



BUDGET 2019/20 FACT SHEET

Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership

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

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

The outcomes the Partnership is striving for:

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

Budget 2019/20:

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

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

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



Victorian Budget initiatives that support Partnership priority outcomes include:

- **\$16.7 million** to build the final two stages of the Twin Rivers School project, including more facilities at the new Echuca Twin Rivers Primary School and a new Echuca P-12 Special School on the same site.
- **\$166 million** over four years for a multi-jurisdictional regional headquarter **court facility for Bendigo** and the region. The new court facility will feature eight courtrooms, two hearing rooms, two mediation suites and 16 custody holding cells. The court will bring together a range of specialist court programs and services locally.

Other significant 2019/20 Budget investments in the Loddon Campaspe region include:

- **\$49.6 million** over four years to deliver **better train services** for Bendigo and Central Victoria, including funding to support planning for a Bendigo Line Upgrade and re-establishment of a station at Harcourt. There's also money to construct new stations at Goornong, Raywood and Huntly.
- **\$59.5 million** to build a new rehabilitation centre at Bendigo Hospital, and bring together health services to improve access for recovering patients
- **\$2.8 million** to protect the future of Hanging Rock, including environmental safeguards, greater recognition of Aboriginal cultural significance, and upgrades to facilities
- A share in **\$12.6 million** to **support drought-affected farmers**.
- Loddon Campaspe will also share in funding for regional development priorities across the state, including **\$718,000 for Romsey Ecotherapy Park** and **\$100,000 for community festivals and events** in the Macedon Ranges Shire
- The Government will make a **\$1 million** contribution 10 megawatt **solar farm for Newstead** to assist the town's transition to 100% renewable energy
- Loddon Campaspe sporting groups will receive a boost with **local sport grants for upgrades** to the Carisbrook Recreational Reserve and the Harry Trott Oval in Kennington
- A share of the **\$0.6 million** committed to reduce the regulatory burden on our **dairy industry**
- Bendigo will receive one of three new **regional parenting centres**

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

Loddon Campaspe will share in a range of significant state-wide investments including:

- **\$357 million** toward ongoing **regional road maintenance** to ensuring our highways and connecting roads are safe and well maintained
- **\$27 million** to ensure train **reliability and punctuality of services** is maintained and improved
- **\$340 million for 18 additional VLocity trains** to meet increasing demand across the regional network



- **\$136.2 million** for an **additional 500,000 specialist appointments** for rural and regional Victorians and an easy to access registry for General Practitioners to provide information on hospital waiting lists
- **\$5.2 million** to boost Victorian wine exports through a range of activities trade missions, symposiums and international marketing campaigns to increase export capabilities and capabilities of our wine industry
- **\$5.7 million for collaborative Aboriginal cultural heritage management**, ensuring Aboriginal voices are at the heart of government decision making
- **\$0.4 million for Young Farmer Scholarships** to up-skill the next generation of farmers for continued growth and success of the agricultural industry
- **\$3.2 million to make our farms safer** through continued support to the National Farmers Federation program to improve health and safety outcomes on farms
- A commitment to **upgrade Camp sites and 4WD tracks** across regional Victoria using **\$35.1 million** to improve amenity and support regional tourism
- **\$4 million** to continue the good work of the **National Centre for Farmer Health** to support tailored health promotion
- **\$11.2 million for front line services** in regional Victoria for on ground wild-life management services and minimise the impacts of wild dogs on biodiversity, primary producers and community health
- **\$0.5 million for the Country Women's Association** to support its advocacy and policy work in advancing the rights of rural women in Victoria from 2019 to 2022, and to assist with costs associated with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Conference to be hosted in Melbourne in 2019
- **\$2.6 million for the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme** to continue the provision of subsidies for rural and regional Victorians who are required to travel long distances for medical care



But not all initiatives take new money

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

- Working with the Victorian Government on the development of the **Loddon Campaspe Digital Plan**, currently being progressed through the Connecting Regional Communities Program. The plan identifies infrastructure, supply and demand of services, unmet digital needs and potential solutions, as well as **priority digital projects for Loddon Campaspe**.
- Partnering with the **Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning** to develop a **renewable energy roadmap** for Loddon Campaspe
- Advocating for **improved public transport capacity** and **connectivity and flexible transport solutions** in partnership with the Department of Transport, including engagement with community forums and local government to identify **priority needs for Loddon Campaspe**
- Working with the Department of Education and Training and Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions to develop a **localised Early Years Language and Literacy Strategy**, funded through the Regional Strategic Planning Fund
- Championing the **Go Goldfields** initiative, including securing additional funding of **\$1.4 million** through the Stronger Regional Communities Plan
- Promoting the implementation of the **Healthy Heart initiative**, which received **\$5 million** in the 2018/19 State Budget
- Collaborating with Regional Development Victoria to secure **\$50,000** from the Stronger Regional Communities Plan for the development of a **Greater Bendigo Food Hub**

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

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