The Hi Tech Precinct is set to position the Latrobe Valley as a leader in regional innovation, benefiting the local economy and communities.

**Background**
During this time of significant change in the region, innovation will play an important part in long term transition and growth.

The Gippsland Hi Tech Precinct will be a centre for research, business incubation, new product development, start up support, and education and training.

The Precinct will support the growth of local industry and create jobs by accelerating technology adoption and attracting new investment in the region. It will also centralise and connect the research and innovation already taking place.

The Precinct will be centred around the physical site on the corner of Monash Way and Princes Way in Morwell, but will be virtually connected throughout the region and beyond.

**Supporting our growth sectors**
The Precinct will play an important role in supporting the expansion of the region’s growth sectors - health, food and fibre, advanced manufacturing and new energy.

“This Precinct will play a significant role in helping our local industries transform their businesses so they are prepared for the future.”

- Karen Cain, CEO, Latrobe Valley Authority

**Construction of the Innovation Centre**
The Precinct site in Morwell will feature an Innovation Centre to be constructed and opened by 2020. The Centre will incorporate creative and innovative spaces to promote design thinking and practice. An architect is being engaged to undertake site analysis and development work.

**Co-location with education**
In a unique model, the Innovation Centre will be co-located and integrated with the Gippsland Tech School – Latrobe, Federation Training and Federation University, meaning students will be directly linked with local industry and skills.

Students from across the region will benefit from clear pathways from secondary school, through to vocational training, and tertiary and research, in one location.

Students attending the Tech School will gain invaluable experience and exposure to real industry operation, creating job and research opportunities for graduates.

**Strong local partnerships**
The project is a partnership between Latrobe City Council, Federation University, Federation Training, Latrobe Valley Authority, and Regional Development Victoria.

The partnership group are working closely with both local and global industries and stakeholders to develop the most locally-appropriate model for the region.

Community and industry input into future design and operations of the Precinct will be sought through the design process.

For more information, contact the Latrobe Valley Authority.
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