

2022-23  
State Budget

**OVERVIEW**

# REGIONAL VICTORIA

MAY 2022





# REGIONAL



Cheese making at Yarra Valley Dairy



Food manufacturing in Wemen

## VCCI recommendations addressed

The Victorian Chamber is pleased that several of our recommendations for Regional Victoria in our submission to the 2022-23 Victorian State Budget have been fully or partially funded.

These initiatives will help Regional Victorian businesses grow through industry development and event attraction and enable industry through transport infrastructure investment, which aligns with two of the three key policy and advocacy pillars of the Victorian Chamber – Grow, Enable and Ease.

## Health infrastructure

- > \$300 million over four years from 2022-23 for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to improve the quality of infrastructure across a range of rural and regional health services to encourage continual growth into the regions.
- > \$195.8 million over four years from 2022-23 to replace and expand the existing mental health facility to increase acute and community mental health services at Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton.
- > \$36 million over three years from 2022-23 for a mental health and alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation facility in Mildura to reduce wait times and improve treatment outcomes for clients.
- > \$6.5 million over three years from 2022-23 to construct a new emergency department mental health and alcohol and other drug crisis hub at the Latrobe Regional Hospital, as well as funding for planning future hubs in Ballarat, Bendigo and Shepparton.

## Transport infrastructure

- > \$453.8 million over four years from 2022-23 for regional rail, including more Victorian manufactured trains for the Shepparton and Warrnambool services (\$250 million) and regional road upgrades (\$203.8 million), creating more jobs in each local area.
- > \$204.6 million over five years from 2021-22 for a package of regional rail projects, driving regional jobs growth.
- > \$91.4 million over three years from 2022-23 for regional road upgrades to improve speed and efficiency of goods and services to the regions.

## General infrastructure

- > \$30 million over two years from 2021-22 to fund the Regional Infrastructure Fund, Regional Jobs and Investment Fast-Track Fund streams to ensure continual economic growth.
- > \$5 million in 2022-23 to provide grants for community infrastructure projects and local community grants for equipment and other community projects to boost regional economies and connectivity.
- > \$1.6 million in 2022-23 to develop a framework to ensure consistency in planning including updating regional growth plans to show population growth to inform infrastructure provision, jobs growth and regional city development.

## Education, training and skills

- > \$58.9 million over four years from 2022-23 for targeted initiatives to attract more teachers, including through increasing the supply of casual relief teachers to schools in rural and regional areas through the provision of coordination assistance and expense reimbursements.

- > \$28.7 million over four years from 2022-23 to support rural and regional schools in providing a broader curriculum, including the establishment of regional blended learning hubs and increased partnership between clusters of community schools.

## Visitor economy

- > \$2.5 billion over four years from 2022-23 to enable the organisation and hosting of the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Victoria. The Games will provide significant economic opportunities and benefits, with the Games to be held throughout regional Victoria, centred in four hubs in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Gippsland.
- > \$30 million over two years from 2022-23 to fund Regional Tourism Infrastructure Projects to support the growth of regional tourism.
- > \$10 million over two years from 2022-23 for Distillery Door Grants to support the visitor experience, export market development and skills development in the Victorian distillery industry.
- > \$2.9 million in 2022-23 to fund the Victorian Grown program, Drink Victorian program and wine export initiatives to promote Victorian wine, food and drinks locally and globally.



Historic post office in Beechworth



Images on page 1 courtesy of the  
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The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry,  
150 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000  
Phone: (03) 8662 5333 [victorianchamber.com.au](http://victorianchamber.com.au)

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