



Victorian Budget 18/19

GETTING THINGS DONE

Rural and Regional

Budget Information Paper

The Secretary
Department of Treasury and Finance
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria, 3002
Australia
Tel: +61 3 9651 5111
Fax: +61 3 9651 2062
Website: budget.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne, 3002

Printed by Impact Digital, Port Melbourne
Printed on recycled paper

This publication makes reference to the 2018-19 Budget paper set which includes:
Budget Paper No. 1 – Treasurer’s Speech
Budget Paper No. 2 – Strategy and Outlook
Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery
Budget Paper No. 4 – State Capital Program
Budget Paper No. 5 – Statement of Finances (incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No. 3)

© State of Victoria 2018
(Department of Treasury and Finance)



You are free to re-use this work under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence, provided you credit the State of Victoria (Department of Treasury and Finance) as author, indicate if changes were made and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any branding, including Government logos.

Copyright queries may be directed to IPpolicy@dtf.vic.gov.au.

ISSN 2206-3501 (print)
ISSN 2206-351X (online)
Published May 2018

RURAL AND REGIONAL

Getting things done in regional Victoria

When we came to Government, we promised to deliver for every corner of Victoria.

That's because we want every parent in regional or rural Victoria to be confident their kids can reach their full potential – no matter where they live.

And for the past three years, that's exactly what we've done.

Better hospitals with more doctors and nurses. Upgrades to schools for our kids. Better roads and public transport to connect every community.

These are the things we said we would do. And we are getting them done.

We've invested more than \$8.5 billion in regional Victoria since coming to office in 2014.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* continues this momentum by investing over \$4.3 billion.

It gives our kids the education, jobs, and services they need to keep regional Victoria strong.

It will help create more jobs in regional Victoria, by making the payroll tax rate in regional Victoria the lowest in the nation.

The payroll tax reduction in this Budget combined with last year's cut, will mean that rural and regional Victoria's payroll tax rate has been cut in half.

Because regional roads aren't up to scratch, the Budget invests in the biggest ever boost to upgrade regional roads, and a new dedicated regional team to deliver them.

The quality of healthcare you receive shouldn't depend on where you live, so the Budget upgrades and expands even more of our regional hospitals.

And it boosts mental health funding, to give Victorians the treatment they need, by investing in more rehabilitation beds, more community care, and emergency department crisis hubs.



While we get on with these projects, we'll also invest in the people to deliver them. More than ever, the skills needed to build our state are learned at TAFE. Skilled workers are in demand, and with good quality training, our kids will be first in line for these good jobs.

The cost of TAFE should never stop kids from getting the skills they need – that's why we're making 30 priority TAFE courses free – commencing from January 2019.

And to help them get their skills sooner – we'll let secondary students start their apprenticeship or traineeship at school, to learn their trade and get a job sooner.

And because every family needs a good school close to home, we'll plan and build five new schools in regional Victoria, and plan and upgrade 55 more.

This is a Labor Budget that invests in the people and the projects that regional Victoria needs.

A Budget that will deliver new skills, good jobs, more schools and better healthcare – for every Victorian.

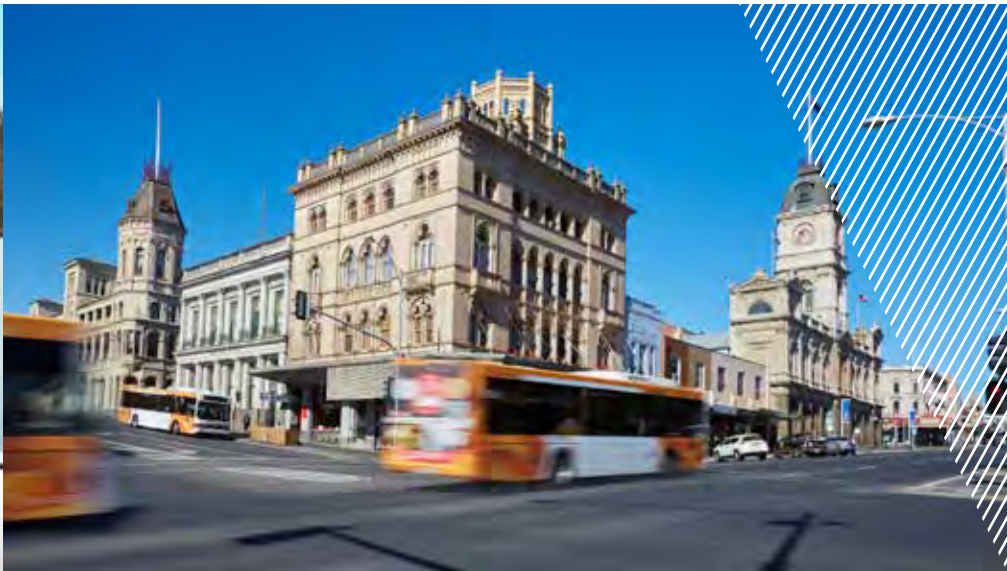
This is a Budget that gets things done.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Andrews Labor Government established nine Regional Partnerships that bring together public, private and community sectors to work on the priorities that matter most to local people.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* includes almost \$760 million to deliver on key Regional Partnerships priorities, which incorporates a number of regional and statewide initiatives:

- // \$313 million to deliver a range of infrastructure upgrades that will allow modern VLocity trains to operate to and from Shepparton for the first time, offer faster journey times and improve the amenity and reliability of services. This includes funding for a business case to finalise the scope and costs of Stage 3 to deliver up to nine return services a day
- // \$153 million for Victoria's contribution towards the Geelong City Deal, funding major visitor and tourism attraction initiatives, including the Shipwreck Coast Masterplan and Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- // \$120 million to upgrade three TAFE facilities and provide better facilities for students in Bendigo, Morewell and Sale
- // \$39.9 million for upgrades to Princes Highway West from Colac to the South Australian border, as part of our broader regional roads package
- // \$32 million for the East Grampians Water Security project, to provide a secure water supply to communities in the Grampians region
- // \$23 million for the development of the Munarra Centre of Regional Excellence in Goulburn, a purpose-built cultural and community centre to provide pathways to employment and further education for Aboriginal Victorians in the Goulburn Murray region
- // \$16 million to build the Bendigo GovHub, taking government services out of Melbourne's CBD and growing local jobs
- // \$11.8 million to upgrade and modernise Castlemaine Secondary School
- // \$11.6 million to further reduce the digital divide and better connect regional and rural communities, including the Wodonga Business Innovation Cluster and Wangaratta Digital Hub
- // \$2.1 million to pilot intensive management styles in two forest parks in Loddon Campaspe to protect biodiversity and encourage greater use of the parks
- // \$2 million to develop a business case for trail infrastructure and accommodation outlined in the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing Masterplan
- // \$1.3 million to provide an extra five family violence crisis properties in Warracknabeal, Nhill, Stawell, Kaniva and St Arnaud
- // \$760 000 to establish the Cross Border Commission, to streamline regulatory and licencing requirements and reduce barriers to services for Victoria's border communities
- // \$700 000 to implement a food and fibre taskforce to develop an agricultural agenda in Gippsland
- // \$300 000 to develop a Hume Renewable Energy strategy to attract renewable energy businesses and grow local jobs
- // \$300 000 to develop a business case for an arts trail through existing silo arts installations in the Mallee



Because every Victorian deserves quality care close to home, this Budget also invests in the projects identified by our Regional Partnerships, including:

- // \$5 million for the Healthy Heart of Victoria program in Loddon Campaspe, to improve the health of local people
- // \$2.8 million for the coordination and expansion of The Geelong Project – centralising youth support and delivering pre-crisis help across four more government secondary schools in Barwon
- // \$500 000 to develop a Prevention Lab brand to improve the health and wellbeing of families in the Central Highlands region
- // \$500 000 for a business case for the Grampians Cycling Plan
- // \$500 000 to develop the Murray River Adventure Trail, a multi-sport adventure trail along the length of the Murray River

- // \$300 000 to undertake a feasibility study and business case for a Housing First Response Pilot program in the Central Highlands

Beyond Regional Partnerships, other key regional health initiatives include:

- // \$115 million to upgrade Wonthaggi Hospital to deliver better care for the Gippsland region
- // \$47.3 million to develop three rural alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation treatment facilities in the Barwon, Gippsland and Hume regions, and for the Grampians residential rehabilitation service to treat up to 80 local inpatients and provide support to their families



In addition to our work with our Regional Partnerships, the Andrews Labor Government is investing in the projects that matter to local communities through our new community building fund

In addition to our work with our Regional Partnerships, the Andrews Labor Government is investing in the projects that matter to local communities through our new community building fund.

The new fund, *Pick My Project*, is backed by \$30 million in grants from the *Victorian Budget 2018/19*, which will see local communities nominate and vote on their own funding promise.

The Budget also includes the new \$20 million Rural Council Transformation program, to help rural councils across Victoria set up collaborative procurement and improve their financial management strategies.

The new fund, *Pick My Project*, is backed by \$30 million in grants from the *Victorian Budget 2018/19*, which will see local communities nominate and vote on their own funding promise

CREATING REGIONAL JOBS

Cutting regional payroll tax

Since the Andrews Labor Government came to office three years ago, more than 40 000 jobs have been created in regional Victoria.

In last year's Budget, we cut regional payroll tax by 25 per cent and increased the threshold to \$625 000.

This year's Budget builds on that work, with a further reduction for regional businesses and an increased threshold of \$650 000.

The Budget slashes the payroll tax rate for regional businesses from 3.65 per cent to 2.425 per cent – making it the lowest in Australia. This means the Andrews Labor Government has halved the payroll tax rate payable by regional businesses in two years.

An estimated 4 000 regional businesses are expected to take advantage of this payroll tax cut across regional Victoria.



Helping business create more jobs

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* is providing targeted industry assistance to create jobs across Victoria.

This Budget announces the establishment of a third GovHub in Bendigo, which will build on the opportunities for employment with Victorian Government agencies in regional centres.

\$16 million will be invested in the development of new office accommodation to revitalise the Bendigo CBD by co-locating government services in one building.

This builds on our efforts over our past three Budgets, including the Back to Work Scheme, regional tourism infrastructure projects and the Latrobe Valley's Economic Facilitation Fund.



Boosting regional tourism

We're also investing in regional tourism to grow regional economies and create regional jobs.

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting 100 events across regional Victoria, while increasing our push to attract new visitors to the state, and encouraging Melburnians to spend more time in regional Victoria.

In a boost to regional businesses and regional jobs, domestic tourists visited Victoria in record numbers last year. Interstate visitors also spent more in regional Victoria, with visitor numbers, spend and nights stayed all recording double-digit growth.

To build on our success, the *Victorian Budget 2018/19* invests in tourism and regional promotion, including:

- // \$153 million for Victoria's share of the Geelong City Deal, funding major visitor and tourism attraction initiatives, such as the Shipwreck Coast Masterplan and development of the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- // \$2 million for the Falls to Hotham Iconic Trail
- // \$500 000 for business cases for the Grampians Cycling Plan
- // \$500 000 to develop the Murray River Adventure Trail
- // \$300 000 for a business case to link silo arts installations in the Mallee and Wimmera regions

In addition, regional Victoria will also benefit from \$51.1 million for our international and interstate tourism campaigns, support for Business Events Victoria and regional tourism boards to attract more tourists and create more jobs.



\$13.5 million to support our state's small businesses, including digital economy roadshows in regional Victoria

Better technology to connect communities

People living in rural and regional Victoria continue to face a digital divide.

It's why the *Victorian Budget 2018/19* includes \$26.8 million to better connect businesses, farmers and families, with:

- // \$13.5 million to support our state's small businesses, including digital economy roadshows in regional Victoria
- // \$11 million to build extra telecommunications infrastructure and improve mobile coverage in blackspot areas across regional Victoria

- // \$1.7 million to establish a regional Centre of Excellence in the Mallee, to drive research, innovation and development in key industry sectors

- // \$300 000 to develop a business case to establish state-of-the-art IT facilities for education providers in Ovens Murray

- // \$250 000 to establish the Wodonga Business Innovation Cluster

This investment builds on the \$45 million investment in the Connecting Regional Communities Program from the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*.

The Victorian Budget 2018/19 includes \$26.8 million to better connect businesses, farmers and families

SKILLS

As we build our state, skilled workers are in demand.

And with quality training, young Victorians will be first in line for these good jobs.

It's why this Budget includes investments that will revolutionise skills and training.

Skills through TAFE

Cost should never stop someone from learning new skills.

So, to break down that barrier, this Budget includes \$172 million to make TAFE free for 30 priority courses.

Courses will focus on the skills we need – building infrastructure projects, responding to family violence, and caring for older Victorians or people living with disability.

The Budget also includes:

- // \$120 million to upgrade three TAFE facilities and provide better facilities for students in Bendigo, Morwell and Sale
- // \$44 million to modernise apprenticeships, including the introduction of independent assessments, updated learning materials and the reintroduction of trade papers
- // \$28.6 million in continued funding for Tech Schools to give the next generation of Victorians the next generation of skills. This includes ongoing support for the Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland Tech Schools

Get your trade at school

To help young people get the skills they need to go straight into a good job, this Budget includes:

- // \$49.8 million to establish up to 1700 new *Head Start Apprenticeships and Traineeships* at 100 secondary schools. This will improve vocational education and give secondary school students the opportunity to learn a trade at school and get a job sooner
- // \$25.9 million to enhance the quality of secondary vocational pathways, giving every young Victorian the choices they deserve

Better careers education at school

This Budget also transforms careers education in schools, investing \$109 million to make sure students get the right career advice so they can make the right choices early on.



FIXING REGIONAL ROADS

The problem in regional Victoria isn't that we don't have enough roads. It's that the roads we do have aren't in good enough condition.

Decades of underinvestment and inattention mean that our country roads need an overhaul.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* provides more than \$941 million for this work, including:

- // \$433 million for regional road restoration, including \$100 million for the Fixing Country Roads fund, to restore our country roads to good condition, including both state and local roads
- // \$261 million for road upgrades in regional Victoria
- // \$229 million for Continuing Towards Zero, providing safety upgrades to our regional road network
- // \$17.4 million to establish Regional Roads Victoria

Led by the Chief Regional Roads Officer, Regional Roads Victoria will be a division of VicRoads, based in Ballarat, with a presence in regional centres across the state – giving regional Victorians roads they can rely on.

Key regional road upgrades include:

- // \$49 million for planning and pre-construction of the Western Highway – Beaufort bypass
- // \$49 million for planning and pre-construction of the Western Highway – Ararat bypass
- // \$39.9 million for Princes Highway West upgrades – Colac to South Australian border
- // \$19.9 million for Shepparton heavy vehicle alternative freight route upgrades
- // \$19 million for Calder Highway upgrade
- // \$9.9 million for Hamilton Highway upgrade
- // \$9.8 million for Forrest-Apollo Bay Road upgrade
- // \$7.9 million for Kiewa Valley Highway
- // \$550 000 for Grubb Road (Ocean Grove) planning



IMPROVING PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Public transport is vital for connecting communities and getting regional passengers from A to B.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* includes \$704 million to upgrade regional public transport to connect rural and regional communities to each other and Melbourne, including:

- // \$313 million to deliver a range of infrastructure upgrades that will allow modern VLocity trains to operate to and from Shepparton for the first time, offer faster journey times and improve the amenity and reliability of services. This includes funding for a business case to finalise the scope and costs of Stage 3 to deliver up to nine return services a day
- // \$189 million to provide extra stabling and train maintenance facilities to support the state's growing VLocity fleet, pre-procurement and market sounding for new trains
- // \$130 million for regional rail infrastructure upgrades from Maryborough to Ararat and Ballarat, an essential requirement for any future return of passenger services to Dunolly. This incorporates \$35 million for the \$1.7 billion Regional Rail Revival program and associated works. The Regional Rail Revival, announced in last year's Budget, will create more than 1000 jobs across regional Victoria, and upgrade every regional passenger line in the state
- // \$26.2 million for V/Line services to ensure the sustainability of regional rail, and improve reliability and punctuality
- // \$22.2 million for extra regional bus services and infrastructure works across the regional bus network
- // \$10.8 million for extra regional rail services, including additional shoulder-peak services to and from Wyndham Vale, inter-peak services to Seymour and extending the operation of Southern Cross Station on Sundays

This Budget also provides \$16.9 million for safety and security initiatives statewide, improving the experience for passengers.

We're also making regional student passes cheaper, to reduce the cost of public transport through the \$1.9 million fare discounts program.

Since coming to office, the Andrews Labor Government has ordered 87 VLocity carriages, with the last carriage of the current order to be delivered in early 2020 – getting more Victorians where they need to be, more reliably.



REGIONAL INVESTMENT



STATEWIDE

- // \$705 million for mental health services and alcohol and drug rehabilitation across Victoria
- // \$304 million to support thousands of new students to access training
- // \$44 million to improve apprenticeships to meet the needs of a modern economy
- // \$288 million to help students living with a disability
- // \$27.2 million for more kindergarten places
- // \$1.7 billion for an additional 86 000 hospital admissions and 49 000 emergency treatments
- // \$362 million to improve access to elective surgery
- // \$145 million for youth justice centres, and more services to tackle youth offending
- // \$82 million to encourage participation of women and girls in sport

- // \$36.1 million for the Camps, Schools and Excursions Fund so all kids can access these activities
- // \$9.7 million to improve gender equality in Victorian communities
- // \$266 million for initiatives that support our environment, including \$65 million for water projects
- // \$55 million to boost jobs through the Investment Attraction Assistance Program
- // \$21.1 million to strengthen bridges across Victoria
- // \$31.6 million to continue the Triple Zero call-taking and dispatch service
- // \$32.9 million to improve student outcomes in science and maths

- // TAFE upgrades \$120 million
- // Regional park management services \$70.6 million
- // Community Sports Infrastructure Fund grants \$60 million
- // Regional Health Infrastructure Fund \$50 million
- // Residential rehabilitation and crisis hubs \$47.3 million
- // Regional forestry agreements \$35.9 million
- // Tech schools in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland \$28.6 million
- // CFA, SES and Life Saving Victoria infrastructure grants \$28.4 million
- // Improving V/Line services \$26.2 million
- // Local crime prevention activities \$25 million
- // Public transport safety and security initiatives \$16.9 million
- // Growing Victoria's Digital Economy \$13.5 million
- // Remove mobile blackspots \$11 million
- // New mobile police stations \$5 million
- // Illegal Dumping Taskforce \$9.1 million
- // Cheaper public transport fares for regional students \$1.9 million

Wodonga Innovation Cluster

Kiewa Valley Highway, Wodonga to Mount Beauty

Wangaratta Digital Hub

Orbost Secondary College upgrade



Federation Training – Port of Sale campus

Gippsland hydrogen energy supply chain pilot project

Federation Training – Morwell campus

Wonthaggi Hospital expansion

- Bridge upgrades
- Environment
- Health
- Major regional investment
- New school construction
- Police, fire stations and courts
- Public transport
- Road package
- Road upgrades program
- School area safety
- School planning
- School upgrade

MORE SCHOOLS, CLOSE TO HOME



Improving our regional schools

Wherever they live, every child deserves every chance to get a great education.

It's why, since we came to office in November 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has invested \$775 million to improve Victoria's regional schools.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* builds on this work, investing \$181 million to build and upgrade 60 regional schools. This includes \$46.2 million to five new school projects in regional Victoria. This includes funding to build Armstrong Creek West Primary School in Geelong and Lucas Primary School in Ballarat, and to start early works on Armstrong Creek Secondary College. Planning will also now begin for the new Leneva (Frederic Street) Primary School in Wodonga East and the expansion of Miners Rest Primary School.

Making our schools more inclusive

The Budget sets Victoria on a path to become a national leader in inclusive education, with \$288 million for a package of initiatives for students with disability or additional learning needs, because every child deserves every chance for a quality education.

There is \$41.6 million for scholarships for teachers to undertake postgraduate courses in special education, and an extension of the Outside School Hours Care demonstration program which provides after school programs for students with a disability. This also provides equipment grants and school infrastructure, such as inclusive playgrounds, to make sure every Victorian student has the opportunity to learn regardless of their circumstance.

There is also \$22.5 million for student transport and \$10 million for additional support for students with language and learning disabilities.

In addition, there is \$55.6 million to plan and upgrade 15 special schools across the state.

Giving every child the chance to succeed

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* provides more support to keep kids in school and learning the skills they need for the future, including:

- // \$43.8 million to cut the number of students dropping out of school with the state-wide rollout of the Navigator program
- // \$32.9 million to fund 200 additional Primary Maths and Science Specialists
- // \$22.2 million for workshops and teaching tools to improve literacy and numeracy teaching

- // \$11.3 million continuing to fund the Young Leaders to China Program
- // \$9.8 million to contribute to the cost of swimming and water safety education programs
- // \$4.4 million to ensure schools have the very best principals, through a new program to prepare and assess those aspiring to be principals
- // \$1 million for schools to purchase musical instruments and music professional development

A further \$135 million will plan and upgrade 55 primary and secondary schools in regional and rural Victoria, giving students the modern facilities they need to learn. This includes:

- // Ardmona Primary School
- // Ballarat High School
- // Barwon Valley School
- // Boisdale Consolidated School
- // Cardross Primary School
- // Casterton Primary School
- // Castlemaine Secondary College
- // Ceres Primary School
- // Derrinallum P-12 College
- // Dimboola Memorial Secondary College
- // Don Valley Primary School
- // Dunolly Primary School
- // Euroa Secondary College
- // George Street Primary School - Hamilton
- // Gisborne Primary School
- // Hawkesdale P-12 College
- // Heywood District Secondary College
- // Highton Primary School
- // Hoddles Creek Primary School
- // Kaniva College
- // Kerang Primary School
- // Kongwak Primary School
- // Launching Place Primary School
- // Lismore Primary School
- // Mansfield Secondary College
- // Merino Consolidated School
- // Mildura West Primary School
- // Moolap Primary School
- // Moriac Primary School
- // Mortlake P-12 College
- // Mount Clear College
- // Northern Bay P-12 College
- // Oberon South Primary School
- // Orbost North Primary School
- // Orbost Secondary College
- // Riddells Creek Primary School
- // Romsey Regeneration
- // Seymour College
- // Shepparton Education Plan
- // Spring Gully Primary School
- // Stawell Secondary College
- // Sunbury And Macedon Ranges Specialist School – Bullengarook Senior Campus
- // Surfside Primary School
- // Tallarook Primary School
- // Tarwin Valley Primary School
- // Teesdale Primary School
- // The Alpine School - Don Valley Campus
- // Torquay P-6 College
- // Traralgon Secondary and Special School Regeneration
- // Wallington Primary School
- // Wangaratta District Specialist School and Appin Park Primary School Regeneration
- // Warrnambool Special Developmental School
- // Warrnambool West Primary School
- // Winton Primary School
- // White Hills Primary School (planning)

WORLD CLASS HEALTHCARE

No matter where they live, every Victorian deserves quality healthcare, close to home.

That's why this Budget invests in the health of our regional communities.

Regional healthcare investments include:

- // \$462 million to redevelop and expand the Ballarat Base Hospital. This includes a new state-of-the-art emergency department, day treatment centre, acute mental health facility and an expansion of the intensive care unit
- // \$115 million to upgrade Wonthaggi Hospital to deliver better care for the Gippsland region. This includes more inpatient beds, a new emergency department, new operating theatres and more space to treat people in an emergency
- // \$50 million boost to the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to ensure regional Victorians can benefit from the latest and best in healthcare and can access the quality care and facilities they deserve, no matter where they live

// \$5 million for the Healthy Heart of Victoria program in Loddon Campaspe, to improve the health of local people

// \$2.1 million to strengthen the Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme, which subsidises the travel and accommodation costs incurred by rural and regional Victorians who have to travel long distances to receive specialist medical healthcare

Victoria's regions will also benefit from the Budget's statewide health initiatives, including:

- // \$1.7 billion for an additional 86 000 hospital admissions and 49 000 emergency treatments
- // \$362 million to improve access to elective surgery
- // \$58.5 million to increase the number of paramedics and vehicles to meet forecast ambulance demand



Addressing mental illness

Right now, across Australia, mental illness and addiction are hurting communities and leaving families heartbroken.

To make sure Victorians facing mental illness and addiction get the treatment they need, this Budget includes a record \$705 million investment. This includes:

- // \$232 million to boost community based support for around 12 800 people over four years and fund 89 acute inpatient beds
- // \$154 million for additional and more intensive community and mental health support for high need clients
- // \$101 million for six new emergency department crisis hubs, including at Geelong Hospital, taking those who are dealing with a mental health or addiction issue out of regular emergency departments, and ensuring that they get the specialist treatment they need
- // more intensive clinical care provided in six Prevention and Recovery Care services
- // \$18.7 million to expand the Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement initiative to a further six hospitals, supporting an extra 3 000 patients per year
- // \$11.9 million to develop a new 20-bed Prevention and Recovery Care service for young people across Melbourne
- // \$10 million for infrastructure and capital works in selected state-owned mental health and alcohol and other drugs facilities
- // \$4 million for continued funding for four Aboriginal mental health demonstration projects

Reducing the impacts of addiction

The scourge of addiction can be devastating for families and communities across Victoria. The Government is investing in residential rehabilitation and crisis hubs, including:

- // \$40.6 million to develop three rural alcohol and other drug residential rehabilitation treatment facilities in the Barwon, Gippsland and Hume regions
- // \$6.7 million for the Grampians residential rehabilitation service to treat up to 80 local inpatients and provide support to their families

These projects will continue to deliver first-class healthcare for people living in regional Victoria.

SAFER REGIONS

Over the previous three Budgets, we've made record investments in recruiting police, addressing family violence and strengthening our emergency services.

We've made this investment because there's nothing more important than the safety of Victorians.

This year's Budget goes even further – continuing to invest in the police, protection and prevention Victorians deserve.

The biggest ever investment in Victoria Police

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering the biggest ever investment in law and order in our state's history, recruiting and deploying an extra 3 135 new police.

In this year's Budget, we're making sure our police have everything they need – the training, the tools and the technology – to tackle crime.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* provides further resources for Victoria Police including:

// \$25 million to provide Victoria Police with additional long-arm firearms to keep Victorians safe. Four regional police stations will receive these firearms



// \$24.2 million to strengthen Victoria Police's response to serious and organised technology-enabled crime, including increasing their capacity to tackle online child exploitation

// \$9.4 million for new mobile police stations to help prevent and respond to crime when and where it happens

This Budget also includes \$25 million for local crime prevention initiatives, including youth crime prevention projects, the Public Safety Infrastructure and Community Safety funds, and crime prevention agencies such as Crime Stoppers and Neighbourhood Watch.



A strong justice system

At the same time as we're investing in Victoria's police, we're also making sure our state has a strong justice system. Victoria's courts and correctional services play a critical role in responding to the needs of victims and ensuring offenders are held to account.

Building on our reforms to strengthen sentencing and overhaul the bail and parole system, this year's Budget will deliver:

- // \$689 million to expand the Lara prison precinct for the construction of a new 700 bed maximum security facility for men
- // \$160 million to increase the number of secure custodial beds in youth justice centres, including an additional 32 beds at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre, as well as additional investments to tackle the causes of youth offending
- // \$129 million for a Bail and Remand Court to deliver on the recommendations of the Coghlan Bail Review, and 18 additional magistrates, two new County Court judges and a Supreme Court judge to meet increasing demand in the court system
- // \$96.9 million for new police prosecutors and staff to support the establishment of the Bail and Remand Court, and meet growing demand in the Criminal Division of the Magistrates' Court
- // \$37.3 million for Victoria Legal Aid to provide more duty lawyers and grants of legal assistance
- // \$21.8 million to equip the Office of Public Prosecutions to prosecute serious crimes and hold offenders to account, including recruiting additional prosecutors
- // \$20.9 million to implement the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Terrorism and Violent Extremism Prevention and Response Powers
- // \$20 million to acquire land for the redevelopment of Werribee and Bendigo Law Courts
- // \$10.1 million to better support victims of crime, including extending the intermediary scheme to assist children and vulnerable people who are victims of crime to provide evidence
- // \$5 million to improve the safety, security and operations of the Echuca Court



The Victorian Budget 2018/19 provides \$28.4 million to upgrade and build new facilities for the Country Fire Authority, Victoria State Emergency Service and Life Saving Victoria

Strong emergency services for our state

Across Victoria's emergency services, staff and volunteers put themselves on the line to keep our state safe.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* makes sure the women and men who serve our state have the support they need. This includes:

- // \$31.6 million for the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority to continue delivering the Triple Zero call taking and dispatch service in Victoria
- // \$28.4 million to provide upgrades and new facilities for the Country Fire Authority, Victoria State Emergency Service and Life Saving Victoria
- // \$10 million to fund training and development grants for volunteer emergency services organisations
- // \$8.3 million for additional lifeguard services, school swimming and water safety programs, and public swimming pool safety strategies to improve the safety of Victorians in the water, and provide emergency response at our beaches
- // \$2.2 million for development of a mental health and wellbeing app for all emergency service workers and volunteers
- // \$1.9 million for the ongoing maintenance of community bushfire shelters in the Yarra Ranges, Moorabool and Colac Otway
- // A continued freeze on the Fire Services Property Levy

SPORT

Our local sporting clubs bring regional communities together.

It's why the *Victorian Budget 2018/19* invests an extra \$489 million for sport and recreation across Victoria, including \$242 million for professional and community sport.

This includes \$500 000 to plan the next stage of redevelopment of Ballarat's Eureka Stadium, building on the Government's recent investment in the stadium, which will help bring two AFL matches every year for the next decade to the stadium and provide a boost to the local economy.

This Budget provides \$60 million to the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund to provide grants to community sports organisations, and \$5 million for Community Sports Infrastructure Loans, which will unlock up to \$100 million to upgrade local facilities. The Community Sports Infrastructure Fund includes:

- // \$3 million for the Moe and District Netball Association
- // \$1.2 million to upgrade the main pavilion, change rooms, ovals and netball amenities for the St Mary's Football and Netball Club in Geelong
- // \$1 million for change rooms at the Harrow Recreation Reserve in Harrow
- // \$860 000 to upgrade facilities and courts at the Ocean Grove Tennis Club
- // \$600 000 for the Drouin Netball Centre
- // \$600 000 for Stawell's North Park Sporting Complex
- // \$564 000 for South Barwon Football and Netball Club to upgrade change rooms and spectator facilities
- // \$255 000 to upgrade lighting at Linton Oval
- // \$150 000 to plan the Wallan Sports and Aquatic Centre





Our regional communities will also benefit from a number of statewide initiatives, including:

- // \$82 million towards encouraging participation of women and girls in sport. This includes ensuring venues meet the needs of female players and officials
- // \$17.7 million to support national and international sporting events across Victoria

\$82 million towards encouraging participation of women and girls in sport



STRONG AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Victoria's agriculture underpins our strong economy. We're renowned across the world for our premium produce, farmed in our diverse but thriving agricultural communities across the State.

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* invests to keep our agricultural communities strong. It includes:

- // \$32 million for the Water Security for East Grampians Project, to construct about 1 600 km of stock and domestic pipeline, providing a secure water supply to up to 530 000 ha of unserviced land in the Grampians region
- // \$10.2 million to secure our water supply in the Mitiamo district through the construction of a reticulated water supply for the 75 000 ha area surrounding the town of Mitiamo in north central Victoria
- // \$8 million for Victoria's contribution to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- // \$16.1 million to help grow our agricultural exports, improving market access to key international markets, establish a premium artisanal food program and implement Victoria's Wine Strategy
- // Expanding the young farmer stamp duty full exemption threshold from \$300 000 to \$600 000 for settlements from 1 July 2018
- // \$11 million to improve mobile coverage in blackspot areas across regional Victoria
- // \$700 000 to implement a food and fibre taskforce to develop an agricultural agenda for Gippsland

\$32 million for the Water Security for East Grampians Project, to construct about 1 600 km of stock and domestic pipeline, providing a secure water supply to up to 530 000 ha of unserviced land in the Grampians region

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



In regional Victoria, protecting the environment means protecting livelihoods.

It's why we banned fracking, and why we've invested in drought mitigation and protecting our waterways.

As we deal with the impact of climate change and population growth, this Budget makes critical investments to manage Victoria's water supply and protect our natural environment.

From Mildura to Mallacoota, our state's environment underpins our health and prosperity. In this Budget, the Andrews Labor Government will continue to deliver for our environment, investing a further \$266 million in a range of initiatives. This includes:

- // \$70.6 million for the health of our parks and to grow the economic benefits for regional Victorians
- // \$9.1 million to ensure waste is appropriately dealt with by continuing the Environment Protection Authority's Illegal Dumping Strikeforce

- // \$5.1 million to help our regional communities develop their own strategies to address climate change and energy transition

- // \$3 million for Ballarat Council, Loddon Shire Council and Southern Grampians Shire Council to mitigate the risks posed by old dams and retarding basins in Ballarat and two dams in Inglewood and Dunkeld

- // \$3 million to protect our faunal emblems

- // \$1.3 million for the Good Neighbour Program and Alpine Horse Strategy to manage the threat from feral animal and invasive plant species

This Government recognises the forestry industry is important for our regional communities. It's why we are providing certainty to Victorians who rely on our forests for their economic livelihoods, by investing \$35.9 million to modernise regional forestry agreements and improve the surveying of forestry land.

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format please email information@dtf.vic.gov.au or telephone (03) 9651 1600.

This document is also available in PDF and Word format at dtf.vic.gov.au

Victorian Budget 18/19
Rural and Regional
Budget Information Paper
budget.vic.gov.au



Treasury
and Finance