

Activity snapshot and opportunities analysis

	Partnership
	Community
	Industry
	Education
	Local Government
	Victorian Government
	Australian Government

Coordinated action across industry, communities, the education sector and multiple levels of government will contribute to achieving the vision and goals of the Transition Plan.

The Activity snapshot and opportunities analysis highlights current activity and potential future activity in the region.

Education and training

Access to relevant study and training opportunities

1. Build understanding of the various growth sectors and associated opportunities across the region and ensure the provision of good quality and specialised educational offerings to satisfy industry and workforce needs.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
Clean Energy TAFE Fund \$170 million to build new and improve existing TAFE campuses as part of a new <i>Building Better TAFE Fund</i> , which includes a \$50 million <i>TAFE Clean Energy Fund</i> . The first investment from the <i>TAFE Clean Energy Fund</i> will support Gippsland TAFE, South West TAFE and Federation TAFE with a range of initiatives focused on renewable energy jobs.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Clean Energy Centre at TAFE Gippsland Morwell Trade Skills Centre \$5 million to Gippsland TAFE to create a Clean Energy Centre at their new Trade Skills Centre, with the fit out and equipment students need.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Develop new VET certificates and other qualifications focused on clean energy The Victorian Government will consult with unions, industry stakeholders, Traditional Owners and TAFEs to develop new VET certificates and other qualifications focused on clean energy. This is estimated to cost up to \$7 million over three years from 2023-24.	Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action / Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Victorian Skills Authority Skills Insights Skills insights provide sector-specific and regional reports, as well as other valuable resources for industry, training providers and employers.	Victorian Skills Authority
Victorian Skills Authority Industry Advisory Groups There are 10 Industry Advisory Groups (IAGs) which are as part of the Industry Engagement Framework. These IAGs	Victorian Skills Authority

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>include industries ranging from construction and health to resources and manufacturing.</p> <p>The members of the IAGs include representatives from industry, unions and employers. The IAGs meet four times a year.</p> <p>IAGs provide knowledge about their industries. This intelligence helps identify priority growth sectors and existing industries.</p>	

Opportunities for action
<p>Prioritise funding to Gippsland TAFEs to deliver education and training opportunities around wind, solar and other renewable energy technologies</p>
<p>Create new training opportunities in Gippsland identified by the workforce development plan for the clean energy industry</p>
<p>Prioritise delivery of VET course offerings focused on clean energy in Gippsland</p>
<p>Develop a program to identify skills in demand for the Commonwealth Games and match people to jobs and training packages, including working with local agencies to engage with young people</p>

2. Provide options for onsite delivery and accessible local courses delivered by quality educators.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>VET Development Centre</p> <p>The VET Development Centre (VDC) administers a range of initiatives aimed at building VET workforce capacity within organisations funded through the Victorian Government's Skills First program.</p> <p>VDC delivers and facilitates professional learning and evaluation activities to the Victorian VET workforce.</p> <p>The VDC specialises in providing fee for service continuing professional learning webinars, workshops, and seminars as well as customised consultancy to the Australian VET sector.</p>	<p>Victorian Skills Authority</p>

3. Provide flexible arrangements and support to allow workers to participate while still employed in their existing occupation.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Graduate placements, apprenticeships, traineeships, structured workplace learning and work experience opportunities in technical and professional roles</p>	<p>Loy Yang B Power Station</p>

4. Provide affordable short courses through Learn Local courses, TAFE and university and more support for students from low socio-economic groups to help address systemic disadvantage and intergenerational unemployment in the region.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Learn Local</p> <p>Learn Local courses are short courses that are offered at low or no cost to eligible adult Victorians.</p> <p>There are a wide range of courses including digital and computer skills, reading and writing, maths, study skills, employability skills, and English language, as well as preparation for various industries such as aged care, food processing, health services, hospitality, construction and warehousing and distribution.</p> <p>There are around 240 not-for-profit community organisations across Victoria that offer Learn Local courses.</p> <p>All of these organisations, known as Learn Local providers, are registered and funded by the Victorian Government, via the Adult, Community and Further Education Board, to deliver Learn Local courses.</p>	<p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organisations • Victorian Government
<p>Free TAFE courses available to people with higher-level qualifications who want to return to study and change the once-in-a-lifetime limit on enrolling in a free TAFE course when they are continuing on select training pathways</p> <p>Removing previous eligibility criteria, making Free TAFE courses available to people with higher-level qualifications who want to return to study when they choose a select training pathway.</p> <p>It means a graduate with an Arts degree would be able to re-train to become one of the thousands of new early childhood educators the state will need in the future.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>Workforce Skills Set Fund</p> <p>The Workforce Skills Set Fund (WSSF) invests in targeted training to meet emerging industry needs, as well as specialist and regional needs for employment outcomes. It complements the Funded Skill Set List (FSSL) launched in February 2021.</p> <p>WSSF will inspire the testing of new models of developing and delivering skillsets.</p>	<p>Department of Skills Industry Jobs Regions</p>

5. **Develop collaborative options with the private sector such as seconding industry experts to deliver training whilst still employed in industry.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>The Gippsland Visitor Economy Digital Training Program will provide 120 tourism businesses across Gippsland with digital skills training and one-on-one, online or on-site mentoring service from a digital tourism expert.</p>	<p>Destination Gippsland</p>

<p>Destination Gippsland as part of the 'Towards 30' Gippsland Destination Management Plan has identified the need to assist current and future tourism operators to develop technical (digital) capacities and competencies, through technical advice, research, and focused workshops.</p> <p>The Gippsland visitor Economy Digital Training Program will address digital skill shortages that are a persistent issue across the region, both in terms of basic digital literacy as well as specific technical skills to support business growth and competitiveness across the region which have been identified in the Gippsland Regional Digital Plan.</p> <p>Education and training will enable local tourism businesses to improve productivity and competitiveness through appropriate and targeted use of digital technologies.</p>	
<p>Broadening Horizons engages Industry and community partners across Gippsland to work with schools to co-design and co-deliver authentic real world problem solving projects for pre senior secondary school students at local schools. Schools and Industry partner to deliver workplace based opportunities with a focus on high demand areas.</p>	<p>Department of Education</p>
<p>Major Project Skills Guarantee ensuring 10% of work hours on Victorian Government procured construction projects is undertaken by Apprentices, Trainees and Cadets</p> <p>The Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG) provides opportunities for apprentices, trainees and cadets to work on Victoria's largest construction projects.</p> <p>MPSG- applicable projects include a requirement for the contractor to deliver at least 10 per cent of labour hours using apprentices, trainees and cadets.</p>	<p>Local Jobs First Commissioner</p>
<p>RUSON model - Undergraduate student employment</p> <p>A RUSON is a person employed by a health service who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • currently enrolled at a university to undertake undergraduate nursing study • registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) as a student nurse, and • who at commencement, has successfully completed not less than twelve months of the Bachelor of Nursing degree. 	<p>Department of Health</p>

Young people aspire to study and work in the region

1. Create and promote clear pathways for young people to study and secure meaningful employment in Gippsland.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
40 new apprenticeship and traineeship positions for young people in East Gippsland and North East Victoria funded through the Bushfire Recovery Fund	Apprenticeship Employment Network (AEN) With the support of funding from the Victorian Government
School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships <p>School-based Apprenticeships are similar to other apprenticeships or traineeships. They are commenced part-time as part of secondary schooling.</p> <p>Students who undertake School-based Apprenticeships or Traineeships earn a wage, work with an employer, and train towards an accredited qualification while undertaking their high school certificate.</p>	Department of Education
Head Start apprenticeships and traineeships <p>Head Start is a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship (SBAT) program that helps students in years 10-12 develop skills, capabilities and confidence that employers in growth industries need.</p>	Department of Education
Establish a Centre of Training Excellence to coordinate and accredit courses in clean energy, connecting with TAFEs, RTOs, unions and the industry – as well as adding clean energy to the VCE Vocational Major	Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action
Disability Inclusion <p>\$1.6 billion investment in supporting students with disabilities rolling out in Victorian Government schools from 2021-2025, with Inner Gippsland from 2023, and Outer Gippsland from 2025</p>	Department of Education
Marrung Koorie Education Plan <p>The Marrung; Aboriginal Education Plan 2016–2026 will ensure that Koorie families, and Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people from other parts of Australia who live in Victoria, are supported to access all learning and development services from early childhood onwards</p>	Department of Education
Local Learning and Employment Network <p>Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN) creates strategic, sustainable partnerships that improve education and transition outcomes for young people, including increasing Year 12 or equivalent attainment rates. LLENs in operating in Gippsland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN • South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN 	Department of Education

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gippsland East LLEN 	
<p>The Youth Employment Scheme (YES) provides young people aged 15 to 29 with an opportunity to work in the Victorian Public Service for 12 months while completing accredited training</p>	Jobs Victoria
<p>VCE and the Vocational Major</p> <p>The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is Victoria's senior secondary qualification. It opens pathways to university, higher-level TAFE or VET certificate courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and the workforce.</p> <p>The VCE has expanded to include the Vocational Major, meaning students can study a new 2-year vocational and applied learning program within the VCE.</p>	Department of Education

Opportunities for action

Allocate funding from the Youth Employment Scheme to provide traineeships in all Victorian public sector departments and agencies in Gippsland

2. **Raise awareness of opportunities through partnerships with primary and secondary schools, local learning and employment networks, career practitioners, educators, industry and government.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>A youth-led initiative addressing the entrenched issues faced by young people in the Latrobe Valley by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> connecting them to employment, education, training, community services and organisations and broader community life creating opportunities for young people to be positively reflected in local media while facilitating pride of place in its young participants <p>The Latrobe Youth Space is a place where young people feel they belong and run activities to help connect youth to their future.</p>	Latrobe Youth Space (LYS)
<p>The Gippsland East 360 Industry & Virtual Reality showcase will raise aspirations of young people, improve their knowledge about local careers and enhance their engagement and connections with industry and technology job opportunities that exist within industries in the region</p>	Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network Inc.
<p>Support year nine and ten students into work experience placements and facilitate school career night visits by the SEC</p> <p>. The Department of Education will facilitate an additional 10,000 work experience opportunities in priority pathways including clean energy. Work experience placements</p>	Department of Education

<p>will be coordinated across the state with public and private sector employers to provide students with a valuable introduction to the world of work, and raise their aspirations for further training and employment. The SEC will visit schools across Victoria to speak to students about careers in this emerging industry.</p>	
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<p>Opportunities for action</p> <p>Increase investment in local programs run by Gippsland LLENs for young people at a higher risk of disengagement from education or the workforce (for example career exposure/work readiness programs like the 'I'am Ready' program for students living with disabilities and the 'I'am Deadly' program for Koorie students).</p>
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Employment

High quality, valued jobs and employment pathways in industries with a long-term future

1. Align education and training to future industry needs to build on our region's strengths and grow employment.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Upskilling for Electricians and Electrical Engineers</p> <p>The <i>Upskilling for Electricians and Electrical Engineers</i> initiative was launched in March 2022 as part of the Government's \$11 million <i>Growing our Clean Energy Workforce</i> training and workforce development package.</p> <p>The extra funding will give the opportunity for more providers, in more locations, to offer the fully subsidised specialist training – upskilling electrical workers in solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery design and installation.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>
<p>Workforce Training Innovation Fund</p> <p>The Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) is a targeted, <i>Skills First</i> funding stream. WTIF creates opportunities for the joint exploration of new ideas and solutions to enhance workplace productivity and employment growth in priority industries identified by the Victorian Government, in collaboration with industry partners and Skills First training providers.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>Wind Worker Training Centre \$6 million towards the establishment of a training centre for workers in the offshore and onshore wind industry</p> <p>Following a competitive process funding will be provided as a capped grant to an RTO, TAFE or other accredited training organisation. Capped grant of \$6 million over four years from 2023-24.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>

Opportunities for action
Further funding to extend the Upskilling for Electricians and Electrical Engineers program in Gippsland
Prioritise funding from the Workforce Training Innovation Fund to projects that support transitioning workers to reskill or upskill for new and emerging sectors.
Ensure strong partnerships are established between the Wind Worker Training Centre and the education and training sector, and industry in Gippsland

2. Ensure that workers are upskilled or reskilled at the appropriate time to balance the decline in transitioning industries with the rate of growth in new and emerging sectors.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
The Skills transition project will map existing skills in coal power generation roles with those needed in offshore wind. The project will identify transition opportunities and what new skills, qualifications and training are needed and should be designed and offered locally to build a clean energy workforce in Gippsland	A partnership between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAFE Gippsland • Federation University • Star of the South • Energy Australia With the support of funding from the Victorian Government
Mapping traditional job and supply chain capabilities with those required to participate in offshore wind to inform training requirements, support worker transition planning and identify current and stretch local content opportunities	Star of the South

3. Build digital capability in the existing and emerging workforce so they have the skills they need for the job they wish to pursue and the options to obtain these skills in the region through vocational and higher education training.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
Digital Matters Digital Matters: live, learn & work in the digital world is a new short course being offered by Learn Locals throughout Gippsland in Term 4 2020 and in 2021.	Gippsland Learn Local
The Gippsland Digital Innovation Storytelling Campaign will address gaps identified in the Gippsland Regional Digital Plan around digital skills for small business by creating a campaign of positive, inspirational, optimistic stories of small business innovation and digitisation across Gippsland, with the goal of improving perception of digitisation as necessary, achievable and worthwhile	GippsTech
Digital Jobs for Manufacturing Program The Digital Jobs for Manufacturing Program offers grants of up to \$5000 to assist Victorian manufacturing businesses adapt to a digital operating environment. The program is open to businesses with a manufacturing presence in Victoria which are on a growth trajectory and are seeking to utilise their existing workforce to apply digital technology to their operations.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions

Opportunities for action
Allow for an increase of enrolments of nominated employees from Gippsland manufacturing businesses to allow upskilling and reskilling of new and transitioning workers
Further funding to extend the Regional Digital Fund to support more digital inclusion and education projects in Gippsland

Grow, develop and retain a skilled workforce to meet the future needs of the region

1. Coordinate workforce development involving employers, unions, the education/training sector and government to:

- understand the current workforce's skills and demographics
- determine future workforce needs and the skills required
- identify gaps
- develop targeted programs to reskill and upskill the existing workforce
- implement training and education for new job entrants to ensure the new energy sector has a workforce with the right skills and qualifications available at the right times.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
The Social Services Workforce Capacity and Capability project aims to grow the pool of trained social services/social work workers to help meet significant current and projected workforce shortages for both child protection and the sector	A partnership between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community service organisations • TAFE Gippsland • Federation University • Latrobe Valley Authority With the support of funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Regional and Specialist Training Fund A targeted funding stream that supports training for specific skills in regional areas of Victoria and specialist areas of industry need, as well as for priority cohorts whose needs are not being met by the current training market.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy The Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy, due for release in the next six months, will outline priorities for schooling, TAFE and training and higher education providers to empower businesses, workers and households to take up the de-carbonisation challenge.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Workforce development plan for the clean energy industry	Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

Opportunities for action
Create new training opportunities in Gippsland identified by the workforce development plan for the clean energy industry
Prioritise funding to Gippsland TAFEs and training providers to deliver specialist training in emerging industries to transitioning workers and those experiencing barriers to employment

2. Continue investment in the lifestyle offerings that will attract and retain sufficient skilled workers in the region.

	No identified actions yet
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Opportunities for action
Gippsland Regional Skills Network to lead the development of a Lifelong Learning Plan for the region in partnership with the Implementation Working Group

3. **Education and training systems must support the skills development needed for inclusive and sustainable growth in the context of twin transitions to digital and green economies**

	No identified actions yet
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Increased workforce participation through accessible employment pathways and inclusive employment practices

1. **Provide support through community networks, organisations and social groups to build confidence, self-esteem and help overcome job hesitancy and disengagement from the workforce.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>The Work and Learning Centre in Morwell helps jobseekers, especially those living in public housing, to find local training, work experience and jobs.</p> <p>Work and Learning Centre staff work with participants and provide tailored advice and pathways, depending on the individual's needs.</p>	<p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gippsland Employment Skills Training • Brotherhood of St Laurence • Victorian Government
<p>TAFE Gippsland's Skills and Jobs Centre provides people with independent advice on study and job options; offering support to those who are looking for training, considering a career change, transitioning or looking for work.</p> <p>Skills and Jobs Centre services can be accessed from any one of TAFE Gippsland's 13 campuses in nine locations, with each centre focusing on local training, jobs and industries as well as connecting individuals and businesses with opportunities within the Gippsland region.</p>	TAFE Gippsland
<p>Reconnect Program is funded to support over 1700 participants each year by assisting participants to overcome the barriers preventing them from engaging in education, training and employment and providing support into further study or employment pathways.</p> <p>Gippsland Employment Skills and Training (GEST), TAFE Gippsland and Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley are all Reconnect providers.</p>	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
<p>Jobs Victoria Mentors help people to become work-ready, find a job that suits them, and support them in their role for the first six months.</p> <p>The Jobs Victoria Mentors service is an intensive, personalised approach to help long-term unemployed or people who face significant barriers to employment into a job.</p>	Jobs Victoria
<p>Jobs Victoria Advocates support people looking for work in their local communities to</p>	Jobs Victoria

<p>connect them with information, support and training.</p> <p>Advocates are a light touch outreach service – basing themselves in public places such as libraries, shopping centres, community events, etc - and provide referrals to participants depending on their needs.</p> <p>Advocates can refer to other Jobs Victoria services, including Mentors or Career Counsellors.</p>	
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2. Design focused programs to increase workforce participation and remove barriers to employment.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>\$6 million for the Regional Hospitality and Tourism Traineeship Program creating 240 new jobs in the hospitality and tourism sectors for priority candidates.</p>	<p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WestVic • Victorian Government
<p>Freight Industry Training for Jobseekers Project</p> <p>The Freight Industry Training for Jobseekers Project will train candidates to secure long-term job opportunities to ensure essential supplies get to where they need to be. The program will focus on women, who currently make up just 16 per cent of employees in the sector, plus other priority cohorts.</p> <p>The \$2.478 million employment project will deliver freight industry-specific training programs in critical areas such as heavy vehicle driving, forklift driving and warehousing</p>	<p>Jobs Victoria/Victorian Transport Association</p>
<p>The programs at the Aboriginal Men's Place aim to provide a safe space for Aboriginal men to gather and create opportunities to receive support, learn skills, engage with services, education and training</p>	<p>Aboriginal Men's Place (Morwell)</p>
<p>Solar Victoria apprenticeships for women</p> <p>Solar Victoria is funding grants for apprenticeships for women, to address both skilled worker shortages and the underrepresentation of women in trades.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>
<p>Building Equality Policy</p> <p>The Victorian Government will create training and employment opportunities for women through government procurement on building, infrastructure, civil engineering and any other capital works projects.</p>	<p>Industrial Relations Victoria</p>
<p>Jobs Victoria is providing \$2.9 million to the LVA to create 100 new entry level jobs in the renewable energy sector and Solar Victoria to support a local battery manufacturer to create 30 new jobs. The jobs will be prioritised for young people, women over 45, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people,</p>	<p>Jobs Victoria/Latrobe Valley Authority/Solar Victoria</p>

<p>people with disability and those who are long-term unemployed</p> <p>Investing \$2.9 million to create 130 new jobs in the renewable energy sector across Gippsland and metropolitan Melbourne</p>	
<p>30 new government operated childcare centres will be established across the State, including two in Gippsland, with plans to determine the location of a further 20 centres</p> <p>The first of the centres will be available in 2025</p>	Department of Education
<p>\$3 million to create 200 new jobs in the social housing sector for priority candidates.</p> <p>Career opportunities are available in tenancy and management, maintenance, cleaning and security roles.</p>	Jobs Victoria/Homes Victoria

Opportunities for action
Further funding to extend the Solar Victoria apprenticeships for women program
Prioritise Gippsland to share in the 20 childcare centres with locations yet to be determined
Prioritise Gippsland candidates to share in the 200 new jobs in the social housing sector

3. Increase opportunities and support for Aboriginal women to participate in the workforce and encourage young Aboriginal people to consider pathways to business and entrepreneurship.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>LaunchMe Microenterprise Development</p> <p>The LaunchMe program focuses on supporting aspiring entrepreneurs to start their own microenterprise through providing free business coaching.</p> <p>The program welcomes a diverse range of participants from backgrounds including, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, women, young people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities.</p> <p>The program is currently being delivered across East and South Gippsland, Latrobe Valley, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shires.</p>	Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand

Support for transitioning workers in traditional industries

1. Where industries are in decline, the workers affected by closures must be empowered and supported to move to a future that they value. This includes career and financial planning, clear pathways to alternative employment, appropriate training and skilling and potentially, redundancy payments.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>\$10 million worker support package for Yallourn workers.</p> <p>Energy Australia launched its \$10 million "Power Your Future" program, providing transition support to workers at the Yallourn</p>	Energy Australia

<p>power station and mine ahead of its planned closure in mid-2028.</p> <p>The program supports any worker that calls Yallourn home, including contractors, with access to services to plan, prepare and train for the future - whether that be a new job, retirement or self-employment.</p>	
<p>Victorian Forestry Plan</p> <p>The Victorian timber industry is transitioning due to a decrease in native timber resources because of fire, wildlife protection and consumer preferences.</p> <p>The Victorian Forestry Plan provides more than \$200 million to support workers, businesses and communities to transition ahead of commercial native timber harvesting ending in 2030.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>
<p>Jobs Victoria Career Counsellors are a state-wide service that provides career guidance to people who are looking for work, want more work, or are seeking a career change.</p> <p>Career Counsellors utilise a range of tools and provide a highly tailored service to each participant, depending on their individual needs.</p>	<p>Jobs Victoria</p>

Opportunities for action

Implement and scale up a Worker Transition Service to provide early planning and support for the needs of all casual and contract workers who work across the Latrobe Valley coal-fired power stations in the lead up to closure dates.

2. **Governments and employers both have a role to play in supporting worker transition and affected supply chain businesses, in partnership with unions, healthcare providers, the education and training sector and community.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>The Local Development Strategy grants program is part of the Victorian Forestry Plan and supports towns to diversify where native timber harvesting is a significant source of jobs and employment. Local Development Strategies have been developed for Orbost, Nowa Nowa, Swifts Creek, Heyfield, Yarram, Noojee</p> <p>The purpose of the Local Development Strategy grants program is to assist communities directly affected by the Victorian Forestry Plan to undertake diversification planning to support their economies transition to new, sustainable industries.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>
<p>Implementation of the Local Development Strategies for Gippsland supported by the Victorian Forestry Plan Community Development Fund and the Forestry Business Transition Voucher program.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>

<p>The Victorian Government is committed to supporting our regional communities to thrive.</p> <p>The Victorian Forestry Plan includes dedicated support to help communities transition. Help is available for communities to plan for their future including how they can create different jobs in their area.</p>	
<p>Victorian Timber Innovation Fund to support businesses affected in transition.</p> <p>The Victorian Forestry Plan assists the industry to transition from native timber harvesting.</p> <p>The Victorian Timber Innovation Grants Program provides native timber industry businesses funds to explore, invest and implement new opportunities.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>

3. **Victorian Government should continue to work with Energy Australia, AGL, industry and training providers to ensure that training and support are available for workers, businesses and impacted community.**

	No identified actions yet
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The economy

A thriving economy focused on identified areas of strength

1. **Use evidence provided through the Gippsland Regional Economic Development Strategy to identify economic development priorities and maximise opportunities in advanced manufacturing and the food and fibre, renewable energy, health and community services, and tourism industries.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Gippsland Regional Organics Infrastructure Upgrade.</p> <p>Significant upgrades to the organic waste recycling facility to increase capacity to recycle organic materials, while creating jobs and investment opportunities.</p>	<p>Gippsland Water</p> <p>With support from the Victorian and Commonwealth governments</p>
<p>Upgrade and extension of the existing Rokeby to Neerim Trail by a further 10kms to the north creating a link to one of Baw Baw's key historic tourism destinations, Noojee</p> <p>The popular Rokeby to Neerim Trail is set for a \$4 million upgrade thanks to funding secured by Baw Baw Shire Council through the Victorian Government's Regional Tourism Investment Fund (RTIF).</p> <p>The RTIF helps fund delivery of high value tourism projects in regional Victoria that activate and revive tourism assets that have a significant impact on the visitor economy.</p>	<p>Baw Baw Shire Council</p>
<p>Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund</p> <p>The Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) is one of the Victorian Government's</p>	<p>Regional Development Victoria</p>

<p>key regional development packages and will be crucial in driving recovery in rural and regional Victoria. It will create and retain jobs, leverage private sector investment, grow and diversify our significant regional economy, enable regional population growth, improve the liveability of our cities, centres and towns, and improve economic and social outcomes for over 1.5 million regional Victorians to make regional Victoria an even better place to live, work and invest.</p> <p>The fund focuses on priority projects to meaningfully support regional communities in their immediate response and recovery efforts, address complex local challenges and lay the groundwork for future growth.</p>	
<p>The Victorian Government will re-establish the SEC with an office in Morwell and initially invest \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 gigawatts through renewable energy projects.</p> <p>An investment of \$20 million will prepare the SEC for its new role in our energy market, including setting up an office at the GovHub in Morwell and an office in Melbourne.</p> <p>The SEC will help deliver the Victorian Government's nation-leading renewable energy and emissions targets</p>	<p>State Electricity Commission</p>
<p>\$6.2 million infrastructure investment into Private Hot Springs developments in Phillip Island and Metung</p> <p>A \$4.7 million boost from the Regional Tourism Investment Fund will help expand the original Phillip Island Hot Springs development, with seven new pools added to the main bathing area, nestled amongst the natural landscape.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>\$4.2 million mountain bike infrastructure investment in the Latrobe Valley and East Gippsland</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>Regional Events Fund including \$8 million Commonwealth Games Top Up Round</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC) project aims to produce clean hydrogen safely, through gasification of Latrobe Valley coal with carbon capture and storage and transport clean liquid hydrogen to Kobe in Japan. HESC is being delivered by a partnership between Japanese and Australian experienced industry partners and supported by the Victorian, Australian and Japanese governments.</p>	<p>J-Power and Sumitomo Corporation joint venture Japan Suiso Energy (JSE) Victorian, Australian and Japanese governments</p>

<p>Opportunities for action</p>
<p>Prioritise funding from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund for Gippsland priority projects</p>
<p>Invest in opportunities to strengthen the circular economy in Gippsland identified by the Gippsland Regional circular economy plan</p>

Maximise opportunities to capitalise on the Gippsland Coast's status as the first declared offshore wind zone in Australia

2. **Build the Aboriginal community's contribution to the economic development of the region through leveraging opportunities in cultural tourism, creative industries, the native plants and bush food sector and business and entrepreneurship.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>The GLaWAC Community Revitalisation initiative is a place-based, collaborative partnership that supports implementation of the Gippsland Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>It also has a focus on establishing a community-controlled governance group that oversees strategy implementation and an Aboriginal small business incubation hub, in partnership with Kinaway.</p>	<p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunaikurnai Land & Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC) • Victorian Government

Increased opportunities for local supply chains and local procurement

1. **Industry and governments should work together to encourage local supply chain participation and support growth aligned to new opportunities in growing sectors.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>New plantation estate including an extra 16 million trees entering the softwood market from 2035.</p> <p>\$120 million, planting an extra 16 million trees in a new estate.</p> <p>The new plantation will underpin 2,000 new and existing jobs in regional Victoria, and cover an area equivalent to 7,000 MCGs. It also has the potential to underpin new state-of-the-art wood processing and manufacturing in the region.</p>	Hancock Victorian Plantations
<p>Farm forestry program in Gippsland.</p> <p>The objective of the 2022-23 grants program is to create farm forestry demonstration sites across the region. These will model the establishment and maintenance of suitable timber tree species and planting regimes that best integrate with the conditions and the unique elements of the participating landholder's property.</p> <p>A future roll-out of the program will incentivise interested landowners to grow plantation forestry trees on their land (beyond the purpose of demonstration plantings) with the intent to deliver new streams of timber and fibre into local markets and industry.</p> <p>Interest in Farm Forestry as a carbon, timber or other environmental market revenue stream is also increasing across the agricultural landscape which provides further opportunities for job creation.</p>	VicForests
H2X Vehicle Manufacturing Facility	Gippsland Circular Economy Precinct Ltd (GCEP)

<p>An agreement has been signed between GCEP and H2X around a plan to manufacture hydrogen fuel cells, electrolysers, hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicles and a range of hydrogen power units, including generators and emergency power supplies in Gippsland.</p>	
<p>Located to the southwest of Sale, the Greater Gippsland Offshore Wind Project involves 139 'bottom-fixed' turbines, two to four offshore substations and associated infrastructure with the capacity to generate up to 2.085 gigawatts of electricity. Several transmission route options are currently being assessed, with a preference for shared transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>BlueFloat Energy is currently preparing an application for Feasibility Licence under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021. This application is due by 27 April 2023, with licences anticipated to be issued in October 2023.</p>	<p>BlueFloat Energy</p>
<p>Gippsland Collaborative Resource Recovery</p> <p>A Business Case has been undertaken to investigate the potential benefits of collaborative or "joint" procurement of kerbside municipal solid waste services across the region's six councils.</p>	<p>Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group (GWRRG)</p>
<p>The Latrobe Valley Energy and Growth Program is currently supporting the development of working examples in the alternate/renewable energy space that could aid transition. These projects are helping to highlight emerging transition possibilities, the knowledge and skills that will be required and potential economic growth opportunities within Gippsland and beyond happening across various sectors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture – dairy energy and efficiency, floating solar on farm dams • Tourism – Mt Baw Baw Alpine Resort • Community – recreation reserves/sporting facilities • Resilience/Emergency situations – energy independent facilities for communities, portable energy generation and storage (trailer) • Built environment – geo-exchange opportunities for lowering energy demand 	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>

2. **Coordinate the timing/staging of projects to maximise an ongoing pipeline of opportunities for supply chain businesses and provide certainty to encourage investment.**

	No identified actions yet
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Driving collaborative innovation to position Gippsland as a Victorian industry leader

1. **Establish partnerships between research institutions, industry and government to foster industry innovation and create potential for generating new jobs and economic growth.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Supporting cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration and boosting innovation in the Gippsland's forestry industry</p> <p>The National Institute for Forest Products Innovation is committed to promoting and encouraging innovation in Australia's forest and wood products industry. The Australian, South Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian Governments combined initial commitment of \$12 million has enabled the three National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Centres to be established. The Centres are based at Mount Gambier, Launceston and Gippsland, and exist to provide a major boost to the forest industries in those regions and the thousands of regional jobs they support.</p>	<p>National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Centre in Gippsland</p>
<p>Feasibility study to farm Barramundi in the Latrobe Valley</p> <p>The \$1.24 million feasibility study will investigate the technical, commercial, social and environmental aspects of a state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) facility</p>	<p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Paper • Mainstream Aquaculture • Latrobe Valley Authority
<p>A program of research, planning and workshops to support the establishment of a Mallacoota Wilderness Co-working and Innovation space. This will guide a larger project to inspire a new generation of businesses in Mallacoota, connecting the community, inspiring innovative thinking and attracting digital nomads to help sustain businesses year-round.</p>	<p>Mallacoota Community Health Infrastructure and Resilience Fund Incorporated</p>
<p>A consortium including Opal, Masdar Tribe Australia and Veolia are partnering to develop an energy from waste facility at Opal's Maryvale Mill. The project has also received approval for a first of its kind in Victoria bottom ash recycling facility.</p> <p>Energy recovery through the proposed facility is an important source of renewable, sustainable energy and a vital link in the waste management chain.</p>	<p>Maryvale Energy from Waste project</p>
<p>Solar Waste Challenge</p> <p>\$10 million Solar Waste Challenge, setting out to invest in innovative solutions to reduce solar panel waste.</p> <p>As Victorians take up the Victorian Government's offers for solar panels at record speed, solutions need to be found for solar panel waste — with more than 187,000 tonnes of solar panels expected to enter Victoria's waste stream by 2035.</p>	<p>Breakthrough Victoria</p>

2. Identify and develop capacity for innovation in local industries and activities that represent genuine competitive advantages.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
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<p>Construction of Australia's first solar panel upcycling plant</p> <p>The \$3.65 million project will provide a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable solar panel upcycling service. Solar panels will be transformed into higher value raw materials for other industries.</p>	<p>Elecsome</p> <p>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government</p>
<p>Small-Scale and Craft Program to support businesses to upscale, expand into new markets and develop individual tourism offerings</p> <p>Small-Scale and Craft Program Stream One: Round Three focuses on supporting businesses to upscale their business, expand into new markets and develop individual tourism offerings. Grants up to \$15,000 are available to eligible small-scale and craft agribusinesses for projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Victoria's small-scale and craft agribusinesses to expand into new markets, to support business resilience, scale-up operations, adopt new technology and increase access for tourism by developing individual tourism offerings • Ensure Victoria continues to be a leader in artisanal produce, with a renewed focus on excellence, resilience, sustainability, local job creation and economic development. 	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>

Liveability

Sufficient housing to improve social outcomes and accommodate a growing workforce

1. Increase housing availability, affordability and diversity to improve social outcomes and assist in attracting and retaining workers.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>\$95 million from the Big Housing Build allocated to build social and affordable housing in Latrobe City, Baw Baw Shire and Bass Coast Shire</p> <p>The investment in Bass Coast Shire, Shire of Baw Baw and Latrobe City Council is part of the Government's \$219 million in grants through the Social Housing Growth Fund.</p> <p>Seventeen community housing agencies will receive funding for planning and construction of 46 projects that will deliver up to 683 homes across regional Victoria.</p> <p>The project sites have been chosen because they have the most critical demand and are close to services residents will need.</p>	<p>Homes Victoria</p>

Opportunities for action

Explore opportunities to prioritise multi-unit developments that meet the needs of diverse groups including young people, elderly people, key workers, people on low incomes or people who either need, or preference a low maintenance property.

2. **Local and State governments should examine ways land-use planning and regulations can be reworked to unlock further land for residential growth and address out of sequence and infrastructure costs.**

	No identified actions yet
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Opportunities for action

Streamline the process for rezoning land already identified for housing growth and which has been assessed for natural hazard risk.

Funding mechanism to resolve funding and coordination issues faced in the delivery of enabling infrastructure to unlock and expedite residential development.

3. **Repurpose the athlete's accommodation being built for the Commonwealth Games in 2026 to provide a positive legacy following the Games.**

	No identified actions yet
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A healthy and attractive natural environment

1. **Develop agricultural, tourism, energy production, extractives and manufacturing opportunities in a responsible and considered way to help protect our region's flora and fauna and improve the health and wellbeing of our community by restoring landscapes and reducing pollution of our water, air and soil.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Installation of a 2.2MW bioenergy facility, and a 10MW biomass boiler which will use waste to make heat, replacing natural gas at a dairy processing plant in Gippsland.</p> <p>In Gippsland, \$10 million will go towards Innovating Energy to install a 2.2MW bioenergy facility, and a 10MW biomass boiler which will use waste to make heat, replacing natural gas at a dairy processing plant in Gippsland.</p>	<p>Innovating Energy</p> <p>with \$10 million funding support from the Victorian Government Energy Innovation Fund</p>
<p>Neighbourhood Battery Initiative</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Battery Initiative provides funding for pilots, trials and demonstrations of neighbourhood-scale battery ownership and operational models.</p>	<p>Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action</p>
<p>\$23 million investment for Wilsons Promontory Revitalisation</p> <p>A \$23 million project that will provide a boost to the visitor experience at Wilsons Promontory National Park is underway, with consultants sought to design, develop and further investigate park upgrades as part of the large-scale project.</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>
<p>\$7.5 million investment into the Croajingolong Coastal Wilderness Walk</p> <p>Secured \$7.5 million funding support in the 2022–23 State Budget to continue the development of the Croajingolong Coastal</p>	<p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions</p>

Wilderness Walk – identified as a hero project in the Destination Management Plan.	
Moe Fire Station Land has been acquired for a new fire station at Moe (Gunaikurnai Country). Works on the new station are set to start in 2023.	Department of Justice and Community Safety
Victoria's Immediate Protection Areas program The Victorian Government is immediately protecting more than 96,000 hectares of high conservation value forest from commercial timber harvesting in Immediate Protection Areas. This is in addition to existing protections and brings the total area of forest protected in Immediate Protection Areas to more than 146,000 hectares. The Gippsland region has 70,000ha of State forest that is protected from timber harvesting under the Victorian Forestry Plan. The Victorian Government is funding a consultation process, undertaken in partnership with Traditional Owners, to determine the future use and management of the Immediate Protection Areas.	Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action
The Gippsland Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy provides practical ways for communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change through on-ground action. It aims to build awareness and understanding of climate change impacts, and encourages collective effort to build resilience to the effects of climate change. The Adaption Strategy complements the seven state-wide Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans released in February 2022 with a place-based approach.	Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

An inclusive and safe built environment that is appreciated by and caters to the needs of the community

1. Improve the built environment to provide attractive, easily accessible and safe public spaces for community gathering.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
Baw Baw Culture and Connection Precinct Advocacy for the project which aspires to build on existing underutilised areas surrounding the West Gippsland Arts Centre and Civic Park to create a new civic and community building, improve open spaces and maximise opportunities for community connectedness.	Baw Baw Shire Council
Growing Regions Program The Australian Government has committed to establish the new Growing Regions Program to deliver investment in regional infrastructure and community projects. This will help drive regional economic prosperity by providing access to funding for	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

capital works for community and economic infrastructure across our rural and regional areas.	
<p>Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program</p> <p>The program will provide funding for regional infrastructure and community projects with a focus on net-zero emissions, a decarbonised economy and sustained regional growth.</p> <p>The program will invite proposals from State, Territory and Local Governments, as well as not-for-profit organisations, to come together in genuine collaboration to apply for a Precinct Partnership.</p>	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

2. **Continue early and meaningful engagement with directly affected landowners, communities and Traditional Owners to minimise negative impacts and maximise benefits from new energy projects and transmission line developments.**

	No identified actions yet
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3. **Utilise visitor accommodation for Commonwealth Games visitors to help address the shortage of suitable visitor accommodation in the region.**

	No identified actions yet
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Empowered and thriving communities that are diverse and socially cohesive

1. **Promote, foster and value diversity in Gippsland's communities.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Connecting, celebrating and advocating for LGBTQI Gippslanders through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • events • education and collaboration with existing services, groups and government agencies • development of resources • community-led advocacy. 	Gippsland Pride Initiative
<p>Funding for Pride events across Gippsland including the Gippsland Ranges Roller Derby's Pride Cup 2023, Gippsland Pride Festival and Gippsland's Day Out.</p>	Department of Families, Fairness & Housing

2. **Provide safe and culturally responsive social support and celebrate diversity through events, activities and experiences to boost awareness of and participation by culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Gippsland Multicultural Partnership Planning Initiative assists refugee, resettled, CALD and migrant communities and funded providers to identify critical service gaps and implement evidence-based projects to improve responsiveness to targeted communities.</p>	<p>Led by the Latrobe Community Health Service, partners include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latrobe City Council, • Centre for Multicultural Youth • Gippsland Ethnic Communities Council <p>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government</p>

<p>Regional Presence Project (RPP) delivers a range of activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen connections between young people and their communities elevate the voice of young people in community decision making strengthen the capacity of the rural and regional youth sector connect young people to education, training and employment opportunities <p>CMY has a particular focus on multicultural young people and working with local services to increase access to culturally appropriate support.</p>	<p>Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) Morwell</p>
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3. **Provide accessible social and community activities catering to aged, First Nations, people living with disabilities, gender diverse families, young and LGBTIQ+ people to support more socially cohesive communities with strengthened inclusion and greater community connection.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Neighbourhood Houses bring people together to connect, learn and contribute to their local community through social, educational, recreational and support activities. Multiple Neighbourhood Houses are located in the six LGAs across Gippsland.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood House</p>
<p>The Connecting On-line Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland project will develop a website for Gippsland's Neighbourhood Houses to promote courses and events, volunteer opportunities and resources for communities and Neighbourhood Houses.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland Inc.</p>
<p>Human Connections in Latrobe: A local approach for local communities</p> <p>Building on the mental health priority project, the Human Connections campaign takes a place-based approach to identify opportunities to increase social connections across Latrobe and build on existing relationships, social networks and work occurring with local community groups and through funded services.</p> <p>The Human Connections in Latrobe Project is a collaborative campaign between agencies operating within the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone and takes a place-based approach to identify opportunities to increase social connections and community participation across Latrobe.</p>	<p>Latrobe Health Advocate</p>

Accessible and inclusive services for health and wellbeing

1. **Provide training and accreditation pathways for healthcare practitioners and attract skilled workers for hard-to-fill positions in allied health, social work and general practice to meet increased demand for healthcare and community services support as the population ages.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
<p>Federation University commitment to introduce a locally available social work</p>	<p>Social services workforce Capacity and Capability</p>

bachelor's degree in Gippsland, potentially from 2024	
\$610 – \$675 million to build a new hospital in West Gippsland, located in Drouin East	Department of Health
Improving access to services in Latrobe In her 2019-20 Statement of Intent to the Victorian Minister for Health the Advocate named Access to Services as a priority project. Extensive engagement with communities and systems stakeholders has been occurring since 2018.	Latrobe Health Advocate
\$217 million upgrade of Latrobe Regional Hospital	Department of Health
Study nursing and midwifery free Future nurses and midwives undertaking an undergraduate degree in nursing and midwifery will study for free, providing they join a public health service upon completion and stay for two years.	Department of Health
\$6.5 million for a new emergency department mental health hub at the Latrobe Regional Hospital	Department of Health
Through the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone, work is underway to systematically and pragmatically build a common understanding of how a social determinants of health (SDH) approach may be used to measure, monitor and improve the health and well-being of residents and communities of the Latrobe Valley. As the SDH work matures, there is an opportunity to scale the work out across the Gippsland region, emphasise the social determinants within the areas of focus in the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition plan, and use data generated by social determinants reporting to grow the evidence base to encourage collaboration for targeting effort, advocacy and investment.	Latrobe Health Advocate

Integrated transport for access to jobs, education and services

1. Increase provision and access of frequent, reliable and affordable public transport across the region to enable equitable participation in education and the workforce, and access to healthcare and services

Current activity	Responsible Partner
One, seven- and 30-Day Travel Pass helping vulnerable Victorians stay connected Travel Pass tickets are making it possible for disadvantaged Victorians to use public transport to access vital services and to actively engage with the community. Travel Pass tickets—available as 1-Day, 7-Day and 30-Day tickets—are sold by Department of Transport and Planning to approved community service organisations and education providers who issue them to	Public Transport Victoria

their clients and students free of charge. Education providers must be authorised to do so by the Head, Transport for Victoria.	
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Opportunities for action
Build on the Transport Solutions for South Gippsland and Bass Coast service example to develop local transport solutions to improve student access to new education and training opportunities.
Explore options to maintain some of the increased in region transport services implemented for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to provide a positive legacy for the region by enhancing community access to employment, education and services.

2. Improve transport infrastructure and rail services between Melbourne and Gippsland to:

- **attract skilled workers and students to the region**
- **enable access to healthcare and services**
- **support flexible working options that enable people to commute for work or study**
- **support the visitor economy by encouraging increased visitation to Gippsland.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
Gippsland Rail Line upgrades being delivered as part of the Regional Rail Revival program with a joint investment by the Australian and Victoria governments of more than \$4 billion The Australian and Victorian governments have invested more than \$4 billion in the Regional Rail Revival program, which is upgrading every regional passenger rail line in Victoria and creating jobs and supplier opportunities.	Rail Projects Victoria (RPV)
Reduce the maximum regional public transport fare across the state to the same as a zone 1+2 daily myki fare.	Department of Transport and Planning

Opportunities for action
Provide rolling stock to implement 40 minute off-peak services and further infrastructure development to implement 20 minute peak and additional services to Bairnsdale aligned with the aims in the Victorian Government's Connect Regional Victoria Regional Network Development Plan
Explore options to maintain some of the increased transport services implemented for the 2026 Commonwealth Games to provide a positive legacy for the region.

Reliable digital connectivity to enable businesses and the community to access the full benefits of digital innovation and inclusion

1. Improve reliable high-capacity digital connectivity and capability in the region to:

- **increase opportunities for flexible work and study, making the region an attractive option for workers looking to relocate**
- **keep young people engaged in learning and encourage further study**
- **increase digital inclusion and literacy for the region's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population**
- **expand technology adoption, which in turn will lead to increased productivity and enable the region's businesses to remain competitive while widening access to new markets.**
- **provide better connectivity for emergency services, communities and businesses during emergencies.**

Current activity	Responsible Partner
Connecting Victoria Program The Victorian Government is fast-tracking better mobile coverage and broadband across the state through the \$550 million Connecting Victoria program.	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions
Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia The Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia is providing \$656 million to improve mobile and broadband connectivity and resilience in rural and regional Australia.	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Opportunities for action
Monitor and review gaps in broadband and mobile coverage, speed, and reliability, and whether available technologies meet changing business and community needs.

Coordination, collaboration and shared leadership

Clear roles and responsibilities across industry, education, community and governments

1. Provide clarity and coordination of roles and responsibilities.

Current activity	Responsible Partner
The LVA will lead implementation of the Plan, communicate, monitor and evaluate outcomes, and support the Minister for Regional Development to champion and publicly report on the Plan's progress.	Latrobe Valley Authority
Facilitate ongoing communication and engagement with Gippsland's communities in partnership with the Implementation Working Group.	Latrobe Valley Authority