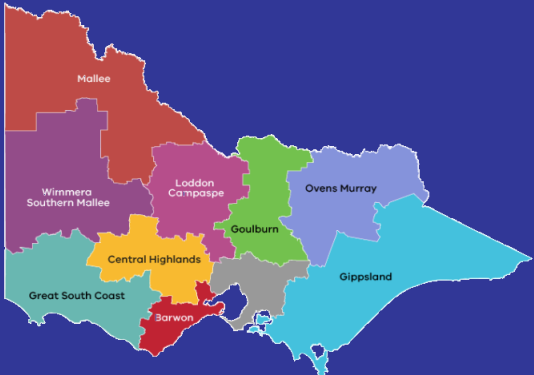


Ovens Murray

Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) 2026

Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS)

▶ **Victoria's Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) were released in 2022 and identified strategic directions to further drive growth and prosperity in regional Victoria**



Every Regional Partnership region is supported by a tailored Regional Economic Development Strategy

Role of the REDS

- The REDS play a foundational, place-based role in Victoria’s economic policy landscape by translating whole-of-government priorities into region-specific economic reform and investment agendas.
- The REDS provide a consistent evidence-based framework for understanding Victoria's regional economies.

How to use the REDS

- The REDS can be used by all levels of government, regional communities, and businesses to work together, innovate, tackle challenges and make targeted investments to achieve stronger outcomes for their region.
- Regional communities and businesses can use the REDS to:
 - communicate innovative capacity in their region, now and in the future
 - collaborate with government to better understand regional strengths, challenges and opportunities
 - attract investment to the region based on clearly identified strategic priorities.

REDS interactive data dashboards

9 interactive data dashboards—one for each Regional Partnership—complement the REDS, providing deeper insights into economic performance and regional trends.

Explore the region’s dashboard:

[View Ovens Murray Dashboard](#)

<https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/priorities/reds>

Refreshing the REDS in 2026

▶ The 2026 REDS translate Victoria’s current strategic policy directions into place-based economic opportunities

Why REDS Refresh in 2026?



- Time has passed since the original 2022 REDS.
- The 2022 REDS established a strong, evidence-based foundation, but underlying data, economic conditions and forecasts have evolved significantly.
- The refresh incorporates major policy developments since 2022—particularly Victoria’s Economic Growth Statement and Victorian Industry Policy—ensuring regional priorities remain aligned with whole-of-government direction.
- New economic opportunities, sector shifts and investment priorities have emerged across regions, requiring an updated, place-based lens.
- The 2026 refresh does not replace the 2022 REDS. It selectively updates data, insights and priorities where change has occurred, while retaining the core strategic intent.
- The 2022 REDS remain a valid and standalone product. The refresh builds on this foundation, ensuring continuity while strengthening relevance for current decision-making.

Why REDS Refresh in 2026?



- **Boosting productivity is central** to Victoria’s long-term economic growth, workforce capability and prosperity. Achieving this will require coordinated economy-wide, sectoral and place-based initiatives.
- **Priority sectors underpinning growth** include advanced manufacturing and defence, health technologies, circular economy (including renewable energy), digital technologies, agribusiness and critical minerals.
- Many of these **knowledge-intensive, export-oriented sectors are regionally concentrated**, presenting significant opportunities to drive regional growth and prosperity.

Ovens Murray REDS 2026

The Ovens Murray REDS Refresh revisits the strategic directions for the region, reflecting place-based opportunities under Victoria’s Economic Growth Statement and key economic development policies that were released since 2022

2022 REDS Strategic Directions

In 2022, RDV delivered the Ovens Murray REDS which identified place-based strategic directions to drive economic growth.

- 1 Expand business and employment opportunities in the transport, distribution and logistics industries
- 2 Strengthen and diversify the visitor economy through leveraging the region’s nature and epicurean tourism industries
- 3 Expand on existing strength in manufacturing to take advantage of opportunities in new industries
- 4 Support and expand economic and employment opportunities in growing sectors (health, social services, education)
- 5 Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources

[Click here to read the 2022 REDS](#)

2026 REDS Refresh Opportunities & Priorities

Since 2022, new opportunities and priorities have emerged that are shaping economic development across the region.

- 6 **Unlock industrial and employment precinct growth through critical enabling infrastructure investment**

The Ovens Murray region's key industrial and employment precinct at Logic Wodonga, and developing precincts at Wangaratta, Benalla, Tallangatta and Mansfield provide a strong foundation for ongoing economic growth. Investment in critical enabling infrastructure planning and delivery, particularly water/wastewater and key services, is identified as the highest priority and is needed to unlock the full potential of these precincts.
- 7 **Accelerate the clean energy transition and circular economy to drive new economic activity**

Ovens Murray is establishing itself as a clean economy destination, with Logic Wodonga attracting circular economy and clean energy manufacturing investment, and the region’s exceptional topography identified by AEMO as a priority location for future pumped hydro energy storage.

See pages 5, 6, 21-26 for further detail on these emerging opportunities and priorities, as well as how existing strategic directions have developed in the region since the 2022 REDS.

Enablers and investments supporting REDS strategic directions

2022 REDS Strategic Directions (see appendix for extended analysis)

	Development since the REDS	Alignment with state and local priorities since the REDS
Expand business and employment opportunities in the transport, distribution and logistics industries	▪ Further development of Logic Wodonga Intermodal Industrial Precinct ▪ Relocation of major logistics businesses to Logic Wodonga ▪ Logic Wodonga Gas Gate ▪ Development of the Ovens Murray Integrated Transport Strategy ▪ Benalla Industrial Employment Precinct master planning	▪ Inland Rail Program ▪ Trunk Infrastructure Fund ▪ Regional Jobs Fund ▪ Victorian Investment Fund
Strengthen and diversify the visitor economy through leveraging the region’s nature and epicurean tourism industries	▪ Development of cultural and heritage tourism product, including Ned Kelly Alive project at Beechworth and Ned Kelly Discovery Hub in Glenrowan ▪ King Valley Prosecco Road revitalisation project, including the commencement of the Prosecco Trail ▪ Ride High Country marketing and private sector activation ▪ Victorian Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage Bid and Epicurean and Wine Tourism	▪ Economic Growth Statement ▪ Experience Victoria 2033 ▪ Ride High Country Fund ▪ Regional Partnership Program (rPPP/LER/ABSP) ▪ Regional Tourism Investment Framework ▪ Regional Partnership Program (rPPP). Local Economic Recovery (LER). Alpine Business Support Program (ABSP) ▪ Regional Tourism Investment Framework
Expand on existing strength in manufacturing to take advantage of opportunities in new industries	▪ Northern Victorian Institute of TAFE (NVI TAFE) Logic Wodonga Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence and Heavy Vehicle Technology Program ▪ Mars PetCare expansion - cat food pouch production facility ▪ Casella Wines whiskey production facility ▪ Automated manufacturing facility at Logic Wodonga Industrial Estate ▪ Mount Buller electricity upgrade	▪ Victorian Investment Fund ▪ Economic Growth Statement ▪ Albury Wodonga Regional Projects
Support and expand economic and employment opportunities in growing sectors (health, social services, education)	▪ Key worker accommodation Albury Wodonga Health, Northeast Health (Wangaratta) and Benalla Health ▪ Mansfield Autism Statewide Services	▪ Victorian Health Workforce Strategy ▪ Regional Worker Accommodation Fund ▪ Albury Wodonga Regional Projects
Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources	▪ Alpine Resorts activation through investment at Falls Creek, Mount Hotham and Mount Buller ▪ Solar farm developments ▪ Pumped hydro opportunity ▪ Falls Creek Land Slip Recovery ▪ Renewable Energy Zones ▪ Victorian Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage Bid	▪ Victorian Renewable Energy Zones ▪ Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy ▪ Economic Growth Statement

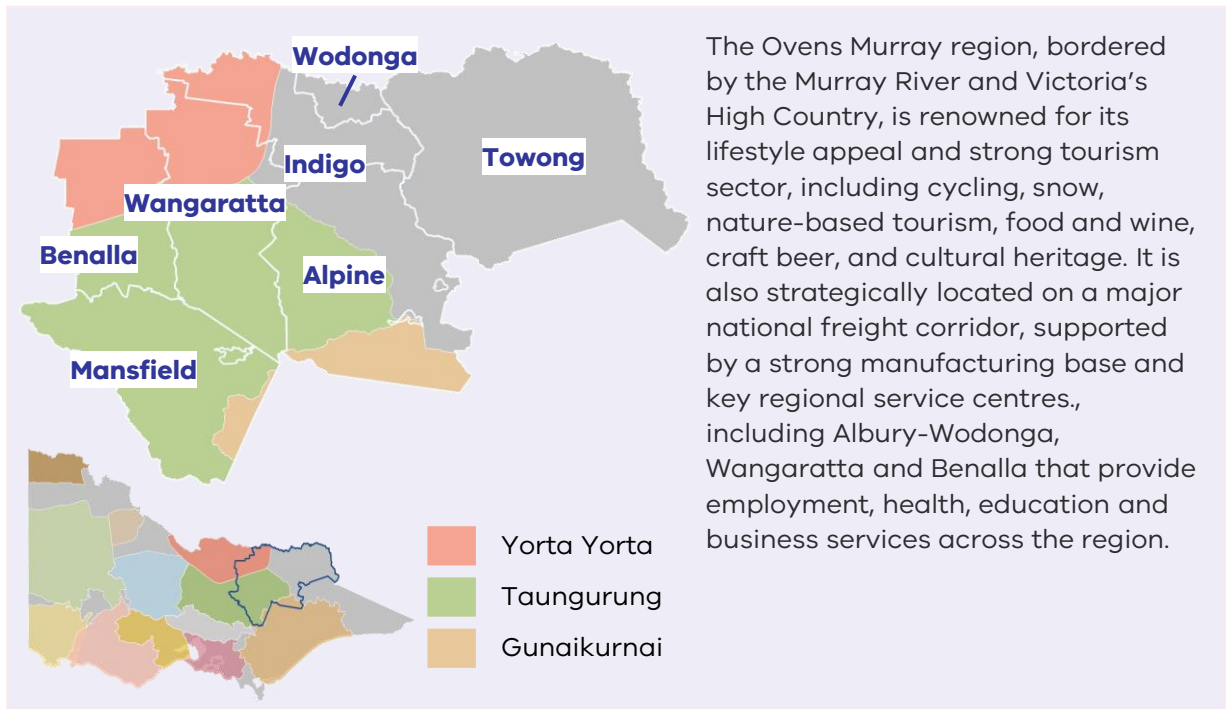
Enablers and investments supporting REDS strategic directions

2026 REDS Refresh Opportunities & Priorities

(see appendix for extended analysis)

	Significance	Supporting projects and catalysts to support future growth	
Unlock industrial and employment precinct growth through critical enabling infrastructure investment	The Ovens Murray region's industrial and employment precinct at Logic Wodonga provides a strong foundation for investment and economic growth. Planning and mapping is underway across all LGAs to identify further opportunities. Investment in critical enabling infrastructure particularly water/wastewater is identified as a high priority to unlock the full potential of Industrial precincts.	Supporting projects - Logic Wodonga Intermodal / Industrial Precinct - Planning for Wangaratta, Benalla, Mansfield and Tallangatta Industrial estates - OMRP Priority Employment Precinct Mapping	Catalysts to support future growth - Victorian Trunk Infrastructure Fund - Victorian Future Regions Fund - Federal Local Infrastructure Fund
Accelerate the clean energy transition and circular economy to drive new economic activity	Ovens Murray is establishing itself as a clean economy destination, with Logic Wodonga attracting circular economy and clean energy manufacturing investment, and the region's exceptional topography identified by AEMO as a priority location for future pumped hydro energy storage.	Supporting projects - Pumped Hydro Feasibility study - Regional FOGO Assessment - Wodonga Circular Economy Precinct	Catalysts to support future growth - Renewable Energy Zone - Net Zero targets - Advanced manufacturing capability.

Ovens Murray Regional Profile



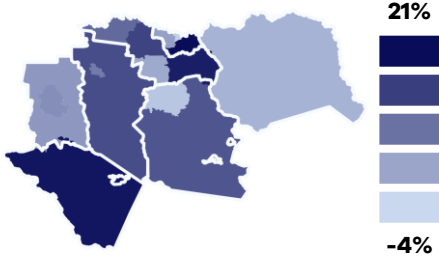
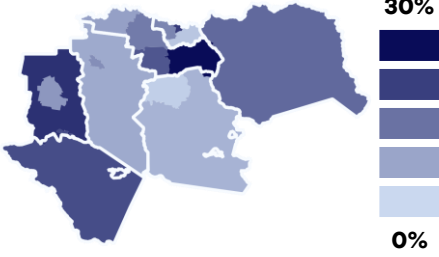
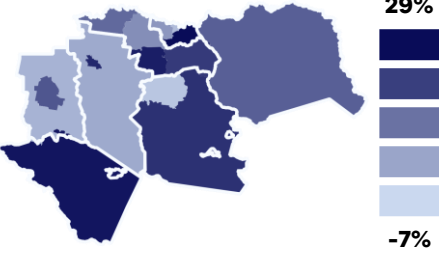
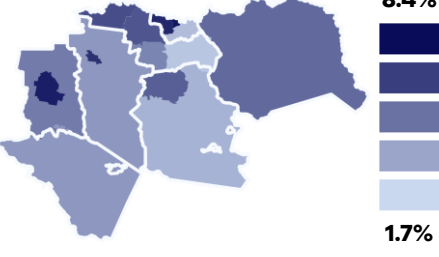
Key Economic Statistics

Metric	Ovens Murray	Regional Victoria	Metropolitan Melbourne
Population ¹ (2025)	138k	1.7m	5.3m
Population Growth ¹ (2020 – 2025)	3.6%	6.1%	7.2%
GRP ² (2025)	\$8.9b	\$115.8b	\$494.7b
GRP Growth ² (2020 – 2025)	12.5%	12.5%	11.9%
Unemployment Rate ³ (Mar 2026)	4.2%	3.7%	4.8%
Unemployment Rate Change ³ (Mar 2021 – Mar 2026)	+0.8% pts	-1.1% pts	-2.4% pts
Employment Growth ² (2020 – 2025)	7.9%	9.7%	13.0%

Ovens Murray Top Employing Industries²

1.		Health Care and Social Assistance	9,900	4.		Education and Training	7,300
2.		Retail Trade	7,600	5.		Manufacturing	7,000
3.		Construction	7,300	6.		Accommodation and Food Services	5,400

Ovens Murray's growth is underpinned by strong economic gains

Population 138k Population (2025)¹ ↑ +3.6% Since 2020	Population growth in Ovens Murray is behind both regional and metro averages - Ovens Murray is home to 137,500 people with population growth over the past 5 years (3.6%) slower than both regional (6.1%) and metropolitan (7.2%) averages.¹ - Wodonga has the largest population in Ovens Murray, accounting for 33% of the region's population. Wodonga has seen the largest absolute growth over the last 5 years of almost 2,100 residents¹. Mansfield grew the most in percentage terms, rising by 12% since 2020.¹	Population change since 2020 
Gross Regional Product \$8.9b GRP (2025)² ↑ +12.5% Since 2020	Growth in the Ovens Murray economy has outpaced metropolitan and is level with regional averages - Manufacturing remains a key economic driver, with its share of gross value add (15%) exceeding its share of employment (10%), indicating strong productivity.² - Economic growth has been driven by Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing and Health Care & Social Assistance, with these sectors growing by 24% and 19%, respectively.²	GRP change since 2020 
Employment 69k Employed (2025)² ↑ +7.9% Since 2020	Ovens Murray's employment growth is underpinned by population-driven and service-based industries - The largest employment growth in the region, since 2020 was in Health Care & Social Assistance, Retail Trade, Construction, Accommodation & Food and Education & Training.² - Demand for Health Care & Social Assistance workers is expected to remain strong, with 6,400 new roles by 2035 (29% of new workers), significantly above its current 17% share and higher than metropolitan benchmarks.³	Employment change since 2020 
Unemployment Rate 4.2% Unemployment Rate (Mar Qtr 2026)⁴ ↑ +0.8 pts Since Mar Qtr 2021	Ovens Murray's unemployment rates vary, highlighting disparity in labour markets and challenges - The region's labour market has observed a loosening unemployment rate over the past 5 years, rising by 0.8 percentage points to 4.2%, which is above regional Victoria (3.7%) and below metropolitan Melbourne (4.8%).⁴ - Unemployment rates vary significantly across the region, from a low of 1.7% in Yackandandah to a high of 8.4% in Wodonga.⁴	Unemployment rate 

Key industry strengths driving Ovens Murray's economy



Transport, Distribution & Logistics

Ovens Murray is strategically positioned along the **Hume road and rail corridor**, providing direct access to **Melbourne, Sydney and national markets**. **Logic Wodonga** has emerged as a nationally significant intermodal freight and manufacturing hub, attracting around **\$400 million of private investment** and created **800 FTE jobs**.¹ The Transport, Postal & Warehousing sector in Ovens Murray generated **\$303 million in GVA** and employed **2,600 residents**.²



Advanced Manufacturing & Defence

Ovens Murray is home to a strong defence and advanced manufacturing sector, anchored by major defence sector employers including **Albury-Wodonga Military Area, Bruck Textiles** in Wangaratta and **Thales/NIOA** at Benalla. Defence plays a vital role in the region's economy, generating **\$357 million in GVA** and accounting for **5.0% of the region's economic activity** – over six times the state-wide average of 0.8%.² Additionally, manufacturing is the **largest industry in the region**, generating **15% of GVA** and accounting for **10% of employment**.²



Visitor Economy & Creative Industries

The Ovens Murray region is home to **Victorian Alpine resorts**, a major tourism asset attracting visitors year-round. A 2024 economic significance study found that the Alpine Resorts **employed over 12,100 FTE**.³ Tourism in Ovens Murray generated **\$1.5 billion in annual spend** in year ending June 2026.⁴ **Creative and Performing Arts Activities** have also contributed to a growing creative economy, driven by events including the Beechworth Harvest Festival, Yackandandah Folk Festival, and the Man from Snowy River Bush Festival, generating **\$9.0 million in GVA**.²



Agri-Food Sector

Ovens Murray is a powerhouse in agriculture and food production, with strengths in **beef, dairy, cropping and wine**. The region delivers **13% of Victoria's gross value of beef** production and **10% of its wine** production.⁵ Agri-food employs **7.6% of the workforce**, well above the state average of 3.5%, and utilizes this strength to generate **\$842 million in GVA**.²

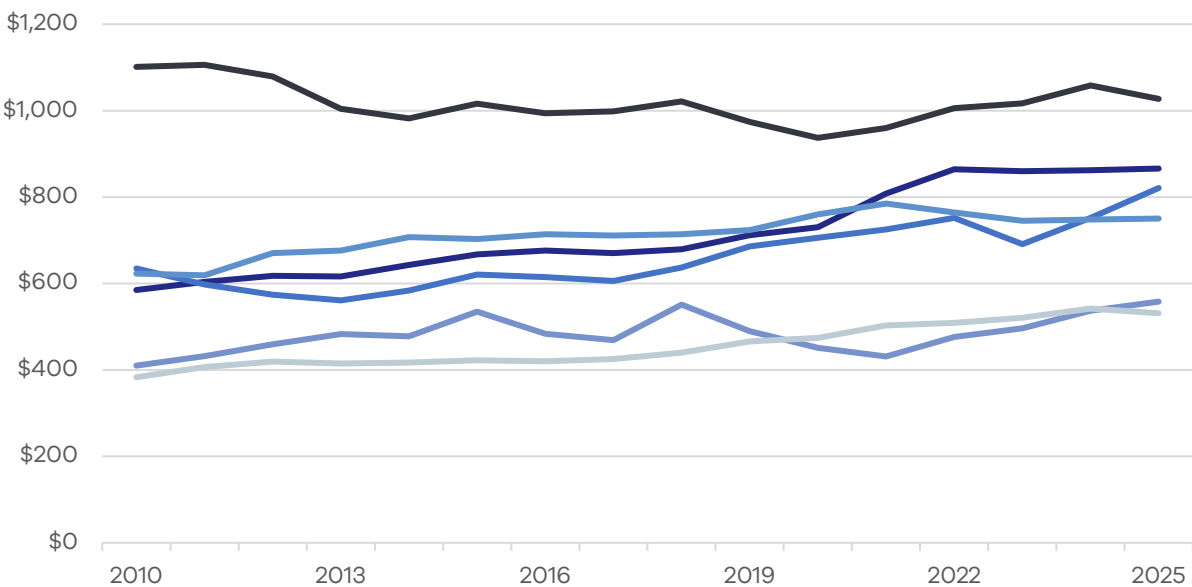
Key industry strengths driving Ovens Murray’s economy

Advanced Manufacturing and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing were among the largest and fastest growing industries in Ovens Murray in 2025, accounting for almost a quarter (22%) of total GVA in the region.²

- Ovens Murray’s economy is benefitting from its Agri-Food sector, with Agriculture and Food Product Manufacturing growing by 23% since 2020.²
- The concentration of Manufacturing and Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing GVA relative to employment remain among the highest in Ovens Murray, highlighting the productive capacity of these industries.
- The region also benefits from its service sectors, with Health Care & Social Assistance, Construction, Public Administration & Safety, Education & Training and Retail Trade making up 49% of the total GVA in the region.²

Ovens Murray gross value added for key industries

National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR)



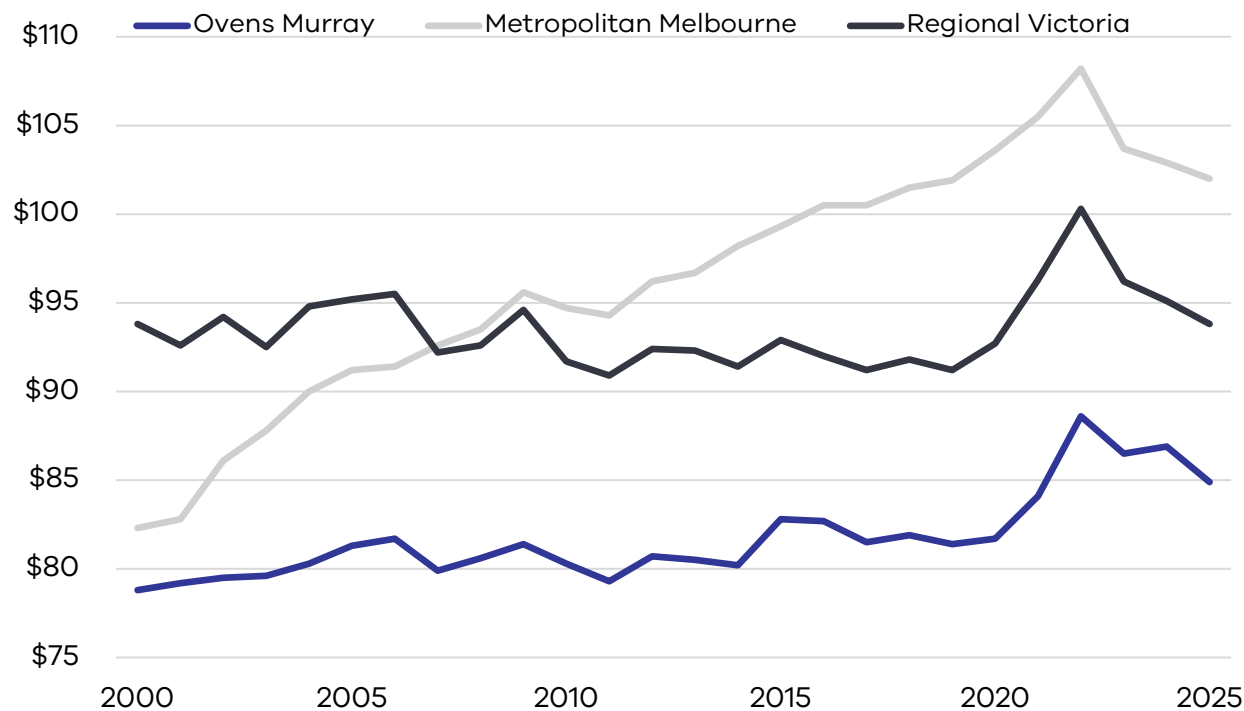
Top sectors by GVA¹

	Industry 1-digit ANZSIC	GVA (\$M)	5-Year Change
—	Manufacturing	\$1,027	9.6%
—	Health Care and Social Assistance	\$866	18.7%
—	Construction	\$821	16.4%
—	Public Administration & Safety	\$750	-1.3%
—	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	\$558	23.5%
—	Education & Training	\$531	12.0%

Boosting productivity and growing high-value industries is critical to the region’s economic future

Labour Productivity (GRP per hour Worked)

Dollars, NIEIR, 2000-2025



Productivity remains below benchmark levels despite strong economic growth

- Ovens Murray’s labour productivity has marginally increased since 2020, driven by strong agricultural commodity prices and investment in productivity-enhancing assets. As tourism, hospitality and recreation sectors recover to pre-pandemic employment levels, the region continues to strengthen its economic performance.
- Closing the productivity gap with metropolitan areas remains a key opportunity to lift incomes, competitiveness and long-term economic growth.

High-value industries provide the strongest pathway to productivity growth

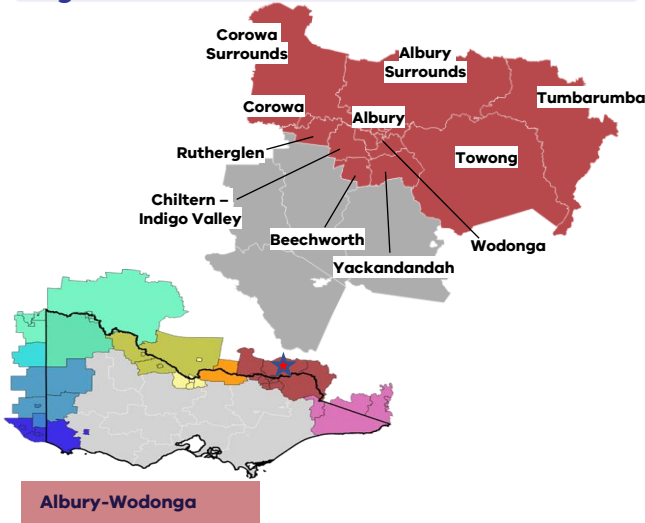
- Several priority sectors identified through the Ovens Murray REDS, including Agri-Food production and advanced manufacturing, are among the region's most productive industries.
- Since 2020, Ovens Murray has experienced strong GVA growth in highly-productive sectors, including: Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (24%) and Financial & Insurance Services (13%) and Advanced Manufacturing (10%).¹
- Continued growth in these sectors will increase the share of economic activity occurring in higher-value, higher-productivity industries.

Skills and innovation are critical enablers of future productivity

- The region's research and education assets such as Charles Sturt University (Wangaratta), La Trobe University (Wodonga) and the Northern Victoria Institute of Technical and Further Education (NVITAFE) provide a strong foundation for workforce capability and innovation.
- Investment in innovation precincts, research partnerships and advanced skills development will support higher-value industries and future productivity growth.

Key assets in the Albury-Wodonga Cross Border Economic Region are fundamental to realising economic growth in the region

Albury-Wodonga Cross Border Economic Region (CBER)



* Note: each colour in the map above denotes a CBER, the Albury-Wodonga CBER is defined by the SA2 boundaries of Rutherglen, Beechworth, Chiltern – Indigo Valley, Yackandandah, West Wodonga, Wodonga, Baranduda – Lenava, Towong, Albury – East, Albury – North, Albury – South, Albury Surrounds, Corowa, Corowa Surrounds, and Tumbarumba.

Opportunities for Economic Growth

- The Albury-Wodonga CBER is well positioned to grow new and existing businesses. The place-based skilled workforce and broad range of training and education offerings ensures the **region is well equipped to capitalize on the growth of advanced manufacturing and new technologies.**
- The Albury-Wodonga Military Area is a major Defence logistics and training hub, hosting Army logistics schools and Joint Logistics Unit operations. The Defence base acts **as a stable economic anchor, driving jobs, spending and business activity across the Albury-Wodonga region.**
- North East Water’s Resource Recovery Hub establishes the regions circular economy **enabling sustainable economic growth and environmental prosperity.**
- **Albury-Wodonga is strategically positioned along major transport routes** between Adelaide–Melbourne and Canberra–Sydney–Brisbane. Road, rail and air links, provide a major competitive advantage across the region for both tourism and industry. The location will ensure the region remains a critical supply-chain connector between the southern and eastern seabords.
- The region’s “Two Cities, One Community” collaboration model **drives innovation and investment in design, funding and delivery** of major infrastructure and facilities.
- Almost \$560m is being invested in redeveloping the Albury Wodonga Regional Hospital.⁵ The project will **enhance health infrastructure through centralised services and expanded capacity,** strengthening the region’s role as a major health hub.



Key Population Centres/ Service Hubs

Wodonga (Vic); Albury (NSW); Beechworth (Vic); Corowa (NSW); Rutherglen (Vic); Wahgunyah (Vic); Corryong (Vic); Howlong (NSW)



Key Tertiary Education Providers

La Trobe University (Wodonga Campus); Charles Sturt University (Albury Campus); TAFE NSW (Albury Campus); Northern Victoria Institute of TAFE (Wodonga campus)



Transport Corridors & Strategic Assets

Hume Rail and Road Corridor; Murray Valley Highway; Riverina Highway; Olympic Highway, Logic Wodonga Intermodal Terminal; Ettamogah Rail Hub; Albury Airport; Nexus Industrial Precinct



Largest Industries and Related Assets

- Health Care & Social Assistance**
Albury Wodonga Health; Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation; Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service
 - Advanced Manufacturing**
Wilsons Transformers; Opal Packaging; Visy Industries; Mars PetCare; XLam; Geofabrics Australasia; Malibu Boats
 - Public Administration & Safety**
Australian Taxation Office, Australian Defence Force, Vic/NSW Government Services
 - Defence**
Albury-Wodonga Military Area including the Army Logistics Training Centre
 - Tourism**
Natural attractions and Cultural experiences (Murray River, Hume Dam, Wonga Wetlands, Yindamarra Sculpture Walk, Burraja Cultural Centre, Bonegilla Migrant Experience)
- Journey to work flows**
- More than 14,700 workers cross the border between Victoria and New South Wales. 55% were outflows from Victoria into New South Wales.⁴ This highlights the interdependence of cross border businesses and communities

Key economic indicators show improvement in socio-economic outcomes.

Metric	Albury-Wodonga
Population ¹ (2025)	156.7k
Population Growth ¹ (2020 – 2025)	5.6%
GRP ² (2025)	\$11.3b
GRP Growth ² (2020 – 2025)	16.4%
Unemployment Rate ³ (Mar 2026)	4.7%
Unemployment Rate Change ³ (Mar 2021 – Mar 2026)	-0.7% pts
Employment Growth ² (2020 – 2025)	10.5%

First Peoples-led economic development in Ovens Murray

The 2022 Ovens Murray REDS identified 6 priority opportunities for First Peoples Economic Development



Natural Resources & Traditional Practices

Identify opportunities to leverage natural resources for economic benefit, including through adopting traditional hunting and agricultural techniques and practices.



First Peoples Land Ownership & Resource Management

Pursue greater First Peoples ownership of land and water to sustainably manage resources.



Cultural Significance, Recognition & Healing

Promote recognition of the land, its waters and its cultural significance to ensure economic activities generate benefits where degradation can be avoided and existing damage healed.



Cultural Practices, Places & Traditions

Encourage the use of cultural places and practices as a mechanism for telling stories, maintaining traditions and creating economic opportunities.



First Peoples Participation across Industries

Enhance First Peoples participation across industries with a particular focus on occupations which serve the local indigenous population and the environment.



First Peoples Economic Participation

Pursue opportunities for greater First Peoples participation in economic activities, including enterprise development and investment, which creates employment opportunities.

First Peoples-led economic development in action

First Peoples-led strategies and investments are building economic capability and creating pathways across the region.



Taungurung Cultural Tourism Program



Taungurung Renewable Energy Investment Strategy

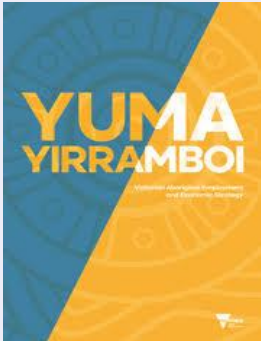


Yorta Yorta Aboriginal Corporation Waka Walla



TVN On-Country Pathways

Evidence of momentum



Key economic indicators show improvement in socio-economic outcomes between 2016 and 2021.



First Peoples participation rate increased by 3.1% points¹



First Peoples unemployment rate decreased by 5.1% points¹



First Peoples 15-24 year olds not in work or study decreased by 1.0% points¹



First Peoples households earning below \$650 per week decreased by 17.5% points¹

Opportunities to strengthen inclusive growth in Ovens Murray

Build on First Peoples Economic Strengths

As an example, First Peoples are underrepresented in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. Approximately 12% of First Peoples workers in Ovens Murray are employed in both the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing and Manufacturing industries, below the region average of 16%.¹ Agriculture & manufacturing are some of the main drivers of economic output in Ovens Murray, and increasing First People's participation in productive sectors such as these can further drive economic growth in the region.

Focus Investment Across Communities

The region contains communities with relatively lower Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) rankings: Wodonga, Benalla and West Wodonga rank in the bottom 20% statewide.³ In contrast, Bright – Mount Beauty, Yackandandah and Baranduda – Leneva rank in the top 30% statewide.³ Over the past 5 years, Alpine, Indigo, Mansfield, Benalla and Towong saw their IRSD rankings improve, whilst Wodonga and Wangaratta observed a decline.³ Ensuring that Ovens Murray's economic growth reaches all communities is essential to realising economic prosperity.

Boosting Female Participation

The female participation rate in Hume is 60%, an increase of 2.0% pts over the last 5 years, a growth rate slightly above regional Victoria (1.9% pts) but below metropolitan Melbourne (2.5% pts).⁴ The female participation rate remains below male participation in the region (66%) and below that of the female participation in metropolitan Melbourne (65%).⁴ Female employment in Hume experienced growth over the past 5 years (8.6%).⁴ However, this growth is below both metropolitan (18%) and regional Victorian (9.2%) averages.⁴ Boosting female participation in the workforce can further enhance economic growth.

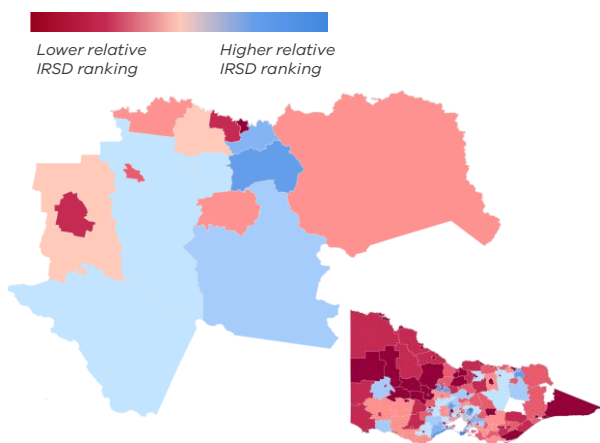
Expand Pathways for Young People in the Workforce

The youth (15-24) unemployment rate in Hume is currently 8.6%, more than twice the unemployment rate of all age cohorts within the region (3.3%). The Hume youth unemployment rate has also increased by 0.9% pts over the past five years, faster than the growth rate observed for all cohorts in the region (0.3% pts).⁴ Supporting the youth workforce can increase labour supply capacity and help to further stimulate economic growth in the region.

Socio-economic conditions vary across Ovens Murray, highlighting opportunities for targeted investment

Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

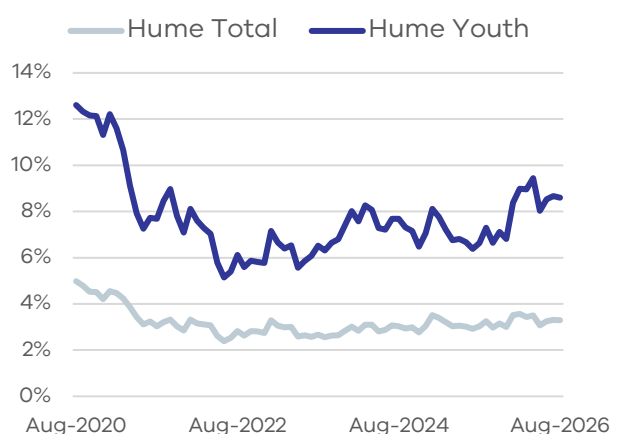
SEIFA, ABS Census (2021), SA2



There is an opportunity to close the gap between the youth unemployment rate in Ovens Murray with the overall rate

Unemployment Rate (%), Youth (15-24) & Total

ABS (Aug-26), Hume SA4



Unlocking affordable housing supply to enable economic growth in Ovens Murray



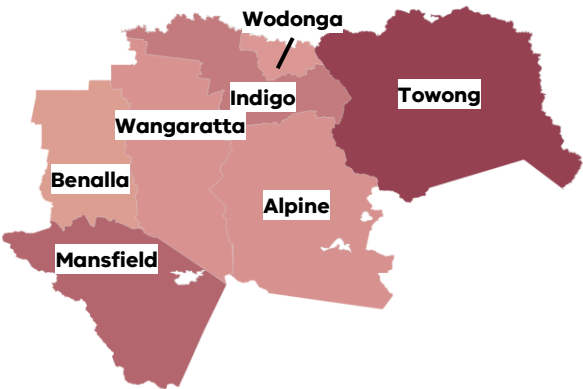
On a per capita basis, Ovens Murray’s availability of 1-2 bedroom rentals is less than half that of metropolitan Melbourne⁶

Limited rental supply has driven significant price growth in Hume, with rents increasing by 48% between 2020 and 2025, over double the rise recorded in wages (17%), and higher than both regional (38%) and metropolitan (44%) averages.⁷

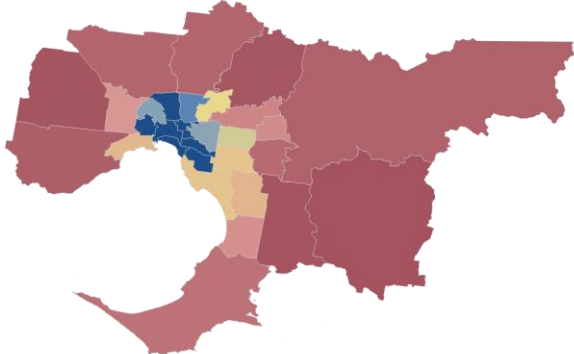
1-2 Bedroom Dwellings to Rent per Capita
DFFH Rental Report, ABS Regional Population

Below Vic Av.      Above Vic Av.

Ovens Murray



Metropolitan Melbourne



Supply shortages of smaller dwellings are limiting the ability for Ovens Murray to attract key workers that are critical to economic growth

- Particularly in tourism hotspots, the prevalence of short-term rentals further constrains long-term housing supply, forcing many workers to travel long distances to their jobs and limiting their ability to contribute to the local economy.
- A growing disparity between housing costs and wage growth impacts workforce attraction and retention, particularly for essential and lower-waged jobs.
- In addition to limited supply of smaller dwellings, insufficient water infrastructure is constraining new housing development across the region. Addressing this critical constraint would enable further investment in the Ovens Murray housing sector.

There are signs that housing supply is improving

- Over the past year, building approvals in the Ovens Murray have increased by 37%, a rate greater than both metropolitan Melbourne (-8.5%) and regional Victoria (26%).¹
- On a per capita basis, Benalla has the second largest building approvals in regional Victoria, and the LGA saw an 82% increase in approvals over the past year, the seventh highest increase in Victoria.²
- However, higher enabling infrastructure costs and cost of building in regional areas can constrain private development, making incentives to build, including infrastructure co-funding, critical to sustaining building momentum.

Government initiatives are supporting additional housing supply

- The Victorian Government's Regional Worker Accommodation Fund is investing \$150 million to deliver housing for key workers in regional communities.³
- The \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund will deliver more than 1,300 homes across regional and rural Victoria through new builds and redevelopment projects.⁴
- The Victorian Government’s housing targets for the Ovens Murray region aim to deliver over 31,700 homes by 2051, close to jobs, services and transport.⁵
- The VicSmart reforms are streamlining planning approvals to accelerate eligible residential developments.

A skilled and productive workforce is key to further drive economic activity in the region

An ageing population is reducing workforce capacity, despite a growing and more skilled population

- Between 2025 and 2036, the share of working age population (15-64) in Ovens Murray is expected to fall from 58% to 56%.¹ With 25% of residents aged 65+ compared to 15% in metropolitan Melbourne, the ageing population in Ovens Murray and many regional areas is placing growing pressure on healthcare, aged care alongside a tightening workforce capacity.
- Increasing female workforce participation represents an opportunity to expand labour supply in the region. Hume's female participation (60%) trails both male participation in the region (66%) and metropolitan female participation rates (65%).⁴

Demand for skilled workers is accelerating in the region's fastest-growing sectors

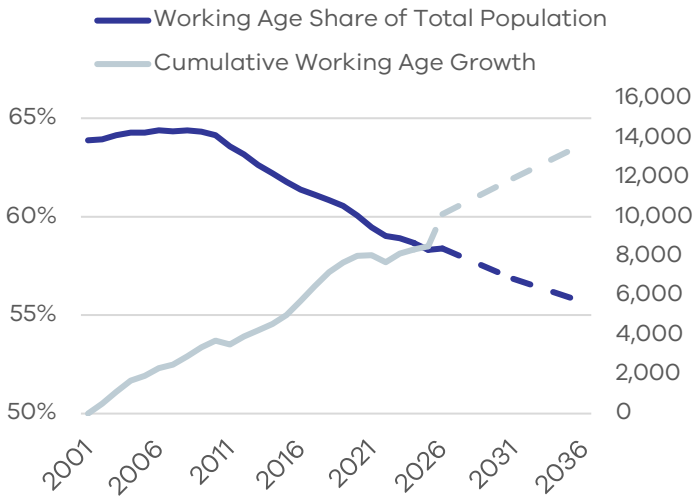
- The opportunity is particularly compelling given the region's industry outlook: Health Care & Social Assistance employment is expected to expand by more than 3,300 over the next decade,³ an industry typically female-dominated.³
- Major institutions including Albury Wodonga Health, Northeast Health Wangaratta, Charles Sturt University, La Trobe University, and Northern Victorian Institute of TAFE play an important role in workforce development, and higher education and vocational pathways aligned to growing and economically significant sectors across Ovens Murray

Government initiatives are supporting workforce growth and skills development

- Free TAFE and the Victorian Skills Plan are helping build the skilled workforce required by regional industries.
- Efforts are focused on aligning training with industry demand, strengthening vocational and higher education pathways, and accelerating skills recognition. including investment in the Wangaratta Tech School, which is strengthening STEM and industry pathways for students across North East Victoria.
- Increasing workforce participation, particularly among women and underrepresented groups, remains a key opportunity to support long-term economic growth.

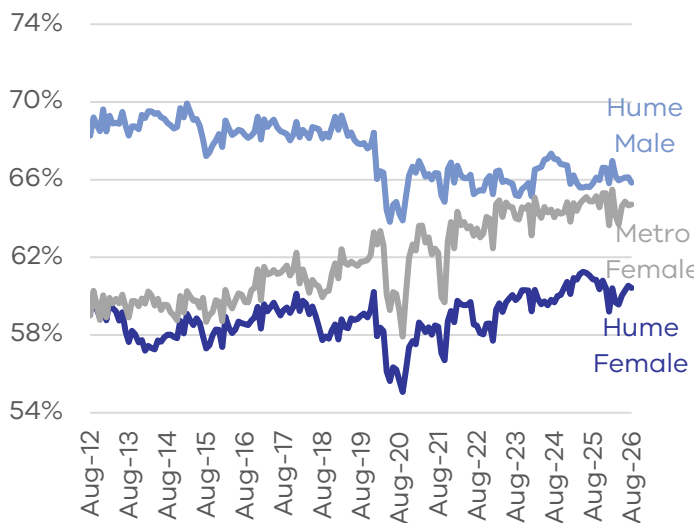
Working Age Population (15-64): Share and Cumulative Growth, Actual and Projected

ABS Regional Population by Age and Sex 2024-25, VIF, Ovens Murray



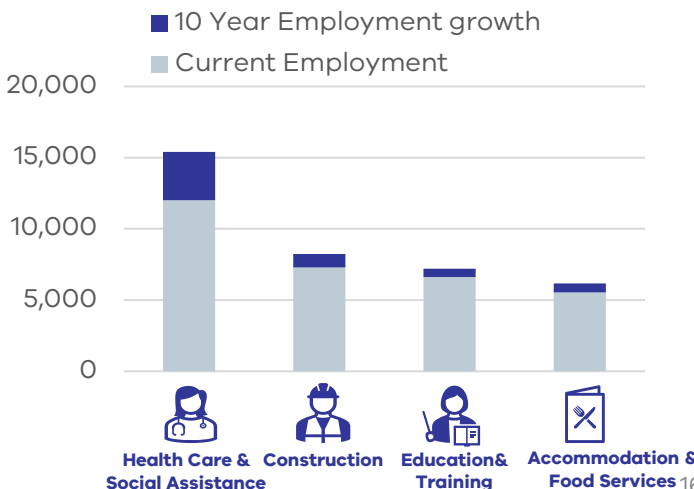
Labour force participation rate

ABS* Aug-26, Hume SA4



Largest projected employment growth

VSA 2025-2035, Industry, Ovens Murray



'A 10-year plan for industrial land' positions state-significant regional industrial land as a key growth enabler



Trunk Infrastructure Fund



The Ovens Murray region benefits from competitive advantages in freight and logistics, with well connected industrial land

Targeted infrastructure upgrades in key industrial precincts can unlock private investment in high productivity sectors, particularly advanced manufacturing, defence and food manufacturing.

In the Ovens Murray region, several industrial precincts play key roles in the state and regional economy, connecting the region to domestic and export markets. The region's industrial geography is centred on the corridor around the Hume Highway and rail freight connections.

The 567 ha LOGIC Wodonga Precinct¹ is evolving into a state-significant industrial and employment hub, providing direct intermodal road and rail freight connections to Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane and Adelaide leveraging the region's proximity to key national transport routes, and the future inland rail project.

- LOGIC Wodonga offers advantages for large-scale freight, logistics, advanced manufacturing, and supply-chain industries with access to a skilled regional workforce and supportive local economic development environment.
- The precinct sits along one of Australia's most important freight corridors, making it a prime location for manufacturing, logistics, transport and training businesses. With excellent road and rail access, tenants can reach more than 75% of Australia's population with next day transport.¹
- The Ovens Murray is establishing itself as a clean economy destination, with Logic Wodonga attracting circular economy and clean energy manufacturing investment, and the region's exceptional topography identified by AEMO as a priority location for future pumped hydro energy storage. In Wodonga, this momentum is being anchored by an emerging circular economy precinct linking Logic Wodonga, North East Water's West Wodonga Resource Recovery Hub and major industry. The Hub is transforming the wastewater treatment plant into a platform for renewable energy, recycled water, biogas, biomethane, heat and biochar opportunities, while nearby major industries such as Mars Petcare and Wodonga Abattoir, together with energy partners, create opportunities for resource sharing, decarbonisation and industrial growth.

The region also contains several further industrial precincts of regional significance.

- The **Benalla Future Economy Employment Precinct** is emerging as a key regional industrial hub, suitable to host several of Victoria's priority industries. The precinct is well positioned to support growing regional industries including advanced manufacturing for green technologies, agribusiness-focused logistics and distribution, renewable energy integration, workforce development for sustainable industries, agri-tech innovation, and the defence industry.

'A 10-year plan for industrial land' positions state-significant regional industrial land as a key growth enabler



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Ovens Murray is leveraging policy and investment to accelerate growth in key industries

- The **Economic Growth Statement (2024)** set out an ambition to achieve higher productivity, improve living standards, wages and competitiveness in a more contested global environment.
- The **Victorian Industry Policy (2025)** provides the framework to deliver on Victoria's economic growth and productivity ambitions.
- The **Victorian Defence Vision 2030** aims to position Victoria as a global defence and national security powerhouse by leveraging its advanced manufacturing, skilled workforce and research capabilities to create jobs, investment and sovereign defence capability.
- The \$150m **Victorian Investment Fund** provides a \$50 million regional stream, and access to the broader fund.¹

Industry opportunities build on the region's capabilities in advanced manufacturing, freight and logistics, and value-added agribusiness, supported by emerging growth in circular economy industries and renewable-powered production.

- Recent and ongoing investments in priority industries, TAFE skills sector, and key industrial precincts will anchor Ovens Murray region's future growth and productivity.
- These industries benefit from the region's strategic location advantage and strong freight connections, cost competitive industrial land and industrial precinct network.
- The region also has an established defence force presence, and adjacent defence sector activities that leverage the region's manufacturing strengths.
- Further opportunities to boost the region's productivity include accelerating industrial technology adoption, and industry collaboration with skills providers including Wodonga TAFE Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence

Ovens Murray region is known for its thriving visitor economy, sporting and nature-based tourism, food, beverages and cultural heritage, with opportunities including:

- Accelerating growth of the **Alpine resorts**, including all-season tourism activation, visitor experience and resort activation, transport improvements and workforce housing.
- Cycling tourism and initiatives supported by the **Ride High Country** campaign.
- The **King Valley**, which is recognised as a standout wine region in Australia and continues to generate strong visitor demand to its nationally renowned prosecco production, cellar doors and vineyard experiences.
- **Cultural heritage and First Nations cultural assets**, historic precincts and the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid, which includes Ovens Murray experiences such as Bonegilla Migrant Experience, Gold Rush, Ned Kelly, Man from Snowy River.

The region plays a key role in Victoria's energy transition and fuel security, with strong potential for renewable energy generation and transmission connectivity.

- Ovens Murray region is designated as a key pumped hydro energy storage (PHES) development zone, with 151 potential off-river PHES sites identified.² This is supported by its mountainous terrain and proximity to existing grid infrastructure including the existing snowy mountain hydro scheme in NSW.³
- Investment in PHES could establish Ovens Murray as a major energy storage hub, delivering outcomes comparable to Snowy 2.0, including up to 4,000 jobs and enough reliable power to supply around 500,000 homes.²

The Ovens Murray REDS 2026 sets out strategic economic development priorities to be delivered across government

REDS 2026 priorities continue to be implemented through RDV's regional network, and facilitated through Victoria's investment and trade agencies, business program delivery, and policy advocacy across all levels of government.



Ovens Murray regional businesses and investors can pursue economic development opportunities through a several Victorian Government agencies and initiatives

- RDV's Hume team are the main point of contact in the region for facilitating and coordinating regional development outcomes: **Contacts and Assistance - Regional Development Victoria**
- A range of **grants and program support** is available to enable economic opportunities across regional Victoria.
- Victoria's **Investment Front Door** provides a single access to point to the Victorian government for investors.
- Support for Victorian Businesses is also available through the **Business Victoria** website including guidance, services and skills you need to successfully start, run and transform your business.
- **REDS data dashboards are available online** providing deeper economic and community analysis and insights into each region.

RDV works across all levels of government to promote place-based policy considerations that strengthen government investments in regions

- The REDS 2026 guides RDV's ongoing work with the Regional Partnerships, Regional Development Australia committees, and in policy making across the Victorian Government.
- Place-based regional opportunities and challenges identified in the REDS Refresh continue to inform the delivery of major energy projects and housing supply initiatives across Victorian Government.
- RDV works closely with Victoria's economic development agencies, including Invest Victoria, Global Victoria and Business Victoria, to advocate for regional economic development opportunities, and ensure that they are informed by place-based regional insights.
- Ongoing work across government towards the delivery of regionally located major projects will maximise opportunities for regional jobs, investment and supply chain businesses.

Appendix

Ovens Murray’s strategic directions, progress since the inception of the REDS and alignment with refreshed policy settings

Strategic Direction	Significance	Development since the REDS	Alignment with government initiatives since the REDS
Expand business and employment opportunities in the transport, distribution and logistics industries	Ovens Murray is home to the Hume road/rail corridor servicing the Melbourne / Sydney and national markets. This strength has seen journey to work employment in the transport, postal and warehousing industry grow by 3.2% ¹ and businesses with 1 to 200+ employees in the industry grow by 1.9% over the past five years. ²	• Expansion of the Logic Wodonga Intermodal Freight Centre — including SCT Logistics' site expansion, demonstrating the precinct's growing role as a key inland freight hub on the Hume Corridor • Relocation and growth of major logistics businesses to Logic Wodonga, including O'Brien Logistics and Opal Packaging establishing new facilities, growing the precinct's employment base • Critical Enabling Infrastructure needs analysis underway to assess requirements for residential, business and industrial precinct growth • Integrated Transport Strategy (draft) and VLOCITY train advocacy and NE Line Upgrade progressed at a regional level • Benalla Industrial and Employment Precinct master planning commenced, identifying future logistics and industrial development capacity	• Inland Rail Program: The Commonwealth's Inland Rail project directly activates the LOGIC precinct as a key southern node, driving intermodal investment and freight diversion from road to rail • Trunk Infrastructure Fund: Enables investment in industrial land, utilities and freight infrastructure to support employment precinct growth and establishment

Ovens Murray’s strategic directions, progress since the inception of the REDS and alignment with refreshed policy settings

Strategic Direction	Significance	Development since the REDS	Alignment with government initiatives since the REDS
Strengthen and diversify the visitor economy through leveraging the region’s nature and epicurean tourism industries	The Ovens Murray region is home to the popular Victorian Alpine Resorts. This is a key asset for tourism during winter and summer periods, with a 2024 economic significance study finding that the Alpine resorts employed over 12,100 FTE and generated \$2.14 billion in economic output annually.¹ This strength resulted in domestic tourism in Ovens Murray generating \$1.5 billion in annual spend the year ending March 2026.²	• Significant investment in Victorian Alpine Resorts product and infrastructure including; Mt Buffalo Chalet Café Redevelopment, Growing Mt Hotham Alpine Gateway Precinct, Dinner Plain Snow Making and Activation, Mt Hotham Snowplay and Activities Hub, Falls Creek to Mt Hotham Alpine Crossing, and multiple RWAF projects at Bogong Village, Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Mt Buffalo Chalet (Belgravia) • Victorian Alpine Resorts worker accommodation will improve through RWAF investment at Mt Buller Village, Mt Hotham and Bogong Village, addressing a key workforce and liveability constraint on the visitor economy • Cultural and heritage tourism product strengthened Victoria Hotel Rutherglen redevelopment, Beechworth Precinct Renewal (Courthouse Kelly Trials Experience), Ned Kelly Glenrowan Project (COVID-19 CCC Infrastructure Stimulus), Winton Wetlands and Surrounds Indigenous Trail, and Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment • Water and trail-based visitor infrastructure developed Goughs Bay Boat Club (RTIF), Lake Sambell Precinct Revitalisation, Lakeside Trailhead and Foreshore Redevelopment, Benalla Foreshore and Splash Park, Murray River Trail Upgrade, Murray to Mountains Rail Trail Enhancements, and Bright Velo (RTIF) • Epicurean and wine tourism supported by the King Valley Prosecco Road revitalisation projects, Casella Wines/Morris Winery Rutherglen whiskey production, Brown Brothers Site Redevelopment • Ride High Country marketing campaign and fund activated, with multiple projects across the region including Ride Chrismont, growing the High Country cycling visitor economy • Victorian Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage Bid advanced, with Indigo Shire’s participation adding cultural heritage credibility to the broader Northeast visitor offer • High Country Visitor Servicing Project and Tiny Towns investments delivered, improving regional visitor distribution and supporting smaller tourism communities	• Regional Tourism Investment Framework (RTIF): Directly funds visitor infrastructure improvement across the region, with multiple RTIF projects delivered since the REDS at alpine resorts, cultural precincts and waterways • Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) establishment and sustainability funding: State Government investment in ARV's operational foundation and water quality infrastructure provides the governance and asset management platform for long-term visitor economy growth across Victoria's alpine resorts • Experience Victoria 2033: Positions nature-based, adventure and cultural tourism as priority growth segments directly aligned with the Ovens Murray's High Country cycling, alpine, heritage and epicurean strengths • Regional Partnership Program (rPPP/LER/ABSP): Multiple funding streams delivered visitor product across the region, including Mansfield Station Precinct, Dinner Plain, Flower of the Alpine Sun and Mt Buller Mountain Bike Trail • Regional Worker Accommodation Fund (RWAF): Investment at Mount Buller Village and Mount Hotham to support the visitor economy workforce

Ovens Murray’s strategic directions, progress since the inception of the REDS and alignment with refreshed policy settings

Strategic Direction	Significance	Development since the REDS	Alignment with government initiatives since the REDS
Expand on existing strength in manufacturing to take advantage of opportunities in new industries	Manufacturing remains a significant driver of economic growth in the region, with manufacturing GVA increasing by 9.6% and employment by 3.1% since 2020. ¹ The sector is the region’s largest contributor to economic output and fifth largest employer. ¹	• NVI TAFE–Logic Wodonga Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence established through Albury Wodonga Regional Projects, building the region's advanced manufacturing skills capability and supporting industry transition at the Logic Wodonga precinct • Heavy Vehicle Technology Program delivered by NVI TAFE and LOGIC, positioning the region as a national centre for heavy vehicle manufacturing capability and workforce training • Mars PetCare expansion (RJIF) at Wodonga one of the region's largest manufacturing employers investing in expanded production capacity and reduced imports • Casella Wines whiskey production facility (RJF) at Morris Winery Rutherglen, diversifying the region's food and beverage manufacturing into premium spirits • Automated Manufacturing Facility at Logic Wodonga Industrial Estate (RJF), demonstrating the precinct's capacity to attract high-value manufacturing investment and expanding the region's packaging and circular economy manufacturing base • Mt Buller Electricity Upgrade (RJIF) delivered, improving energy reliability for alpine resort operations and enabling future electrification of resort infrastructure	• Victorian Investment Fund (VIF): Catalyses private sector manufacturing investment at Logic Wodonga and regional industrial precincts, supporting the expansion of existing manufacturers and attraction of new industries • Economic Growth Statement: Identifies advanced manufacturing as a priority sector, providing policy alignment for the region's strategy to diversify its manufacturing base through automation, food processing and packaging
Support and expand economic and employment opportunities in growing sectors (health, social services, education)	Health Care & Social Assistance and Education & Training are among the largest sectors in the region, accounting for a fifth (20%) of GVA and a quarter (25%) of employment. ¹ These sectors have also seen strong growth, with GVA increasing by 16% and employment by 19% since 2020. ¹	• AW Projects Albury Wodonga Health progressed, supporting the Albury Wodonga Health precinct and health services expansion serving the cross-border population • RWAF Northeast Health Wangaratta delivered, improving hospital infrastructure and clinical service capacity for the Wangaratta sub-region • RWAF Benalla Health underway, improving health facility quality and service access in Benalla • Mansfield Autism Statewide Services: improving specialist disability and autism support services in a regional area with limited access to specialist providers	• Victorian Health Workforce Strategy: Supports recruitment and retention of health workers in regional areas, underpinning Northeast Health Wangaratta, Benalla Health and Albury Wodonga Health's capacity to expand services • Regional Worker Accommodation Fund (RWAF): Directly funded health infrastructure improvements at Northeast Health Wangaratta and Benalla Health, improving facility quality and workforce attraction

Ovens Murray’s strategic directions, progress since the inception of the REDS and alignment with refreshed policy settings

Strategic Direction	Significance	Development since the REDS	Alignment with government initiatives since the REDS
Position the region to benefit from emerging growth opportunities in natural resources	Natural resource endowments in the region support further development of renewable energy. Ovens Murray has a mix of renewable sources available, including hydroelectric power, significant solar, wind and agriculture waste resources. The region already has a strong renewable presence, accounting for 21% of Victoria’s solar energy capacity.¹	• Significant growth in solar farms in the Benalla area, with multiple large-scale solar projects, including the Kiewa Valley Battery Energy Storage System, delivering new investment and land use income to agricultural landholders across the region • Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) submission and feedback provided by OMRP on proposed REZs and Community Benefits Scheme, advocating for the region's interests in renewable energy planning • Pumped Hydro identified as an OMRP advocacy priority since 2022, positioning the region to unlock secure electricity storage and supply to complement its growing renewable energy generation capacity • Victorian Goldfields UNESCO World Heritage Bid advanced, with potential to unlock cultural heritage tourism and associated economic activity linked to the region's goldfields natural and historical landscape • Alpine Resorts continuing activation programs delivered, maintaining and growing the region's snow and alpine natural resources as a visitor economy asset under ongoing climate variability pressures • Falls Creek Land Slip Recovery undertaken, demonstrating the ongoing investment required to maintain alpine natural assets under climate-related hazard risks	• Victoria's Climate Change Strategy: Drives the renewable energy transition that is activating solar, wind and pumped hydro investment across the Ovens Murray, providing the overarching policy framework for natural resource-based clean energy growth • Victorian Renewable Energy Zones (REZs) Program: Designates priority areas for large-scale renewable energy development, providing the planning and network investment framework that enables solar and wind projects in the region

Emerging opportunities and priorities in the Ovens Murray Region

Opportunity / Priority	Significance	Supporting projects and catalysts to support future growth
Unlock industrial and employment precinct growth through critical enabling infrastructure investment	The Ovens Murray region's industrial and employment precincts at Logic Wodonga, Tallangatta, Benalla and Wangaratta provide a strong foundation for economic growth, with mapping underway across all seven LGAs to identify further opportunities. Investment in critical enabling infrastructure particularly water / wastewater, identified as the highest priority is needed to unlock the full potential of these precincts.	Supporting projects (current and since the inception of the REDS) • Logic Wodonga Intermodal / Industrial Precinct: Ongoing expansion of the region's primary freight and industrial hub, with further precinct development dependent on enabling infrastructure upgrades • Tallangatta Industrial Estate: Identified industrial precinct with growth potential subject to enabling infrastructure investment • Benalla Council Industrial Precinct: Active industrial precinct with capacity to grow employment and attract new industry investment • Wangaratta Aerodrome Jobs Precinct: mixed industrial land planning underway with capacity to grow employment and attract industry investment • OMRP Priority Critical Enabling Infrastructure Needs Assessment: Needs Assessment across 7 LGAs and the Alpine Resorts almost complete, identifying priority infrastructure investments to meet housing targets and grow employment districts and large and small industrial precincts across water/wastewater, roads/rail, telecommunications, energy and drainage. Preliminary findings indicate water/wastewater infrastructure is the highest priority Catalysts to support future growth • Victorian Trunk Infrastructure Fund (\$15m): Targeted at supporting industrial precinct development, directly aligned with the region's identified need to unlock precinct capacity through enabling infrastructure • Victorian Future Regions Fund (\$26.5m): Announced investment to boost productivity, liveability and investment in regional Victoria, providing a potential mechanism to fund enabling infrastructure gaps identified through the OMRP needs assessment • Federal Local Infrastructure Fund (\$2b over 4 years): Commonwealth funding to support housing development, directly relevant to the water/wastewater and enabling infrastructure priorities identified as the highest need across the seven LGAs
Accelerate the clean energy transition and circular economy to drive new economic activity	The Ovens Murray is establishing itself as a clean economy destination, with Logic Wodonga attracting circular economy and clean energy manufacturing investment creating new industries and employment opportunities in the region. The region's exceptional topography also positions it as a priority location for future pumped hydro energy storage, with the finalisation of the Renewable Energy Zone providing the policy foundation to accelerate both opportunities.	Supporting projects (current and since the inception of the REDS) • Pumped Hydro (Upper Murray): OMRP advocacy priority led in partnership with Upper Murray Inc., Indigo Power, DEECA and Towong Shire, positioning the region to unlock secure electricity storage and firming capacity to complement growing renewable energy generation • Regional FOGO Solutions: Visioning exercise for regional food organics and garden organics solutions complete across 12 LGAs and Alpine Resorts Victoria, establishing a shared framework for waste diversion and resource recovery at regional scale • Wodonga Circular Economy Precinct: Major project developed with NE Water and stakeholders to establish nationally significant circular economy solutions at Wodonga, including a BioChar facility that converts organic waste into a high-value agricultural and carbon product • Hydroxy Systems Australia at Logic Wodonga: Establishing an innovative, plastics recycling facility within the precinct, contributing to the region's focus on creating a circular economy whilst encouraging innovation and sustainable growth Catalysts to support future growth • Finalisation of the Renewable Energy Zone (REZ): REZ designation provides the planning and network investment framework to activate pumped hydro and other clean energy projects across the region, improving investment certainty • National Electricity Market wholesale market settings review: Recent NEM market reform (December 2025) changes the investment and revenue environment for storage and firming projects, directly affecting the commercial viability of pumped hydro in the Upper Murray • Net Zero targets: Commonwealth and State net zero commitments drive long-term demand for clean energy generation, storage and circular economy solutions, providing sustained policy tailwinds for the region's emerging opportunities • Victorian Household Waste and Recycling Service Standards (soon to be released): Will establish minimum service requirements across Victoria, creating a regulatory driver for investment in regional FOGO and circular economy infrastructure aligned with the Wodonga Precinct and regional 26 FOGO program

Glossary

Gross Regional Product (GRP)	An estimate of the total market value of all final goods and services produced in a specific region within a given period. The major components of GRP are consumption, government spending, net exports and investment. GRP often measures the economic output of a region and is the regional equivalent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
Gross Value Added (GVA)	The value of gross output minus intermediate consumption within a given period. GVA estimates enable analysis of industry contributions to the economy. GVA is an important measure to determine GRP. It is calculated by taking GDP, adding subsidies on products and taking away taxes products.
Visitor Economy	The visitor economy comprises the wide range of industries that provide goods and services to visitors who travel to a destination for a variety of purposes, including leisure, education, business and employment.
Productivity	The productivity measure used in this report is labour productivity, which is output on a per hour worked basis. It is calculated by dividing total GRP in a region by the number of hours worked in said region. For an industry analysis, GVA per hour worked was used, which is calculated by dividing the GVA by the number of hours worked in an industry. Hours worked used were for those in Journey-to-Work employment (see below).
Labour Force Participation Rate	The labour force participation rate shows the proportion of people in the labour force, relative to those who are deemed outside of it. The participation rate is calculated by summing the number of employed and unemployed persons and dividing that by the population aged 15 and above.
Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD)	A general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. The IRSD only includes relative disadvantage. A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage, and a high score indicates a lack of disadvantage.
Employment	Residents of working age who were engaged in any activity to produce goods and services for pay or profit. Employment can be divided up into part-time (less than 35 hours worked per week) and full-time employment (35 or more hours worked per week), as well as Journey-to-Work (where employed persons work) and Usual Residence (where employed persons live).
Occupational Skill Level	Describes the skill level of a person's occupation, where level one is the highest level of skill and level five is the lowest. The skill level is determined from the characteristics of a person's occupation as defined under the Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations. Skilled occupations are defined as level one (bachelor degree or higher qualification) to three (Certificate III with at least two years of on-the-job training and Certificate IV), whilst low-skilled occupations are defined as levels four (Certificate II and III) and five (no formal qualification up to Certificate I).
Working Age Population	The working age population is generally defined as between the ages of 15 and 64 years old. This does not mean people outside this age bracket cannot be employed but rather reflects the age profile of the majority of workers.
Agri-Food Sector	The Agri-Food Sector is defined as the ANZSIC Level 2 Industries Agriculture and Food Product Manufacturing.

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