

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
JOBS, TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES

PAEC PRESENTATION REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

18 MAY 2015

Department of
Economic Development,
Jobs, Transport & Resources



PORTFOLIO KEY OBJECTIVES

We are working with Regional Communities to achieve

- Regional Economic Development
- Jobs Growth
- Population Growth and Liveability

“Victoria’s regions power our state, furnish our homes and feed our families. Supporting local businesses, workers and students is the path to our prosperity and the key to our future, because rural communities and regional cities matter.”

(Back on Track: Labor’s Plan for Regional Victoria)

THE PORTFOLIO / SECTOR IN VICTORIA

Regional Victoria – population, growth and jobs

- Population – 1.47 million people
- Growing at 0.9 % each year
- Highest growth rates are in
 - Wodonga 2.2%
 - Ballarat 1.7%
 - Bendigo 1.6%
 - Geelong 1.6%
- 688,100 employed persons (as of April 2015)
- Up 52,100 since November 2014

DELIVERING OUR ELECTION COMMITMENTS: A NEW REGIONAL FUND

The \$500m Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund comprises:

- A \$250 million Regional Infrastructure Fund to invest in projects that create jobs, support population growth, change our economy and meet the needs of regional cities and towns
- A \$200 million Regional Jobs Fund to help companies grow their workforce, expand their markets and create jobs of the future
- A \$50 million Stronger Regional Communities Plan to help our towns attract families and young people to live and work in rural and regional Victoria

- A Bill to establish the fund was introduced into parliament in April 2015 and will be debated in the legislative council next sitting week
- The aim is to have the fund operating from 1 July

DELIVERING OUR ELECTION COMMITMENTS: REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Investing \$200m into 34 Initiatives across Regional Victoria

- Ballarat Station redevelopment
- Harcourt Mountain Bike Trail
- Euroa Saleyards
- Wangaratta Saleyards
- Geelong Performing Arts Centre
- Gippsland Logistics Precinct
- Sovereign Hill by Night
- Grampians Peak Trail
- Eureka Stadium and other Ballarat sporting infrastructure
- Bendigo Aspire Project
- Ararat Arts Precinct Development
- Wallan Town Centre
- Wedderburn Streetscaping
- Leopold Hub
- Food Source Victoria
- Victorian Defence Procurement Office
- Frewstall Lamb and Sheep Processing
- Dental prosthetics and training centre in Latrobe Valley
- Stawell particle physics laboratory
- Geelong Regional Innovation and Investment Fund
- Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) LPG Industry study
- Geelong manufacturing hub
- Horticultural Research Fund
- Victorian Open Golf Tournament
- Regional Community Leadership Program
- Support for regional planning
- Stawell Gift
- Passions and Pathways
- Career Horizons
- Rural Councils Victoria
- Wandong/Wallan/Heathcote rail trail
- Go Goldfields
- Ararat Freight and Logistics feasibility study

REGIONAL SERVICES REVIEW

The Review

- Announced on 12 February 2015.
- Led by an Expert Advisory Board chaired by former Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development, the Honourable John Brumby.
- Considering the best approach, focus and delivery model for regional economic development in Victoria.
- Covers all of the Department's portfolios, programs and services including Regional Development Victoria, agriculture and biosecurity services, transport and emergency management.
- Responds to slowing economic growth in regional Victoria and the need for regional service delivery to better align with the Government's economic development and job creation agenda.
- Findings will help shape a renewal of Regional Development Victoria and the focus of the Government's \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund.
- Acknowledges and builds on strategic planning already undertaken by regional leaders and communities and the work of RDV in supporting infrastructure projects, creating jobs and building stronger regional communities.

A REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PIPELINE

Developing a Regional Infrastructure Pipeline

- We are developing a pipeline of regional infrastructure projects that will grow the economy and jobs
- The pipeline will support the prioritisation of future funding drawn from the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund
- We will work closely with regional communities and draw on the work in regional strategic planning
- Key aims will be to enhance the liveability and economic prosperity of regional and rural communities across Victoria