

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



The Implementation Plan highlights current activity in the region that is supporting transition in Gippsland. It also highlights state-wide activity that has the potential to support transition through implementing the goals and recommendations of the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan.

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 Implementation Plan will be regularly reviewed and updated as new activities are confirmed.

**PARTNERSHIP**

**COMMUNITY**

**INDUSTRY**

**EDUCATION**

**LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT**

**VICTORIAN  
GOVERNMENT**

**AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT**

# 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                                                                                                |
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| <p><b>Clean Energy TAFE Fund</b></p> <p>\$170 million to build new and improve existing TAFE campuses as part of a new Building Better TAFE Fund, which includes a \$50 million TAFE Clean Energy Fund. The first investment from the TAFE Clean Energy Fund will support Gippsland TAFE, South West TAFE and Federation TAFE with a range of initiatives focused on renewable energy jobs.</p>                                                                                                                                      | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                          |
| <p><b>Clean Energy Centre at TAFE Gippsland Morwell Trade Skills Centre</b></p> <p>\$5 million to TAFE Gippsland to create a Clean Energy Centre at their new Trade Skills Centre, with the fit out and equipment students need.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                          |
| <p><b>Develop new VET certificates and other qualifications focused on clean energy</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action / Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p> |
| <p><b>Victorian Skills Authority Skills Insights</b></p> <p>Skills insights provide sector-specific and regional reports, as well as other valuable resources for industry, training providers and employers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>Victorian Skills Authority</p>                                                                                  |
| <p><b>Victorian Skills Authority Industry Advisory Groups</b></p> <p>There are 10 Industry Advisory Groups (IAGs) which are part of the Industry Engagement Framework. These IAGs include industries ranging from construction and health to resources and manufacturing. The members of the IAGs include representatives from industry, unions and employers. The IAGs meet four times a year. IAGs provide knowledge about their industries. This intelligence helps identify priority growth sectors and existing industries.</p> | <p>Victorian Skills Authority</p>                                                                                  |

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

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Responsible Partner               |
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| <p><b>VET Development Centre</b></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. VDC delivers and facilitates professional learning and evaluation activities to the Victorian VET workforce. 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                                           |
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| <p><b>Career Opportunities at Loy Yang B</b></p> <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>                               |
| <p><b>Victorian Forestry Workers Support Program</b></p> <p>Includes training to assist workers with recognition of prior learning and training activities.</p>                                                  | <p>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</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                                                                |
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| <p><b>Learn Local</b></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:<br/>Community organisations<br/>Victorian Government</p> |
| <p><b>Free TAFE courses</b></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 &amp; Regions</p>                          |
| <p><b>Workforce Skills Set Fund</b></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 Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; 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                         |
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| <p><b>The Gippsland Visitor Economy Digital Training Program</b></p> <p>Providing 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 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><b>Destination Gippsland</b></p>         |
| <p><b>Broadening Horizons</b></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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>Department of Education</b></p>       |
| <p><b>The Major Projects Skills Guarantee</b></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><b>Local Jobs First Commissioner</b></p> |
| <p><b>RUSON model - Undergraduate student employment</b></p> <p>A RUSON is a person employed by a health service who is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>currently enrolled at a university to undertake undergraduate nursing study</li> <li>registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as a student nurse</li> <li>who at commencement, has successfully completed not less than 12 months of the Bachelor of Nursing degree.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>Department of Health</b></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                                                                                                    |
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| <p><b>Apprenticeships and traineeships</b></p> <p>40 new apprenticeship and traineeship positions for young people in East Gippsland and North East Victoria funded through the Bushfire Recovery Fund.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><b>Apprenticeship Employment Network (AEN)</b></p> <p>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government</p> |
| <p><b>School-Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships</b></p> <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> | <p><b>Department of Education</b></p>                                                                                  |

### Head Start apprenticeships and traineeships

Head Start is a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship program that helps students in years 10-12 develop skills, capabilities and confidence that employers in growth industries need.

Department of Education

### SEC Centre of Training Excellence

Will coordinate and accredit courses in clean energy, connecting with TAFEs, registered training organisations (RTOs), unions and the industry – as well as adding clean energy to the VCE Vocational Major.

Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

### Disability Inclusion

A \$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

Department of Education

### Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan

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.

Department of Education

### Local Learning and Employment Network

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 operating in Gippsland are:

- Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN • South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN • Gippsland East LLEN.

Department of Education

### Youth Employment Scheme (YES)

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

Jobs Victoria

### VCE and the Vocational Major

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.

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.

Department of Education

### The Community Health Nurses in Primary Schools program

The program provides health supports to children who are at an increased risk of poor health and wellbeing outcomes to help them thrive at school.

Latrobe Community Health Service delivers the program, which integrates a community nurse into 9 primary schools in the Latrobe Valley. The place-based service at the schools builds trust with students, families and school staff over a sustained period of time.

A partnership between:  
Latrobe Health Assembly  
Department of Education  
Community

### Latrobe Valley Imagination Library

The Latrobe Valley Imagination Library was established to combat low literacy levels in the Latrobe Valley. The project aims to improve literacy levels in children by providing pre-school aged children access to books, along with advice for parents to help encourage their children to read.

Latrobe Health Assembly

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Responsible Partner                                                                                            |
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| <p><b>The Little Village Project</b></p> <p>The project is a community-led initiative that provides timely and effective interventions to vulnerable children. It aims to address barriers impacting a child's ability to participate fully in their education, with a long-term view to increasing their academic attainment.</p> <p>The project works through a partnership model between school staff, community based service providers, and the Department of Education to identify children who need support.</p> | <p>A partnership between:<br/> <b>Latrobe Health Assembly</b><br/> <b>Latrobe Community Health Service</b></p> |

**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                                                                                                 |
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| <p><b>The Gippsland East 360 Industry &amp; Virtual Reality showcase</b></p> <p>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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Gippsland East Local Learning and Employment Network Inc.</p>                                                    |
| <p><b>Work experience placements and school career night visits by the SEC</b></p> <p>The Department of Education will facilitate an additional 10,000 work experience opportunities in priority pathways including clean energy. Work experience placements 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> | <p>Department of Education</p>                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Gippy Youth New Energy Jobs Summit</b></p> <p>The summit gathers year 9 to 12 students across Gippsland to engage with new energy industries in the region. It showcases the many job opportunities for young people in Gippsland that will be created by the move to renewable energy.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>A partnership between:<br/> <b>Industry</b><br/> <b>Community Education</b><br/> <b>Victorian Government</b></p> |
| <p><b>Senior Secondary Pathways Reform</b></p> <p>The Senior Secondary Pathways Reform will improve access to Vocational Education and Training delivered to school students. It will pilot a vocational experience program to support pre-senior secondary career planning and participation in industry and related vocational pathway immersion programs.</p> <p>Funding is also provided to enhance the perception and accessibility of vocational and applied learning, as well as career education, and challenging gender biases.</p>                                                    | <p>Department of Education</p>                                                                                      |
| <p><b>Strengthening ongoing support for Tech Schools</b></p> <p>The Victorian Government will contribute to expand the reach of Tech Schools across Victoria, supporting regional and rural students to access Mobile Tech Schools, the Tech Schools Virtual and Remove program and STEM camps to enable participation, immersion and future careers in STEM.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Department of Education</p>                                                                                      |

# 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                                           |
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| <p><b>More apprenticeships for workforce priorities</b></p> <p>The 2024-25 Victorian Budget provides funding to support apprenticeships, trainees, and their employers, focusing on areas with skill shortages through a new Priority Apprenticeship Pathway model. Apprenticeships Victoria will provide system stewardship and dedicated support to apprentices and trainees most at risk of not completing their training through the Apprenticeship Support Officer program.</p> <p>Apprenticeships Victoria will also implement a place-based model, including establishing a Gippsland team based in Morwell.</p> | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>     |
| <p><b>Upskilling for Electricians and Electrical Engineers</b></p> <p>The Upskilling for Electricians and Electrical Engineers initiative was launched in March 2022 as part of the Victorian Government's \$11 million Growing our Clean Energy Workforce 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 &amp; Climate Action</p> |
| <p><b>Workforce Training Innovation Fund</b></p> <p>The Workforce Training Innovation Fund (WTIF) is a targeted, Skills First 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 &amp; Regions</p>     |
| <p><b>Wind Worker Training Centre</b></p> <p>\$6 million towards the establishment of a wind worker training centre. This will assist workers in Gippsland to get the skills they need for jobs in offshore and onshore wind.</p> <p>Following a competitive process funding will be provided as a capped grant of \$6 million over 4 years from 2023-24 to an RTO, TAFE or other accredited training organisation.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</p> |
| <p><b>Industry Development Fund</b></p> <p>Funding up to \$10,000 to individuals working in, seeking work in, or studying manufacturing to develop skills and knowledge through research, education and/or training.</p> <p>Applications are encouraged from individuals employed or seeking employment in the Australian manufacturing industry seeking support for individual skilling and development.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Manufacturing Skills Australia</p>                         |

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                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <p><b>Skills transition project</b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p><b>A partnership between:</b><br/> <b>TAFE Gippsland, Federation University, Star of the South, Energy Australia</b><br/> <b>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government</b></p> |
| <p><b>Job and supply chain mapping</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                      | <p><b>Star of the South</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <p><b>Forestry Transition Worker Support Program</b></p> <p>Supporting workers in the native timber industry to re-skill and find new work.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</b></p>                                                                                                                              |

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                                              |
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| <p><b>The Gippsland Digital Innovation Storytelling Campaign</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>GippsTech</b></p>                                          |
| <p><b>Digital Jobs for Manufacturing Program</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p> |
| <p><b>Digital Jobs</b></p> <p>The Digital Jobs program is upskilling 5,000 talented mid-career Victorians to transition into high-demand jobs in the digital economy. Employers receive a \$5,000 wage subsidy through the program for each 12-week work placement or entry level job offered to a program participant and have the option to retain the participant as an ongoing employee. Digital Jobs participants complete a free 12-week training course prior to applying for a work placement opportunity. Each course is industry-backed and delivered by a leading university, TAFE or private training provider.</p> | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p> |



## 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                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <p><b>Social Services Workforce Capacity and Capability</b></p> <p>This 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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>A partnership between:</b></p> <p>Community service organisations, TAFE Gippsland, Federation University<br/>With the support of funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing</p> |
| <p><b>Regional and Specialist Training Fund</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy</b></p> <p>The Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy is a 10-year framework to inform government planning and investment in the skills and training Victoria requires to reach net-zero emissions.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                                                                                                                |
| <p><b>Victorian Energy Jobs Plan</b></p> <p>The Victorian Government is developing the Victoria Energy Jobs Plan (VEJP) to plan for the future renewable energy workforce. The VEJP will identify ways to attract workers, establish education pathways, improve workplaces, benefit local communities, and provide market certainty. It will address themes such as First People's self-determination, community empowerment, gender diversity in the energy sector, and adapting to changes in work patterns.</p> <p>Through the VEJP, Victorians will be supported in seizing educational, training, and job opportunities arising from the energy transition. The plan will focus on practical steps to fill gaps and improve coordination, with a release scheduled for early 2025.</p> | <p>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</p>                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Regional Tourism Industry Development</b></p> <p>Victoria's regional cities and towns need the best skills, workforce and capacity. The Victorian Government will invest \$5 million for Regional Tourism Industry Development to help regional tourism businesses grow and thrive.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                                                                                                                |

## Clean Energy Capacity Study

The capacity study looks at the workforce needs for Australia's transition to a clean energy economy through:

- clarifying what jobs and industries make up Australia's clean energy workforce
- analysing different scenarios for how we could reach net zero by 2050, understanding how many workers will be needed (and where) and who will have the skills to take on those jobs
- exploring how the workforce opportunities created by clean energy can be shared across regions and with First Nations Australians, women, people with disability and Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- examining the possibilities for workers in emission intensive sectors to transition to new roles in their communities that will build on their existing skills and experience
- identifying the education, training and migration pathways that we should be developing, and the underlying system settings needed to enable those pathways.

Jobs and Skills  
Australia

## Skills First Skill Setst

The Victoria Government introduced Skills First Skill Sets to support more Victorians to access training directly linked to immediate job opportunities and government priorities. These accredited short courses provide flexible, rapid training to address skill shortages and meet emerging skills or knowledge needs in a changing economy.

Skills First Skill Sets support, rather than replace, full qualifications and provide Victorians with training pathways to a broader array of skills and capabilities. A total of 10 Skill Sets are now available fee-free under the Free TAFE initiative.

The government has announced nearly \$9 million to support TAFEs, universities, training providers and industry to establish practical Skill Labs where new Skill Sets can be developed. The funding includes \$3.45 million to establish 3 Clean Economy Skill Labs - hosted by TAFE Gippsland and Melbourne Polytechnic - to develop training in offshore wind, circular design, manufacturing and meeting net-zero emissions targets.

Department of Jobs,  
Skills, Industry  
& Regions

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

Working to identify actions.

### 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

Working to identify actions.

## 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.

## The Work and Learning Centre

The Work and Learning Centre in Morwell helps jobseekers, especially those living in public housing, to find local training, work experience and jobs.

Work and Learning Centre staff work with participants and provide tailored advice and pathways, depending on the individual's needs.

A partnership between:  
Gippsland Employment  
Skills Training,  
Brotherhood of St  
Laurence, Victorian  
Government

| Current activity | Responsible Partner |
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### 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.

Skills and Jobs Centre services can be accessed from any one of TAFE Gippsland’s 13 campuses in 9 locations, with each centre focusing on local training, jobs and industries as well as connecting individuals and businesses with opportunities within the Gippsland region.

**TAFE Gippsland**

### Reconnect Program

The Reconnect Program is funded to support over 1700 participants each year by providing assistance to overcome the barriers preventing them from engaging in education, training and employment and providing support into further study or employment pathways.

Gippsland Employment Skills and Training (GEST), TAFE Gippsland and Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley are all Reconnect providers.

**Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions**

### Jobs Victoria Mentors

Mentors help people to become work-ready, find a job that suits them, and support them in their role for the first six months.

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.

**Jobs Victoria**

## 2. Design focused programs to increase workforce participation and remove barriers to employment.

| Current activity | Responsible Partner |
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### Regional Hospitality and Tourism Traineeship Program

\$6 million to create 240 new jobs in the hospitality and tourism sectors for priority candidates.

**A partnership between: WestVic, Victorian Government**

### Freight Industry Training for Jobseekers Project

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% of employees in the sector, plus other priority cohorts.

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.

**Jobs Victoria/ Victorian Transport Association**

### Aboriginal Men’s Place

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.

**Aboriginal Men’s Place (Morwell)**

### Solar Victoria apprenticeships for women

Solar Victoria is funding grants for apprenticeships for women, to address both skilled worker shortages and the underrepresentation of women in trades.

**Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action**

### Building Equality Policy

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.

**Industrial Relations Victoria**

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Responsible Partner                                                  |
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| <p><b>New Energy Priority Workforce Project</b></p> <p>Jobs Victoria is providing \$2.65 million to the Latrobe Valley Authority to create 100 new entry level jobs in the renewable energy sector and Solar Victoria to support local renewable energy manufacturing to create 30 new jobs.</p> <p>The jobs will be prioritised for young people, women over 45, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people, people with disability and those who are long-term unemployed.</p> | <p>Jobs Victoria<br/>Latrobe Valley Authority<br/>Solar Victoria</p> |
| <p><b>30 new government operated childcare centres</b></p> <p>Will be established across the state, including 2 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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>Department of Education</p>                                       |
| <p><b>New jobs in the social housing sector</b></p> <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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Jobs Victoria<br/>Homes Victoria</p>                              |
| <p><b>National Priority Fund</b></p> <p>The National Priority Fund is part of the Local Jobs program. It is designed to help address structural and other barriers to employment faced by people in our communities and facilitate job creation.</p> <p>The National Priority Fund is focused on supporting First Nations people, young people, mature age people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and people seeking work as part of the transition to Net Zero.</p>                    | <p>Department of Employment and Workplace Relations</p>              |
| <p><b>Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program</b></p> <p>Provides a range of incentives and subsidies to support businesses to hire apprentices and trainees including the Priority Wage Subsidy, Hiring Incentive and Disability Apprentice Wage Support.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Australian Apprenticeships</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Wage Subsidies</b></p> <p>Financial incentives of up to \$10,000 to hire new employees who are either between 15-29 years old, First Nations people, 50 years of age or older, a parent or a person registered with an employment services provider for 12 months or more.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>Workforce Australia<br/>Employment Services Providers</p>         |

**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><b>LaunchMe Microenterprise Development</b></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 South Gippsland, Latrobe City, Baw Baw and Bass Coast Shires.</p> | <p>Good Shepherd<br/>Australia<br/>New Zealand</p> |

## 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><b>\$10 million worker support package for Yallourn workers</b></p> <p>Energy Australia launched its \$10 million “Power Your Future” program, providing transition support to workers at the Yallourn 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><b>Energy Australia</b></p>                                       |
| <p><b>Forestry Transition Program</b></p> <p>Native timber harvesting in Victoria’s State forests will end by 1 January 2024 with existing supports being brought forward and scaled up.</p> <p>The Forestry Transition Program has been developed specifically to assist the forestry industry to transition away from native timber harvesting. Government’s total support for forestry transition is more than \$875 million to assist workers, businesses and communities to plan for their future, and to support the transition to plantation timber. A dedicated worker support program is in place with relocation payments, reemployment and training assistance and health and wellbeing support for all workers employed in the native timber industry.</p> | <p><b>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</b></p> |

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><b>Concierge Business Support Service</b></p> <p>With concierges based in all 6 local governments, the Business Support Service provides businesses and start-ups in Gippsland with free, flexible, confidential and adaptable tailored support to connect them to the various services and information relevant to their business.</p>     | <p><b>A partnership between:</b></p> <p><b>Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire, Baw Baw Shire, Bass Coast Shire, South Gippsland Shire, East Gippsland Shire</b></p> |
| <p><b>Local Development Strategy grants program</b></p> <p>The program is part of the Forestry Transition Program and supports towns to diversify where native timber harvesting is a significant source of employment. Local Development Strategies are being developed for Orbost, Nowa Nowa, Swifts Creek, Heyfield, Yarram and Noojee.</p> | <p><b>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</b></p>                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Local Development Strategies</b></p> <p>Implementation of the Local Development Strategies for Gippsland supported by the Forestry Transition Program Community Development Fund and Transition Fund.</p>                                                                                                                                | <p><b>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</b></p>                                                                                                    |
| <p><b>Victorian Timber Innovation Fund to support businesses affected in transition</b></p> <p>The Victorian Timber Innovation Grants Program provides native timber industry businesses funds to explore, invest and implement new opportunities.</p>                                                                                         | <p><b>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</b></p>                                                                                                    |

## Gippsland Supply Chain Resilience Program

The Gippsland Supply Chain Resilience Program is part of the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program and has been established to support supply chain businesses impacted by changes to the manufacturing of white paper in Gippsland.

Department  
of Jobs, Skills,  
Industry & Regions

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.**

## Opal Worker Support Service

The Victorian Government has activated a dedicated support service available via ForestWorks, to all workers affected by Opal Australian Paper's decision to stop the manufacturing of white paper at the Maryvale Mill.

Over the next 2 years this service is being expanded through the Latrobe Valley Authority and Gippsland Trades and Labour Council. This additional support will focus on non-CFMEU workers (including white collar workers) and their families through provision of training and re-training, employment assistance and mental health support.

A partnership  
between:  
  
ForestWorks  
Latrobe Valley  
Authority  
Gippsland Trades and  
Labour Council

## Structured Transition Agreement

The Victorian Government and AGL have signed a Structured Transition Agreement (STA) for the orderly exit of the Loy Yang A Power Station.

Following AGL's announcement in 2022 that Loy Yang A will close in 2035, this agreement provides the workforce, community and energy market with confidence that the power station will operate reliably until this agreed time.

The agreement provides a significant 12-year notice period so that the workforce, community and energy market can confidently plan, invest and transition for this closure.

The agreement includes a Worker Transition Package which will provide worker transition support from AGL in excess of its minimum requirements. This includes support for its permanent, part-time and casual staff as well as a \$50 million Community and Economic Development Fund that will support the Latrobe Valley community.

A partnership  
between:  
  
AGL  
Victorian  
Government

# 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.**

## Gippsland Regional Organics infrastructure upgrade

Significant upgrades to the organic waste recycling facility to increase capacity to recycle organic materials, while creating jobs and investment opportunities.

Gippsland Water  
With support from  
the Victorian and  
Commonwealth  
governments

### Rokeby to Neerim Trail

Upgrade and extend the existing trail by a further 10kms to the north creating a link to one of Baw Baw's key historic tourism destinations, Noojee.

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).

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.

**Baw Baw Shire Council**

### State Electricity Commission

The Victorian Government has re-established the SEC with an office in Morwell and initially invested up to \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 gigawatts through renewable energy projects.

The SEC will help deliver the Victorian Government's nation-leading renewable energy and emissions targets.

**State Electricity Commission**

### Regional Events Fund

The \$20 million fund supports events held in regional Victoria, showcasing our regional tourism strengths and building Victoria's reputation as an events destination.

**Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions**

### Regional Tourism and Events Fund

The \$150 million fund will provide funding for new events, new attractions and more accommodation in regional Victoria.

The fund includes \$60 million for Regional Tourism Infrastructure to attract visitors to key destinations and to support tourism businesses like wineries, breweries and distilleries to add much needed accommodation to their offering.

**Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions**

### Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy

A new vision and plan for the future of the Latrobe water-supply system and a review of the Latrobe Reserve.

**Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action**

### Victorian Circular Economy Recycling Modernisation Fund

The fund aims to create jobs in the circular economy through providing support for businesses, improved resources and processes, and building the capacity, capability and resilience of Victoria's resource recovery sector.

**Sustainability Victoria**

### Gippsland Regional Circular Economy Plan

A plan by Gippsland for Gippsland that sets out the region's aspirations, enablers and priorities to 2030 for a sustainable and thriving circular economy.

**Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action**

### Regional Recycling Fund

The \$34.9 million fund is contributing to regional economic recovery from COVID-19 through investing in recycling infrastructure and jobs. Round 1 is funding an upgrade to the regionally significant resource recovery centre at Bairnsdale Regional Landfill.

**Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action**

### Gippsland Dairy Industry Strategy

The LVA is funding GippsDairy to deliver an industry wide dairy strategy covering farm, processing, distribution and retail.

**GippsDairy**  
With the support of funding from the Victorian Government

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><b>Gippsland Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy</b></p> <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> <p><b>Gunaikurnai Land &amp; Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)</b></p> <p><b>Victorian Government</b></p> |
| <p><b>Aboriginal Economic Development Fund</b></p> <p>The new \$20 million fund will support Aboriginal business and employment programs and support Aboriginal cultural tourism initiatives.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p>                                                                             |

## 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><b>New plantation estate including an extra 16 million trees entering the softwood market from 2035</b></p> <p>\$120 million towards 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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p><b>Hancock Victorian Plantations</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>Farm forestry program in Gippsland</b></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> | <p><b>VicForests</b></p>                                     |
| <p><b>H2X Vehicle Manufacturing Facility</b></p> <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><b>Gippsland Circular Economy Precinct Ltd (GCEP)</b></p> |



## Offshore wind energy

Offshore wind is a key pillar in the renewable energy transition – and reaching Victoria’s renewable energy target of 95% by 2035. Offshore wind will provide many opportunities including:

- new jobs and career pathways
- boosts for Victorian businesses through manufacturing and supply chain development
- regional investment
- support for our climate action goal of net-zero emissions by 2045.

To kick-start the development of the offshore wind sector, Offshore Wind Energy Victoria (OWEV) was established as a division within the Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action.

Offshore Wind Energy Implementation Statements support and guide industry and the Victorian community on the development of the offshore wind sector.

Offshore Wind Implementation Statement 2 released in March 2023 provides updates on progress including:

- procurement approach
- transmission
- ports
- renewable energy supply chain hub
- policy, workforce and industry development
- legislative and regulatory reform
- engagement and partnerships.

Implementation Statement 3 is due to be released in late 2023.

Department of  
Energy, Environment  
& Climate Action

## Energy Innovation Fund

Offshore wind will be a key component of Victoria’s clean energy future. There are a number of potential projects in planning and development stages.

To help progress commercialisation of innovative renewable energy technologies, the Energy Innovation Fund has invested \$37.9 million to support feasibility and pre-construction activities of 3 offshore wind farm projects in Gippsland.

Department of  
Energy, Environment  
& Climate Action

## Made in Victoria Energy Technology Manufacturing Program

The program will support Victorian manufacturers to make more products or components that support the state’s transition towards net zero emissions by 2045. This provides an opportunity for local manufacturers to supply manufactured inputs for renewable energy generation, transmission, storage and transportation (including, but not limited to wind, hydro, batteries, hydrogen and solar). This will generate economic activity, secure well-paid jobs, increase exports, and reduce Victoria’s reliance on volatile international supply chains.

Projects could include but are not limited to the manufacture of:

- advanced materials and components for renewables and zero-emissions energy supply, such as wind, hydro, batteries, hydrogen and solar
- zero emissions transportation, such as vehicles with electric or renewable energy sources
- components for energy storage (such as batteries).

Department of Jobs,  
Skills, Industry &  
Regions

## Ready for Growth

Ready for Growth is supporting Victorian businesses with high growth potential to access new markets and expand their business.

The program is being delivered by Business Victoria with partner and financial services organisation, BDO Australia.

Participants will receive tailored advice and support from an expert growth facilitator matched to their business with relevant industry experience. Growth facilitators will provide advice that may help to improve business performance, solve operational challenges or help you make the right decisions and changes.

Department of Jobs,  
Skills, Industry &  
Regions

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

Working to identify actions.

## 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><b>Supporting cutting-edge research, fostering collaboration and boosting innovation in Gippsland’s forestry industry</b></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><b>National Institute for Forest Products Innovation Centre in Gippsland</b></p>       |
| <p><b>Feasibility study to farm Barramundi in the Latrobe Valley</b></p> <p>The \$1.24 million feasibility study recommended a \$125 million stage 1 project to produce 3,718 tonnes per annum of 3.75kg Barramundi.</p> <p>Utilising state-of-the-art Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) technology, geothermal heating and Opal’s existing water allocation, this land-based bio secure facility has the potential for future expansion to 65,000 tonnes per annum generating ongoing employment for thousands of people.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>A partnership between:<br/>Opal, Mainstream Aquaculture</b></p>                     |
| <p><b>Mallacoota Wilderness Co-working and Innovation space</b></p> <p>A program of research, planning and workshops to support the establishment of a co-working space in Mallacoota. This will guide a larger project to inspire a new generation of businesses, connecting the community, inspiring innovative thinking and attracting digital nomads to help sustain businesses year-round.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Mallacoota Community Health Infrastructure and Resilience Fund Incorporated</b></p> |
| <p><b>Maryvale energy from waste facility</b></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.</p> <p>The project has also received approval for a first of its kind in Victoria bottom ash recycling facility to recover metals for recycling and produce a recycled aggregate suitable for road construction.</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><b>Maryvale energy from waste project</b></p>                                          |
| <p><b>Solar Waste Challenge</b></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><b>Breakthrough Victoria</b></p>                                                       |

### Gippsland Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum

The Gippsland IWM Forum, one of 15 IWM forums across Victoria, collaboratively identifies, prioritises and oversees the delivery of innovative water projects. The Forum has collaboratively delivered 14 projects since 2018, with further opportunities identified that benefit the local economy, adapt to climate change and reflect community values.

To make full use of Gippsland’s water, an IWM approach that considers all parts of the water cycle to maximise economic, cultural, social and environmental outcomes is needed.

**Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action supported partnership between the following organisations:**

Alpine Resorts Victoria, Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Bunurong Land Council, Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action, Gippsland Water, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters, Aboriginal Corporation, Latrobe City Council, Parks Victoria, South Gippsland Shire Council, South Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, Wellington Shire Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC)

Australia’s largest regionally led new energy conference, the GNEC is a premier event in the field of sustainable energy. It connects industry leaders, experts, community ambassadors and enthusiasts to discuss and explore the latest advancements, challenges, and opportunities in the realm of renewable energy.

**A partnership between:**

Industry  
Community  
Education  
Victorian Government

### CSIRO Kick-Start

The program provides research and development (R&D) support for start-ups and small businesses by providing an end-to-end facilitation service, including:

- help with articulating the research question
- connecting businesses with relevant CSIRO researcher expertise and capability
- matched funding support to improve the affordability or expand the scope of R&D services.

**CSIRO**

### Latrobe Health Innovation Zone

The Latrobe Health Innovation Zone is the first of its kind in Australia. It provides the space where community voice informs, develops and implements new ways of intervening in the health system to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in the Latrobe Valley.

With innovation at its heart, the Latrobe Health Innovation Zone is increasingly being recognised as a centre of excellence for preventative and early intervention health programs. Up to 20 projects are being developed tested and piloted at any point in time.

**A partnership between:**

Latrobe Health Assembly  
Department of Health  
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

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

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Responsible Partner                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Construction of Australia’s first solar panel upcycling plant</b></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><b>Elecsome</b><br/>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government</p>                                                     |
| <p><b>Latrobe Local Development Strategy</b></p> <p>The funds will enable Latrobe City to work with businesses, community organisations, and education institutions to increase innovation and entrepreneurial activity, diversify the local economy, and increase training and employment for diverse groups within the community impacted by the transition away from native timber harvesting.</p> <p>Activities will include a youth entrepreneur program, hospitality training, and Workers of the Future program focusing on tech training.</p> <p>The Latrobe City Business Capability Program will offer grants to support new and early-stage businesses to boost investment.</p> <p>The Advanced Air Mobility Strategy will establish the Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct, featuring Victoria’s first public command centre for advanced air mobility, supporting R&amp;D, skills training, and local manufacturing.</p> | <p><b>Latrobe City Council</b><br/>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government through the Forestry Transition Program</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><b>Big Housing Build</b></p> <p>Under the Big Housing Build, 68 new homes have been completed and 222 new homes are underway in Bass Coast Shire, Baw Baw Shire and Latrobe City. The total investment from the Big Housing Build in Gippsland is \$118 million, including \$95 million for projects that are underway. \$3.8 million from other capital programs will also see a further 23 new homes.</p> | <p><b>Homes Victoria</b></p>                                     |
| <p><b>Regional Worker Accommodation Fund</b></p> <p>The \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund will provide new housing options for regional communities where key workers are struggling to find affordable places to live.</p>                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p> |
| <p><b>Regional Housing Fund</b></p> <p>The \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund will increase availability of social and affordable housing, delivering more than 1300 new homes across regional Victoria.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Homes Victoria</b></p>                                     |
| <p><b>Development Facilitation Program</b></p> <p>Victoria’s Development Facilitation Program will be expanded to boost housing supply in regional Victoria. The planning process will be streamlined for significant regional housing developments which are worth at least \$15 million and deliver at least 10% affordable housing, including build-to-rent projects.</p>                                   | <p><b>Department of Transport and Planning</b></p>               |

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.**

### Priority planning projects for growing communities

The Victorian Government is identifying more opportunities for affordable housing across Victoria through better utilisation of surplus government land.

Through the Land Coordinator General, the Victorian Government is establishing partnerships with private sector developers to deliver new housing close to transport, jobs and services.

The Victorian Planning Authority will continue preparing Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs) for new housing and jobs, including one for Wonthaggi. This will deliver a sustainable supply of greenfield land, and more jobs close to home, while planning for more housing choice in all parts of Victoria.

Department of Transport and Planning

## 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><b>Energy Innovation Fund</b></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 with \$10 million funding support from the Victorian Government Energy Innovation Fund</p> |
| <p><b>Neighbourhood Battery Initiative</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Battery Initiative provides funding for pilots, trials and demonstrations of neighbourhood-scale battery ownership and operational models. Under Grant Round 1, Energy Innovation Co-operative, Mondo and Totally Renewable Phillip Island partnered with support from Bass Coast Shire Council on a feasibility study to investigate community battery options for small communities and neighbourhoods in larger towns and cities.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>Department of Energy, Environment &amp; Climate Action</p>                                                   |
| <p><b>Agriculture Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge</b></p> <p>The Victorian Government is investing nearly \$20 million over 4 years through the Agriculture Sector Emissions Reduction Pledge to prepare the sector for a net-zero emissions economy by 2045. Since May 2021, the government has conducted promising trials for livestock methane abatement, launched the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Statement with 16 organisations, engaged farmers to reduce emissions via the On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot, and developed online tools for climate-smart decisions.</p> <p>The On-Farm Emissions Action Plan Pilot supports up to 250 farmers in estimating and reducing their emissions, with up to \$5 million in grants available for implementing recommended actions and innovative emissions reduction projects.</p> | <p>Agriculture Victoria</p>                                                                                     |
| <p><b>Ellinbank SmartFarm</b></p> <p>The Ellinbank SmartFarm is Australia's leading dairy innovation facility, fast-tracking innovative technology solutions in a research environment and showcasing them to the dairy industry.</p> <p>Ellinbank aims to be the world's first grazing-based carbon-neutral dairy farm by 2026 by reducing enteric methane emissions, generating electricity from solar, wind, hydro and bio-digestion, using batteries to manage energy supply, use of electric farm vehicles, and improved fertiliser and manure management practices.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p>Agriculture Victoria</p>                                                                                     |

### Accelerating energy project delivery and mitigating biodiversity impacts

Funding will be provided through the 2024-25 Victorian Budget to support critical actions for the delivery of renewable energy projects while mitigating their biodiversity impacts. This includes improvements to spatial risk mapping, targeted research, and expert advice and updated guidance and assessment standards.

Department of  
Energy, Environment  
& Climate Action

### \$23 million investment for Wilsons Promontory revitalisation

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.

Department of Jobs,  
Skills, Industry  
& Regions

### Ninety Mile Beach – growing the Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park

Funding from the 2024-25 Victorian Budget is provided to acquire lots in Ninety Mile Beach to add to the surrounding Gippsland Lakes Coastal Park. This will ensure greater protection of coastal land and public enjoyment.

Department of Jobs,  
Skills, Industry  
& Regions

### 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 Forestry Transition Program. 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

### Future Forests program

The program will manage over 1.8 million hectares of state forest where timber harvesting will no longer occur due to the transition out of native timber harvesting that occurred on 1 January 2024. The program will include a number of activities related to forest restoration and maintenance.

Funding is also provided for the Great Outdoors Taskforce to make recommendations to the government on the future management of State forests, including areas that qualify for protection as National Parks, areas that would be suitable for recreation opportunities, including camping, hunting, hiking, mountain biking and four-wheel driving, and opportunities for the management of public land by Traditional Owners.

Department of  
Energy, Environment  
& Climate Action

### 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 Adaptation Strategy complements the 7 state-wide Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans released in February 2022 with a place-based approach.

Department of  
Energy, Environment  
& Climate Action

### Implementation of the Gippsland Integrated Water Management (IWM) Forum Strategic Directions Statement 2022

Outlines IWM projects that are progressing in the Gippsland region, as well as further opportunities that support enhancing liveability outcomes and protecting Gippsland’s landscapes, waterways and green open spaces.

Projects being delivered have typically received funding through the DEECA IWM Program, with co-contributions from project partners.

A Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action supported partnership between the following organisations:

Alpine Resorts Victoria, Bass Coast Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Bunurong Land Council, Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action, Gippsland Water, Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Latrobe City Council, Parks Victoria, South Gippsland Shire Council, South Gippsland Water, Southern Rural Water, Wellington Shire Council, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### The Corner Inlet Project

The project will implement priority actions in the Corner Inlet Ramsar Site Management Plan (RSMP) and Corner Inlet Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP) to achieve water quality objectives to help prevent further decline of seagrass in Corner Inlet.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority with the support of funding from the Australian Government National Landcare Program

### The Mid-Thomson River Project

The program of works will see improved waterway health, with benefits for agriculture, the community and the Gippsland Lakes.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Building adaptive capacity of vulnerable eco systems

The project involves activities that will help restore natural function to fringing wetland sites. The aim is to assist the fringing wetland sites to tolerate a broad range of climate conditions over time.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### The Ponds program

The Ponds program will continue the work being undertaken in the Providence Ponds and Perry River Catchment in line with the Strategic Directions Statement developed in 2017.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Protecting pristine headwaters of the Victorian Alps and Strzelecki Ranges

The project aims to protect the environmental condition of pristine waterways and support recreational use and tourism in the upper ‘catchments’ or ‘headwaters’ of the Victorian Alps and the Strzelecki Ranges in West Gippsland.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Sustainable Irrigation in West Gippsland Program

Seeks to achieve a highly productive and sustainable irrigation community that values and protects its natural and cultural assets.

Main activities are:

- providing farm planning support, irrigation extension services and on-farm irrigation incentives
- managing the nutrient emissions and water quality impacts from irrigation farms on waterways and the Gippsland Lakes.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Powlett River - Kugerungmome Partnerships project

An Integrated Management Catchment Plan has been developed for the Powlett River catchment area. The plan is currently in the delivery phase with completion expected in 2025.

West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

### Water is Life: Traditional Owner Access to Water Roadmap

This initiative will enable increased Traditional Owner access to water and decision making in water management.

Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

### Water wise and resilient rural communities

This initiative will promote water efficiency and sustainable rural and regional irrigation communities and provide oversight of the delivery of significant rural, regional and peri-urban water infrastructure projects by water corporations in Victoria.

Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Action

### Powering the Regions Industrial Transformation Stream

The program will support existing industrial facilities, and new clean energy developments, in regional areas to reduce their emissions, in line with Australia’s 2030 targets and in support of reaching net zero by 2050. It will be open to a wide range of industries in regional locations, including manufacturing, mining, agriculture, and food processing.

The funding is expected to support trials, demonstrations, and deployments of a wide range of technologies including energy efficiency, electrification, fuel switching, process heat, hybrid renewable energy, bioenergy and common user infrastructure that supports decarbonisation.

Australian Renewable Energy Agency

### Clean Energy Innovation Fund

The Fund invests in pre-seed to growth-stage technology companies focused on decarbonisation. It has a focus on four sectors: clean energy transition, mobility and smart cities, food and agriculture, and circular economy and industry.

Clean Energy Finance Corporation

## 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.

### 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



| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Responsible Partner                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Regional Community Sport Development Fund</b></p> <p>The \$60 million fund will deliver new projects - including aquatic centres, indoor stadiums, lighting upgrades and walking and cycling paths – for regional communities across Victoria.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                 |
| <p><b>Permanent sporting infrastructure projects for 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium, Traralgon - refurbishment of court facilities and other amenity upgrades.</li> <li>• Gippsland Sports and Entertainment Park - redevelop 2 pitches and redevelop 2 pavilions.</li> <li>• Morwell Gun Club - new shotgun trap shooting range, all equipment required for Air Rifle and Air Pistol, and new security fencing.</li> <li>• Ted Summerton Reserve in Moe - refurbish oval and wicket, redevelop and expand terraces, and accessibility upgrades.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                 |
| <p><b>Council Support Package</b></p> <p>A \$25 million Council Support Package will ensure that work and the ideas generated by local governments to support delivery of the 2026 Commonwealth Games are still able to deliver planned revitalisation and other projects for the benefit of locals.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                 |
| <p><b>Tiny Towns Fund</b></p> <p>The Tiny Towns Fund supports local communities in regional Victoria to deliver quality tourism and community facility projects, such as splash parks and bike trails, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades, public art and more.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</p>                                                 |
| <p><b>Growing Regions Program</b></p> <p>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 capital works for community and economic infrastructure across our rural and regional areas.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</p>         |
| <p><b>Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program</b></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>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</p>         |
| <p><b>Creative Latrobe</b></p> <p>The Creative Latrobe project will implement exciting and bold public art activations and installations in Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, Churchill, Yallourn North and Boolarra. The project aims to change the perception of spaces across the Latrobe Valley to support improved wellbeing, safety and local pride. It has been driven by community consultation and direct community feedback to ensure people feel safer in their townships.</p> <p>The second stage will include a larger place-making project in Traralgon incorporating the Whittakers Road and Bert Thompson Reserve underpasses. Workshops are currently underway to engage First Nations and multicultural young people, and Federation University students in the artmaking process, with smaller art activations that aim to engage young people in the project.</p> | <p>A partnership between:</p> <p>Latrobe Health Assembly</p> <p>Latrobe City Council</p> <p>Community</p> |

### Connect Up

The project aims to join up green spaces, infrastructure and the communities of the Latrobe Valley.

A series of trails will be co-designed by communities to join up public transport infrastructure, public amenities, green spaces and landmarks. This will help to demonstrate how accessible the valley really is. It will also help people to see reasons to walk/cycle and help connect communities, particularly those without a car.

The trails will represent the communities collective insights and imagination. These trails will act as a tool for improving health and wellbeing of communities. The current proposal outlines 4 tentative trails across Moe, Morwell, Traralgon and Churchill.



- 2. **Maximise opportunities from mine rehabilitation to add value to the region for future industry, environment, recreation, tourism, industry, parkland and residential use.**

### Community and Economic Development Fund

AGL will commit a total investment of \$50 million to support the transition of the Loy Yang Power Station and mine workforces, the site and the regional economy through the establishment of a Community and Economic Development Fund.

Supported by AGL, the fund includes \$20 million to be directed to community benefit activities and \$30 million to be directed to economic site repurposing activities.



- 3. **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.**

### Working with Traditional Owners

The Victorian Government is working with Traditional Owner Corporations who might be impacted by the establishment of offshore wind in Victoria. The government recognises that the areas prospective for offshore wind off the Gippsland coast, and onshore areas that will support offshore windfarms, are on Traditional Owner Country and Sea Country.

A key part of this is the VicGrid-led transmission infrastructure to coordinate offshore wind connections. VicGrid is working closely with Offshore Wind Energy Victoria to develop a partnership approach with Traditional Owners, particularly with regard to the development and design of the transmission infrastructure.

Working with Traditional Owners for them to identify how they can shape and take-up the opportunities of skilled occupations associated with Victoria’s offshore wind industry is a key focus of the work underway in the renewable energy workforce development plan.



## 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><b>Gippsland pride initiative</b></p> <p>Connecting, celebrating and advocating for LGBTIQ+ Gippslanders through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• events</li> <li>• education and collaboration with existing services, groups and government agencies</li> <li>• development of resources</li> <li>• community-led advocacy.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p><b>Gippsland Pride Initiative</b></p>        |
| <p><b>Supporting Victoria’s Aboriginal Cultural Heritage System</b></p> <p>Funding is provided to support the delivery and administration of Victoria’s Aboriginal cultural heritage system. This includes funding for Registered Aboriginal Parties and the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council to meet statutory obligations, enable proactive identification and protection of Victoria’s Aboriginal cultural heritage including management of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Registry, and to promote protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage consistent with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006.</p> | <p><b>Department of Premier and Cabinet</b></p> |

### 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><b>Gippsland Multicultural Partnership Planning Initiative</b></p> <p>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><b>Led by the Latrobe Community Health Service, partners include:</b></p> <p>Latrobe City Council,<br/>Centre for Multicultural Youth</p> <p>Gippsland Ethnic Communities Council</p> <p>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government through the Strategic Partnerships Program, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing</p> |
| <p><b>Regional Presence Project</b></p> <p>Delivers a range of activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strengthen connections between young people and their communities</li> <li>• elevate the voice of young people in community decision making</li> <li>• strengthen the capacity of the rural and regional youth sector</li> <li>• connect young people to education, training and employment opportunities.</li> </ul> <p>CMY has a particular focus on multicultural young people and working with local services to increase access to culturally appropriate support.</p> | <p><b>Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY) Morwell</b></p> <p>With the support of funding from the Victorian Government through the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing</p>                                                                                                                                                               |

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Responsible Partner                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Inclusive Latrobe</b></p> <p>The Inclusive Latrobe project aims to improve inclusivity and reduce discrimination of at-risk populations within the Latrobe Valley over the next 2-3 years. Populations include, but are not limited to, people from migrant backgrounds, people living with disability, LGBTQIA+ people, First Nations people, and people experiencing ageism (primarily older and younger people).</p> | <p><b>Latrobe Health Assembly</b></p> |

**3. Provide accessible social and community activities catering to aged, First Peoples, 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><b>Neighbourhood Houses</b></p> <p>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 6 LGAs across Gippsland.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Neighbourhood House</b></p>                                |
| <p><b>Connecting On-line Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland project</b></p> <p>The 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><b>Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland Inc.</b></p>                |
| <p><b>The Gathering Place, Morwell</b></p> <p>A community centre based in Morwell, The Gathering Place provides a culturally safe space for connection, information, referral and support. It provides a space for people, families and Elders to come together to learn, share and celebrate culture in a space that promotes and supports self-determination. The Gathering Place offers a range of community led programs to strengthen and support wellbeing.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <p><b>Berry Street</b></p>                                       |
| <p><b>All Abilities Sport Fund</b></p> <p>The \$40 million fund aims to remove the barriers of entry for people with a disability to get involved in sports through grants, scholarships and mentoring.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p> |
| <p><b>Regional Multi-Cultural Festivals</b></p> <p>\$5 million to support towns across regional Victoria to hold multi-cultural festivals.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry &amp; Regions</b></p> |
| <p><b>Parents and Guardians Information Portal</b></p> <p>The Latrobe Valley community has expressed a need for a clear, easy-to-navigate website and smartphone app providing access to information about existing early childhood services for parents and caregivers.</p> <p>The project will deliver a Parents and Guardians Information Portal to help improve community awareness and promotion of available early childhood services for children, parents and caregivers in the Latrobe Valley.</p> <p>The website will include an interactive local children's services directory, an accessible subject-matter expert information library and an event calendar with details on information sessions, children's educational events, open days, and festivals within the region.</p> | <p><b>Latrobe Health Assembly</b></p>                            |

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Responsible Partner                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>The WES Mental Health Café</b></p> <p>The WES provides a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for people experiencing mental health challenges in the community.</p> <p>The WES is currently operating over 4 days across weekday evenings and weekend hours. WES staff are mental health professionals and peer support workers who have experienced or cared for someone with mental health concerns. This enables visitors to connect with someone who genuinely understands.</p> <p>Over 200 visitors have accessed the WES, improving their mental health and wellbeing, decreasing social isolation, and increasing connection to mental health services.</p> | <p>A partnership between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latrobe Health Assembly</li> <li>Latrobe Regional Hospital</li> <li>Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO)</li> <li>Wellways</li> <li>Mind Australia</li> <li>Community</li> </ul> |

## 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><b>Bachelor of Social Work</b></p> <p>Federation University commitment to introduce a locally available Bachelor of Social Work degree in Gippsland.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Federation University</p> |
| <p><b>New West Gippsland Hospital</b></p> <p>\$610 – \$675 million to build a new hospital in West Gippsland, located in Drouin East.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Department of Health</p>  |
| <p><b>\$217 million upgrade of Latrobe Regional Hospital</b></p> <p>The expansion will deliver a new emergency department resuscitation bay, 3 operating suites, 6 intensive care unit beds, 14 medical and surgical beds, 44 inpatient beds and a medical imaging and pathology unit. Once complete the expansion will allow for an additional 6,200 elective surgeries per year.</p> | <p>Department of Health</p>  |
| <p><b>Study nursing and midwifery free</b></p> <p>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 2 years.</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p>Department of Health</p>  |
| <p><b>\$6.5 million for a new emergency department mental health hub at the Latrobe Regional Hospital</b></p> <p>The new mental health hub will provide urgent treatment for people with mental health, alcohol and drug issues to relieve pressure on the hospital's emergency department.</p>                                                                                        | <p>Department of Health</p>  |

| Current activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Responsible Partner         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <p><b>Support for hospital facilities</b></p> <p>The 2024-25 Victorian Budget is providing funding to expand the operations of Latrobe Regional Hospital following redevelopment.</p> <p>Funding will also support the continuation of operations of the West Gippsland Hospital operating rooms and short stay units.</p>                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Department of Health</p> |
| <p><b>Supporting Victoria's healthcare workforce</b></p> <p>Funding from the 2024-25 Victorian Budget is provided to support Victoria's health workforce capacity through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registered Undergraduate Student of Nursing or Midwifery positions</li> <li>nurse practitioner development</li> <li>transition to practice support</li> <li>capability development resources for nurses and midwives in regional Victoria.</li> </ul> | <p>Department of Health</p> |
| <p><b>Growing the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals workforce</b></p> <p>Funding from the 2024-25 Victorian Budget is provided to support workforce needs across the newly established Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals by building a pipeline of clinical and wellbeing graduates within each service.</p> <p>There are Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals in Bairnsdale, Orbost and Latrobe.</p>                                                                   | <p>Department of Health</p> |

## Integrated transport for access to jobs, education and services

- 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              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <p><b>1-Day, 7-Day and 30-Day Travel Pass helping vulnerable Victorians stay connected</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 their clients and students free of charge.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <p>Public Transport Victoria</p> |
| <p><b>Flexible Local Transport Solutions Programs</b></p> <p>The program provides funding to improve community transport in Gippsland through a number of projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Gippsland Community eBus pilot – electric minibuses will provide an on-demand transport service in Sandy Point and Venus Bay.</li> <li>Mirboo North Community Transport Program – a 12 seater bus providing transport to high school students to vocational education training in Leongatha.</li> <li>Lakes Entrance and Yarram TAFE Gippsland bus service – a 22-seat bus service to transport students to their TAFE VET courses throughout Wellington &amp; East Gippsland. The project will also seek to re-engage disengaged aboriginal youth by providing access to education through connected transport options from the Lake Tyers Trust.</li> <li>Leongatha Community Transport Program – a 12-seater minibus for the Leongatha Community House providing flexible transport solutions for Leongatha and surrounding communities.</li> </ul> | <p>Public Transport Victoria</p> |

**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                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Gippsland Rail Line upgrades</b></p> <p>The Australian and Victorian governments have invested more than \$4 billion in the Regional Rail Revival program, which will deliver extra daily services between Traralgon and Melbourne, creating jobs and supplier opportunities.</p> | <p><b>Rail Projects Victoria</b></p>               |
| <p><b>Improving bus services</b></p> <p>Funding is provided in the 2024-25 Victorian Budget for coach service uplifts connecting Yarram and Leongatha to Pakenham train station.</p>                                                                                                    | <p><b>Department of Transport and Planning</b></p> |

**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                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Connecting Victoria Program</b></p> <p>The \$550 million Connecting Victoria program is delivering 179 projects in Gippsland. This includes 25 broadband and 128 mobile and connectivity improvements, as well as 26 resilience improvements that will reduce the risk of mobile network failure in emergencies. Projects will be delivered in all 6 local government areas in Gippsland, benefiting 100 locations across the region.</p> | <p><b>Department of Government Services</b></p>                                                          |
| <p><b>Better Connectivity Plan for Regional and Rural Australia</b></p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                                                                                            | <p><b>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</b></p> |

# 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                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Implementation of the Plan</b></p> <p>Regional Development Victoria 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.</p> |  |
| <p><b>Communication and engagement</b></p> <p>Regional Development Victoria will facilitate ongoing communication and engagement with Gippsland’s communities in partnership with the Implementation Working Group.</p>                                                   |  |





# GIPPSLAND 2035

Our Region. Our Future.