722 7101
Fax: (03) 5722 7109

Bendigo

Level 1, 56-60 King Street
Bendigo 3550
Tel: (03) 4433 8000
Fax: (03) 4433 8099

Shepparton

79 Wyndham Street
Shepparton 3632
Tel: (03) 5895 4100
Fax: (03) 5822 2554

Warrnambool

703-709 Raglan Parade
Warrnambool 3280
Tel: 5561 4135
Fax: 5561 3851

Geelong

Level 2, Harrison Place
237 Ryrie Street
Geelong 3220
Tel: (03) 5215 6000
Fax: (03) 5215 6099

Traralgon

33 Breed Street
Traralgon 3844
Tel: (03) 5116 7300
Fax: (03) 5175 0324

Wodonga

Level 2, 111-113 Hume Street
Wodonga 3690
Tel: (02) 6059 0200
Fax: (02) 6059 0250

Horsham

The Grains Innovation Park
110 Natimuk Park
Horsham 3400
Tel: (03) 5362 2111

