



DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, SKILLS,
INDUSTRY AND REGIONS

Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 (2026 update)



Jobs, Skills,
Industry
and Regions



Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Traditional Aboriginal Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pay our respects to them, their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and future Traditional Owners.

Contents

From the Secretary	4
Our Purpose	5
About Us.	6
Operating Context	7
Our Groups	9
Industry, Trade and Investment	9
Regional Development Victoria	9
Skills & TAFE	10
Victorian Skills Authority	10
Sport and Experience Economy	11
Creative Victoria	11
Economic Policy, Programs and Services	12
Corporate Services.	12
Office of the Secretary	13
Strategies and Departmental Focus Areas	14
Portfolio Priorities and Key Actions	19
Strategy 01. Strengthen the business environment and develop key industries.	20
Strategy 02. Strengthen Victoria's global connections	23
Strategy 03. Create jobs and attract investment.	26
Strategy 04. Identify and address current and future skills and workforce needs	31
Strategy 05. Build prosperous and liveable regions	34
Strategy 06. Enhance participation in the creative industries, sport and recreation . . .	37
Strategy 07. Support First Peoples economic development	39
Strategy 08. Contribute to the transition to a net zero economy.	42
Financial Outlook and Assets	44

From the Secretary

Victoria's economy is dynamic and resilient.

Globally, this year has been marked by conflict, uncertainty and inflation, putting pressure on supply chains, businesses and households.

But Victoria has faced these headwinds from a position of strength, built on a decade of growth.

Just look at the data:

- Business investment increased by 45% over 10 years (2015-2025), the second-highest growth of any state.¹
- Exports reached a record \$78 billion in 2025, with Victoria retaining its position as Australia's top food and fibre exporter for the second year running.²
- Around 250,000 Victorians found work in the 3 years to 2025-26, the largest growth of any state.³
- Our visitor economy also broke records, generating \$48.6 billion in the year to March 2026⁴ and contributing to Melbourne being named the world's best city by *Time Out*.

These results reflect the work of the people and teams at the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR). Together we are focused on building a strong and inclusive economy that benefits all Victorians.

This annual update to the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan highlights the department's progress in delivering government priorities. Throughout this plan, you will see examples of that work in action:

- advancing the *Economic Growth Statement* by backing investment in our priority sectors, including across regional Victoria
- unlocking new opportunities through the *AI Mission Statement* and shaping Victorians' futures through programs like *Free TAFE*
- cementing Victoria as a national leader in major events, sport and culture, including through the *Creative State 2028* and *Experience Victoria 2033* strategies.

More than ever, our partnership with First Peoples is driving stronger economic outcomes, following the commencement of the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*.

Through these initiatives and together with our partners across industry, government and community, we are making Victoria the best place to live, work, study, invest and do business.



Matt Carrick
Secretary

1 ABS Australian National Accounts: December quarter 2025.

2 ABS Balance of Payments and International Investment Position: June 2026.

3 2026-27 State Budget, Budget Paper 2.

4 Tourism Research Australia's Domestic Tourism Statistics and International Visitor Survey: March quarter 2026.

Our Purpose

DJSIR is dedicated to driving economic development and growth – by supporting businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism industries; building the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future; and ensuring communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business.



1. Supporting businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism industries

The department is backing businesses and industries to adapt, innovate and grow by strengthening Victoria's business environment and global connections, attracting investment, enhancing digital capabilities and productivity, fostering new industries and our start-up ecosystem, as well as supporting the expansion of industries into international markets.

We're driving research, innovation and commercialisation, expanding our digital, creative and circular economies as well as our advanced manufacturing, agribusiness and health tech sectors. We are cementing Victoria's position as a leader in tourism, sport and major events.



2. Building the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future

A knowledgeable, skilled and adaptable workforce is key to higher productivity, innovation and economic prosperity in Victoria. To meet the demand for skilled workers in a changing economy, the department is focused on helping people access the training, support and skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

We're bringing employers, workers, Victoria's TAFE network, universities, and other training and education providers together so businesses and industries have access to a world-class workforce and more Victorians can achieve their education and career aspirations.



3. Ensuring communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business

The department is creating the conditions for vibrant and resilient communities across the state, including our regional cities and towns, by encouraging participation in the economy, creative industries, sport and recreation.

Our place-based approaches enhance cohesion, economic inclusion and liveability by improving access to community infrastructure and leveraging economic strengths, including in tourism and small business.

We're supporting First Peoples self-determination across Victoria through employment, education and training, and economic development. Our relationships across government, communities and businesses aspire to ensure the benefits of a robust economy are available to all Victorians – supporting a stronger and fairer society.

About Us

DJSIR is the Victorian Government's economic development department.

We support 8 Ministers across 14 portfolios to deliver government priorities and serve the people of Victoria.

Our portfolios are:

- Artificial Intelligence and Digital Economy
- Community Sport
- Creative Industries
- Defence Industry
- Economic Development
- Industry and Advanced Manufacturing
- Jobs
- Major Events
- Medical Research
- Rural and Regional Development
- Skills and Training
- Small and Family Business
- Sport
- Trade, Tourism and Investment.

While our remit is broad, we are unified by a shared goal to build a strong economy that serves all Victorians.

We do this through policy, programs and investment that help businesses and industries innovate and grow, build skills and jobs, and strengthen communities across the state.

Our work is both global and local. Through 23 international trade offices, and strong partnerships in every Victorian region, we promote Victoria, support exports, attract investment and strengthen industry capability.

Our work is underpinned by strong corporate systems and governance and a highly skilled workforce.

Our people are central to our success. We are professionals from diverse backgrounds, united by a commitment to public service and guided by shared values.

We:

- act with integrity, are accountable for our actions, show respect, and value diversity
- respond to the needs of businesses and communities, focusing on outcomes that make a difference for Victorians
- work collaboratively with partners across government, industry, community, research and training to achieve shared goals
- partner with First Peoples to advance self-determination
- invest in capability, leadership and a culture of continuous improvement.

Together we are shaping an economy that is strong, adaptable and future-ready.

Operating Context

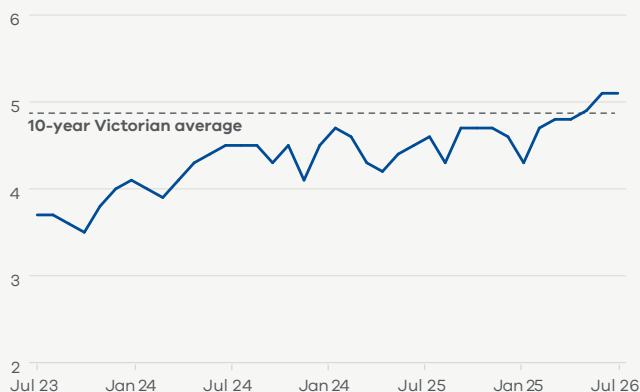
State of the economy and labour market

Victoria's economy continues to grow and remains resilient against a challenging global backdrop.

Business investment was at a record level of \$20.8 billion (in real terms) in the March quarter 2026⁵. This investment is critical for the state's economic capacity and future growth. International exports have grown rapidly, outpacing almost all states in 2025⁶. Victoria also leads the nation in new home building.

Victoria's labour market remains healthy. The unemployment rate averaged 4.7%⁷ in 2025-26, which was below its long-term average, and employment continued to increase, including for women and younger Victorians⁸. The state's population grew by 117,300 people in 2025⁹ – more than any other state – reflecting Victoria's position as a great place to live, work, study and do business.

Unemployment rate, Victoria¹⁰



While these are positive outcomes, the Victorian economy faces several national and global challenges. High inflation, higher interest rates and global conflict have weighed on conditions and confidence for businesses and households. Cost pressures have been particularly evident in some industries – including construction and manufacturing – while softer consumer demand has been challenging for hospitality, tourism and retail trade.

Victoria's regions remain resilient. The regional unemployment rate was the lowest of the Australian states in 2025-26, and below its long-term average¹¹. Nevertheless, the regions face particular challenges, including worker shortages, housing shortages and industry transitions.

The Victorian economy continues to evolve, driven by digital and other technological changes, workforce changes, and broader national and global developments. These changes present challenges but also new opportunities for Victoria's economy.

Victoria's economic outlook remains positive, and the economy is in a strong position to weather current challenges. The economy is expected to grow modestly in 2026-27¹², before strengthening in later years, supported by continued household income growth. Business investment is forecast to remain strong, underpinned by investment in data centres and the renewable energy transition.

5 ABS Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, March 2026.

6 2025 total, change from 2024 total. ABS Balance of Payments, March 2026.

7 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.

8 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.

9 Change from December 2024 to December 2025, ABS National, State and Territory Population.

10 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.

11 ABS Labour Force, Australia, July 2026.

12 2026-27 State Budget, Budget Paper 2, page 17, Table 2.1.

DJSIR's role in driving growth and better living standards

The department is driving economic growth and better living standards with a focus on the following objectives:

- creating and maintaining jobs, including supporting First Peoples economic inclusion
- fostering a competitive business environment
- supporting economic growth through trade and investment attraction
- building prosperous and liveable regions
- growing vibrant, active and creative communities
- delivering high-quality training and skills to meet industry needs and jobs for a growing economy.

DJSIR continues its key role in delivering the Victorian Government's *Economic Growth Statement*, making it easier, simpler and faster to do business and invest in Victoria.

Through the *Victorian Industry Policy*, the department provides a clear direction for priority sectors, placing industry at the centre of the state's prosperity.

In partnership with other departments and entities, DJSIR is delivering the Victorian Government's *AI Mission Statement*, supporting Victoria to harness the benefits of AI while managing risks.

DJSIR is also delivering *Creative State 2028* to strengthen the state's creative industries and *Experience Victoria 2033* to shape the future of Victoria's visitor economy.

Delivering the strategies and initiatives in this plan will help build a more productive, globally competitive, inclusive and resilient economy – with better living standards for Victorians.

Our Groups

Industry, Trade and Investment

The Industry, Trade and Investment (ITI) group works with businesses in Victoria and internationally to support job creation, industry growth and a strong, resilient and competitive economy.

ITI does this through:

- positioning Victoria as a preferred destination for trade and investment, international education and innovation
- building relationships with businesses – from start-ups to large firms – and connecting them to global markets through the Victorian Government Trade and Investment network and strategic international partnerships
- supporting Victoria's priority sectors: advanced manufacturing and defence, health technologies and medical research, AI and digital technologies, circular economy and agribusiness
- supporting priority investments with regulatory approvals, reducing delays and enhancing accountability across government
- facilitating new investment and business expansion, including defence-related industry growth and supply chain capabilities
- advocating for a competitive, fair and inclusive business environment
- developing, attracting and supporting world-class talent, including skilled migrants and international students
- strengthening the innovation and start-up ecosystem
- managing key government venues for business engagement and official events.

Through specialist knowledge of key industries and global markets, ITI advances Victoria's priority sectors, trade activity, productivity and long-term economic growth.

Regional Development Victoria

Established under the *Regional Development Victoria Act 2002*, Regional Development Victoria (RDV) is the state's dedicated economic development agency for regional Victoria and cross-border communities.

RDV supports resilient and globally competitive regional economies that create jobs, improve productivity and contribute to Victoria's long-term growth.

RDV does this through:

- identifying investment opportunities aligned to regional strengths, supported by data and place-based insight
- targeting priority sectors and delivering programs that support jobs, productivity and long-term regional growth
- supporting investment through targeted programs and partnerships that strengthen infrastructure, support business growth and open access to new market opportunities, such as the Geelong City Deal and Future Regions Package
- bringing together government, industry and community stakeholders to align priorities and support delivery, including working closely with Regional Partnerships, Regional Development Australia committees and Traditional Owner Corporations to co-design solutions that reflect local needs and aspirations.

RDV partners with New South Wales and South Australia to improve outcomes for border communities. Victoria's Cross Border Commissioner works with residents, businesses and community organisations to identify and advocate for changes that improve outcomes along Victoria's borders.

Through strong partnerships, strategic investment and working across government to integrate policy, RDV is shaping a more productive, competitive and resilient regional Victoria.

Skills & TAFE

Skills & TAFE (S&T) helps Victorians gain the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to participate in today's workforce, prepare for future jobs, and achieve their educational aspirations.

In partnership with the Victorian Skills Authority, S&T oversees the vocational education and training system, including the Victorian TAFE Network, led by the Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery and the apprenticeships system through Apprenticeships Victoria. S&T supports the Adult, Community and Further Education Board to lead outcomes through the Learn Local network.

S&T uses policy, program delivery and strategic partnerships with industry, TAFE and training providers and communities to:

- align training provision with industry needs
- support apprenticeships and pathways to work for learners
- deliver skills-focused solutions for learners and business
- grow training opportunities in key sectors such as the circular economy, care and construction
- ensure businesses can access a skilled workforce.

S&T works with the school system, universities and other Australian jurisdictions to improve training quality, consistency and innovation across the tertiary system. It partners with Victorian Aboriginal Education Association and the First Nations VET Alliance to support First Peoples self-determination in education including through *Marrung: First Nations Education Strategy* and the *Yuma Yirramboi (Invest in Tomorrow) Strategy*.

S&T is focused on building an inclusive, agile and future-ready skills ecosystem for Victorian learners, businesses and communities.

Victorian Skills Authority

The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) is an independent administrative office, supported by an Advisory Board and industry engagement arrangements. Working in partnership with S&T, it provides evidence-based advice to government to strengthen Victoria's skills system.

The VSA uses data, research and strategic partnerships across government, industry, education providers and communities to:

- identify current and future skills needs, including in priority sectors
- connect Victorians to training, careers and job opportunities
- publish insights and analysis, including the Victorian Skills Plan
- support planning and reform in training quality and design
- recognise excellence through awards and fellowships.

Together with S&T, the VSA helps ensure training meets industry needs, building a stronger and more inclusive economy.



Sport and Experience Economy

The Sport and Experience Economy (SEE) group supports Victoria's sport, tourism and events sectors to grow and deliver benefits for communities and the economy.

SEE does this by supporting investment in the visitor economy, attracting world-class events, overseeing major sport and entertainment venues, and strengthening the capacity of sport and experience economy organisations. SEE supports participation in sport and recreation which in turn supports active and connected communities. In addition, SEE helps to ensure regulatory activities such as professional boxing and combat sports are managed safely and responsibly.

This work matters to Victoria because these sectors create jobs, attract visitors, encourage investment in Victoria and support global competitiveness. Sport and recreation improve health and wellbeing and helps people feel more connected to their communities.

Through its programs, expertise and partnerships, SEE contributes to economic growth and liveability in Victoria.

Creative Victoria

Creative Victoria (CV) supports the state's creative economy for the benefit of Victorians, wherever they live. The *Creative Victoria Act 2017* sets out the legislative principles that guide this work, including recognising the social, cultural and economic value of the creative industries.

The creative industries include design, screen, music, performing and visual arts, fashion, digital media, publishing, and advertising. These industries generate intellectual property, support skilled jobs, and contribute to tourism, exports and innovation.

CV delivers a whole-of-government creative industries strategy every 4 years, to guide the development of these sectors. It oversees major cultural infrastructure projects, including the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation and a portfolio of state-owned creative and cultural assets, including institutions that attract large numbers of visitors annually.

CV is guided by the principle of 'First Peoples first' and works with the First Peoples Directions Circle to embed self-determination in policy and program design, including First Peoples creative leadership and the development of the First Peoples creative sector in Victoria.

This work improves access to creative experiences, strengthens creative industries and contributes to Victoria's reputation as a cultural capital.

Economic Policy, Programs and Services

Economic Policy, Programs and Services (EPPS) supports sustainable economic development and employment growth across Victoria, leading programs which enable Victorian small businesses to thrive, support sustainable employment and economic inclusion, and increase economic opportunities for First Peoples in a self-determined way, as well as providing services which enable DJSIR to deliver its collective strategic priorities.

The Group leads the delivery of the *Yuma Yirramboi (Invest in Tomorrow) Strategy* to achieve economic parity for First Peoples in Victoria within a generation and contributes to DJSIR's work to implement commitments under Treaty and First Peoples policy.

EPPS also provides leadership and expertise in policy design, research, analysis and advice, and project management, delivery and evaluation. The Group offers internal professional services, combining public sector expertise with specialist consultant capability, and coordinates DJSIR's contribution to whole-of-government economic strategies.

EPPS works across DJSIR groups and with other departments, stakeholders, and communities to support evidence-based decision-making, program design and delivery.

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services (CS) group is a critical enabler of the department's capacity to deliver government priorities efficiently, effectively and with integrity. CS brings together whole-of-department services and specialist capability across key functions, including:

- financial stewardship, investment and procurement
- technology, information and workplace enablement
- workforce capability, culture and organisational development
- legal, integrity and compliance
- governance, assurance, performance and emergency management.

Through these functions, CS strengthens the corporate foundations that support a high-performing workforce, responsible resource management, effective governance and risk management, informed decision-making, continuous improvement and responsive service delivery.

By aligning corporate services with departmental priorities, CS helps the department adapt to emerging challenges and opportunities, maintain public sector integrity and accountability, as well as deliver consistent, high-quality outcomes for government, stakeholders and the Victorian community.



Office of the Secretary

The Office of the Secretary (OoS) supports the Secretary in leading and managing the department's statutory obligations, strategic governance, and ministerial commitments. It facilitates executive decision-making and cross-government coordination, oversees core departmental functions, such as policy alignment, stakeholder engagement and departmental performance. The OoS ensures delivery of key strategic initiatives that advance the government's economic and social objectives.

Also included in the OoS is the Strategic Communications Branch which is focused on building the department's reputation and raising the profile of key initiatives, investments and programs. It does this through:

- communications policy, governance and advice
- media relations, communications strategies and issues management
- corporate affairs, including leadership, internal and emergency communications
- design, production and creative services, and digital channel management.

OoS supports effective leadership of the department and clear communication of its objectives, achievements and impact.

Strategies and Departmental Focus Areas

Strategies:





Purpose: Supporting businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism industries

Strategies	Departmental Focus Areas
01. Strengthen the business environment and develop key industries 	In line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i> and the <i>Economic Growth Statement</i>: • Leverage Victoria's competitive strengths and continually improve regulatory systems and practices to support the long-term success of our industries and businesses. • Invest in innovation capabilities, grow our startup ecosystem and translate ideas and research into commercial opportunities. • Foster business creation and growth, supporting businesses to maximise opportunities in priority sectors. • Strengthen the department's analytical capabilities, evidence base and business intelligence to support better economic outcomes for Victorians.
02. Strengthen Victoria's global connections 	• Grow and maintain Victoria's position as a state of choice for international investment, the creative industries, talent, visitors and students. • Empower and position Victorian businesses and organisations to trade with international markets and promote Victorian industry capability. • Maintain a strong pipeline of global sport, industry and creative events within the Victorian events calendar. • Strengthen bilateral relationships that support Victoria's international economic engagement, including through the 23 overseas offices.

Purpose: Building the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future

Strategies	Departmental Focus Areas
03. Create jobs and attract investment 	• Support industries, sectors and businesses to innovate, adapt and grow in line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy, Economic Growth Statement, Housing Statement</i> and <i>Plan for Victoria</i>. • Facilitate investment, job creation, export and skilling opportunities across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne through the delivery of the Victorian Investment Fund. • Deliver services and activities that provide opportunities for Victorians to build their skills and find good, safe, secure, fair and sustainable employment. • Support growth industries, sectors and businesses to access the workers they need and benefit from new opportunities. • Support the startup ecosystem through departmental programs and engagement. • Build capability and supply chain resilience to support industry and sector growth.
04. Identify and address current and future skills and workforce needs 	• Understand future skills needs and align government funded training with demand for current and future skills. • Improve labour supply in priority areas including apprenticeships through increased course completions in government funded training. • Boost economic participation by supporting disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts through provision of pre-accredited training, VET learner supports and pathways that are accessible and effective and meet the diversity of learner needs. • Drive innovation through a joined-up tertiary system including stronger links between employment services, pre-accredited training, VET, schools, industry and higher education. • Address skill shortages through a responsive VET system, leading the development of flexible and adaptive accredited training and strong system stewardship. • Support TAFE in its critical role at the centre of the VET system through network reforms that further build capacity, coordination, innovation and quality. • Support improved higher education access and strengthen university partnerships and governance to improve skilling outcomes for Victorians.

Purpose: Ensuring communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business

Strategies	Departmental Focus Areas
05. Build prosperous and liveable regions 	• Support Victoria's regions with infrastructure, amenity, activities and services they need to thrive, including access to training. • Deliver high-quality, fit for purpose infrastructure, investment and jobs that enable economic development, provide opportunities for innovation, creativity and productivity and deliver community benefits. • Partner with local councils and local communities through innovative and inclusive place-based approaches and activities. • Support Victorians in response, relief and recovery from natural disasters, emergencies and global shocks, and anticipate and lessen the negative impacts and consequences of crisis. • Support regional industries' and communities' resilience to adapt, grow and transition.
06. Enhance participation in the creative industries, sport and recreation 	• Further strengthen community resilience by working with Victorians in anticipating, preparing for and responding to chronic shocks and acute stresses. • Support and motivate more Victorians and visitors to engage in creative, social, sport and active recreation activities in their communities and to ensure these sectors are inclusive. • Support public entities to operate effectively and sustainably to deliver government priorities and on community needs. • Increase and promote new opportunities in the sector so Victorians can participate in sport and active recreation in ways that suit them. • Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and voluntary). • Support the Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board to execute its statutory responsibilities of regulating the sport to promote safety and uphold industry integrity.

Strategies

Departmental Focus Areas

07.

Support First Peoples economic development



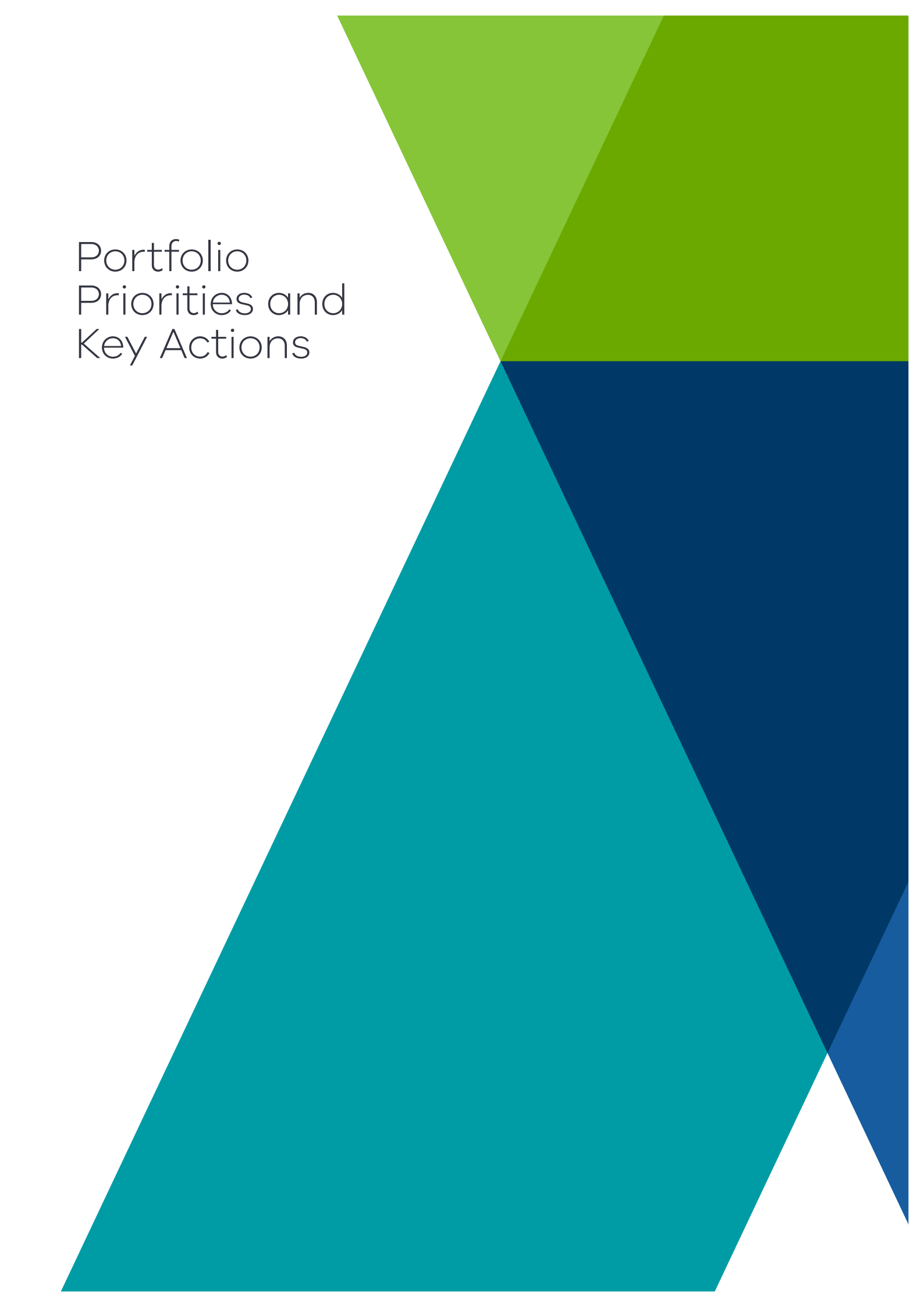
- Grow and develop the domestic and export capability of Traditional Owner corporations and First Peoples businesses across urban and regional-based sectors and industries.
- Support leadership, career advancement, training, employment and skill development opportunities for First Peoples in Victoria.
- Proactively drive and prioritise First Peoples self-determination across the department's work as well as work in partnership with Gellung Warl to support the implementation of the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*.
- Enable the work of the Yuma Yirramboi Council, including its Koori Caucus, to support initiatives that encourage First Peoples economic self-determination throughout Victoria.
- Partner with the First Peoples Directions Circle, a group of esteemed First Peoples leaders and professionals working across the creative industries, education, community and philanthropic sectors, to ensure a thriving future shaped by Community and culture.

08.

Contribute to the transition to a net zero economy



- Support communities and businesses to design, adapt to, transition and realise opportunities and economic benefits from decarbonisation of the economy.
- Provide solutions for hard to abate industries to contribute to climate change goals (net zero emissions by 2045), for example, by progressing the CarbonNet Project.
- Contribute to the Whole of Victorian Government emissions reduction pledge 2026-30 by delivering the Portfolio Emissions Reduction Plan.
- Provide skills and workforce development leadership across government to drive the provision and acquisition of skills required for the clean economy workforce.
- Support the commercialisation and scaling of technologies and services which support the transition.



Portfolio Priorities and Key Actions



01. Strengthen the business environment and develop key industries



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- **Increase the ease of doing business, and support a competitive, fair and inclusive business environment** – Create more and fairer jobs; implement targeted programs and initiatives that address pressure points for businesses.
- **Support the growth and resilience of Victoria's key industries** – Implement the *Victorian Industry Policy* and *Economic Growth Statement* initiatives to drive industry competitiveness, productivity and economic resilience.
- **Secure the maximum share of possible Australian Government funding for innovation and economic development** – Employ proactive, targeted and well-informed advocacy and engagement.
- **Support the growth of emerging and innovative industries to achieve government priorities** – Support research and innovation, broaden alternative finance instruments and improve access to talent, expand key industries – such as advanced manufacturing and defence, AI and digital technologies, agribusiness, clean and circular economy, health technologies and medical research and drive productivity improvements to support economic growth.
- **Harness the potential of AI** – Support delivery of the *AI Mission Statement* to responsibly harness AI to drive innovation, attract investment, boost global competitiveness and create the skilled jobs of the future.
- **Foster innovative and creative products and experiences** – Build creative capabilities and support experimentation, risk and innovation that result in new products, fresh ways of working and contemporary service delivery.
- **Strengthen the department's analytical capabilities, evidence base and business intelligence** to support better economic outcomes for Victorians.
- **Drive Victoria's global reputation for health tech and medical research** to improve health and economic outcomes for Victorians.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Increase the ease of doing business, and support a competitive, fair and inclusive business environment	• Provide small and family businesses with targeted programs and high quality, trusted and timely information to enable them to save time and money in starting and growing their businesses. • Support dispute mediation and advocacy through the Victorian Small Business Commission to enable resolution of business disputes and advocate for a fairer business environment for small businesses. • Contribute to government-wide initiatives to reduce regulatory burden for Victorian businesses, including by delivering programs to accelerate and streamline business permit approvals processes. • Deliver the Fair Jobs Code to ensure that suppliers and businesses tendering for Victorian Government contracts and businesses applying for business expansion grants provide fair and safe workplaces. • Support Ethical Clothing Australia to administer its voluntary label accreditation that promotes textile, clothing and footwear businesses and manufacturers to ensure their operations and supply chains provide correct wages, legal entitlements and safe working conditions for workers. • Support First Peoples self-determination in business and industry activities.
Support the growth and resilience of Victoria's key industries	• Deliver the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i> and DJSIR led <i>Economic Growth Statement</i> initiatives. • Strengthen Victoria's digital technology sector by accelerating the adoption and commercialisation of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, and supporting the growth, productivity and global competitiveness of Victoria's digital technology businesses and innovation ecosystem. • Strengthen Victoria's manufacturing and construction sectors by fostering industry competitiveness, productivity and economic resilience, with a focus on innovation and technology adoption, including through the uptake of Modern Methods of Construction as guided by the <i>Shaping the future of construction in Victoria: Modern Methods of Construction</i> statement.
Secure the maximum share of possible Australian Government funding for innovation and economic development	• Across Victoria's key sectors, work to secure a large share of the Australian Government's National Reconstruction Fund, National Cultural Policy: Revive, Future Made in Australia package, as well as its investment in uplifting Australia's defence industry capability. • Attract a significant share of other key Australian Government programs and business opportunities to Victoria. • Attract a significant share of national medical research contested grant funding enhancing Victoria's competitive advantage. • Attract a significant share of funding available nationally to advance the uptake of modern methods of construction, such as prefabricated and modular.
Support the growth of emerging and innovative industries to achieve government priorities	• Stimulate growth through the provision of strategic investment support, including through the oversight and delivery of industry investment funds and investment facilitation support. • Manage projects supported by the Industry R&D Infrastructure Fund. • Enhance the Victorian RNA industry through new investments in research and manufacturing for RNA technology applications, including in the agriculture sector. • Attract talent (including expats) necessary to support key foreign direct investments, coupled with leveraging the skilled workforce trained in Victoria. • Identify and support creative and innovative local companies in priority sectors to drive innovation and nurture emerging ecosystem. • Support and grow Victoria's innovation ecosystem and the commercialisation of ideas, including through supporting the effective operation of entities such as Innovation Victoria. • Build Cremorne as a digital technology precinct through the Cremorne Digital Hub.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Harness the potential of AI while managing the risks	• Build on existing strengths to make Victoria the destination for AI investment and a leading economy in AI adoption. • Make it more attractive, sustainable and easier to invest in data centres and digital infrastructure in Victoria, including through the delivery of the <i>Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan</i>. • Support the translation of local AI innovation into commercial opportunities, including support for research, startups and scaleups, and export opportunities. • Create tomorrow's AI skilled workforce through support for training and reskilling, lifelong workforce learning, and AI skills attraction and retention. This includes the delivery of the Digital Jobs – AI Career Conversion program to upskill professionals to become AI specialists. • Promote safe and responsible AI adoption to build community confidence and social licence.
Foster innovative and creative products and experiences	• Enhance the development of First Peoples creative product and experiences through strategic initiatives and dedicated funding streams across all creative industries. • Provide creative workers and projects with access to flexible and responsive grants; invest in research and innovation to allow for innovative creative content and programming. • Deliver against the <i>Creative State 2028</i> strategy, and undertake consultation, research and analysis to maximise the impact of sector investment.
Strengthen the department's analytical capabilities, evidence base and business intelligence	• Continue to improve the department's data, economic analysis and modelling, program oversight and evaluation capability, including assessing potential gendered impacts of policy proposals. • Support continuous improvement by undertaking strategic evaluations and reviews, enhancing the department's impact through better program design and delivery. • Ensure the department's business intelligence and rigorous economic analysis and advice underpins DJSIR's and government's policy development.
Drive Victoria's global reputation for healthtech and medical research	• Develop Victoria's health technologies and medical research innovation precincts. • Grow Victoria's end-to-end healthtech and medical research capabilities, including opportunities for translation of local IP into health and economic outcomes. • Continue to grow Victoria's globally recognised mRNA industry, including through world-leading advanced manufacturing facilities and research development and translation initiatives. • Develop the healthtech and medical research workforce. • Boost Victoria's clinical trials capabilities. • Deliver initiatives announced in the <i>Economic Growth Statement</i> to drive growth in Victorian clinical trial activity. • Support the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to implement <i>marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri</i>: the Victorian Aboriginal, Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord. • Implement Victoria's <i>Health and Medical Research Strategy 2022-32</i> including the development of action plans for delivery.



02. Strengthen Victoria's global connections



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- **Develop globally competitive industry sectors in Victoria** – Support advanced manufacturing, innovation, and trade capabilities across priority sectors and their supply chains through targeted direct investment and strategic investment attraction. Foster stronger connections that leverage Victoria's competitive strengths, including its diverse and globally connected communities, in line with the *Victorian Industry Policy*.
- **Support business productivity and growth through global engagement, facilitating trade and attracting foreign direct investment** – Leverage world-class products, services and capabilities in research and development, design, creativity, engineering, supply chain management and logistics to secure new export opportunities and attract and secure critical investment through the Victorian Investment Fund. Strengthen Victoria's economic growth through facilitating private sector investment and helping Victorian businesses successfully trade locally and into global markets.
- **Influence government policies that impact the state's international competitiveness** – Advocate for policy settings that support Victoria to be globally competitive and improve the attractiveness of Victoria as a world-leading destination for trade and international investment, education and innovation.
- **Drive sustainability and resilience of the international education sector** – Consolidate Victoria's global leadership in education and student experience and be recognised for quality, innovation and inclusion.
- **Explore new audiences and markets for creative industries** – Leverage Victoria's strengths – including creative talent, ideas and the best venues and facilities in the nation – as well as continue to develop new audiences, business models and pathways to market to sharpen Victoria's competitive edge on the national and global stage.
- **Support and build a thriving and vibrant visitor economy that positions Victoria as a preferred choice for international and domestic visitors** – Position Victoria as a preferred destination for international and domestic visitors by investing in high-quality tourism infrastructure and experiences across 5 product priorities: First Peoples-led experiences, Wellness, Arts and Culture, Food and Drink, and Nature. Enhance Victoria's profile of First Peoples tourism, ensuring our visitor economy supports the self-determination and capacity building of First Peoples communities and businesses.
- **Create an enduring legacy for Victoria by building an integrated sport system that delivers lasting value to the sector and the State** – Support more Victorians to achieve success through sport and maintain a strong pipeline of sporting events in the Victorian events calendar that helps to deliver local and global opportunities.
- **Support the growth of Victoria's diverse and world-class events calendar** – Ensure that major, regional and business event support achieves the greatest return for government investment and maintain Victoria's reputation as the events capital of Australia. Leverage these events to drive visitation across the state.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Develop globally competitive industry sectors in Victoria	In line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i>: • Support the growth of Victoria's digital technology sector, including in key segments such as artificial intelligence and cyber security. Leverage strengths in digital technologies (including AI) to facilitate a resilient, future-ready digital economy in Victoria. • Advance Victoria's manufacturing industry by investing in skills and advanced technology adoption in fields such as robotics, automation and digital transformation. • Lift the capability, capacity and competitiveness of Victoria's defence manufacturing industry and supply chain. Secure major defence industry investment opportunities. Support the development and expansion of defence and aerospace businesses, manufacturing and R&D in Victoria. • Build Victoria's Health Technologies sector and MedTech manufacturing capability, grow local content in health procurement and strengthen collaborations and connections. • Support the development, commercialisation and global impact of mRNA and RNA research, grow Victoria's mRNA and RNA manufacturing industry and invest in innovation. • Support the development of food manufacturing technology, capability and capacity to grow sales of high-value-added food products for local and export markets. • Support the development, commercialisation and global impact of Victoria's medical research sector, in areas such as workforce, clinical trials and precinct development. • Support the growth, global impact and commercialisation of the creative industries by supporting innovative new creative products, and the creation and protection of intellectual property. • Manage and support medical research projects of global significance, including the Australian Institute for Infectious Disease, the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics and the Children's Cancer CoLab.
Support business productivity and growth through global engagement, facilitating trade and attracting foreign direct investment	• Operate the Victorian Government's Trade and Investment international network and support global engagement by Victorian businesses and government agencies. • Implement support to grow Victorian exports and empower Victorian exporters to thrive in a dynamic global marketplace. • Support exporters to access global opportunities in identified priority sectors – advanced manufacturing and defence, AI and digital technologies, agribusiness, clean and circular economy, health technologies and medical research. • Undertake impactful advocacy to the Australian Government and other parties to ensure optimal policy settings to support exporters and to minimise non-tariff barriers. • Promote Victorian industry capability in international markets to position key sectors as globally competitive. • Strengthen collaboration with strategic partners globally to unlock new trade and investment opportunities for Victoria. • Develop and convert a pipeline of investment projects. • Deliver initiatives announced in the <i>Economic Growth Statement</i> and 2026-27 State Budget: the Boosting Victorian Exports Package, the Investment Front Door, the Investment Coordinator General, priority assessment teams to fast-track approvals and the Victorian Investment Fund. • Continue to progress development of the CarbonNet Project. • Promote Victoria's brand as an investment destination and exporter of high-quality goods and services.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Influence government policies that impact the state's international competitiveness	• Advocate to ensure that Victorian and Australian Government policy, legislation and regulations are designed to promote ease of doing business and support investment attraction and trade efforts. • Work with businesses to navigate the regulatory environment to enable investment and trade outcomes.
Drive sustainability and resilience of the international education sector	• Empower students to have a positive experience with Victoria through inclusive and responsive student wellbeing support, engagement programs and sector capacity building. • Launch global careers by attracting and nurturing talent, enhancing student employability, entrepreneurship and leadership, and building long-lasting global linkages. • Build Victoria's reputation as an open and inclusive education destination known globally for excellence and innovation, including stronger promotion of regional Victoria's education offering. • Strengthen industry engagement with global partners and support diversification of education delivery across countries, products and modes through Victoria's global education, trade and investment network, including through industry support programs such as the Yes to International Students Fund. • Position the international education sector for sustainable growth through strong government partnerships, engagement and aligned advocacy.
Explore new audiences and markets for creative industries	• Assist creatives to meet demand, grow audiences and access new markets. • Promote more investment and trade in Victorian creative products and services.
Support and build a thriving and vibrant visitor economy that positions Victoria as a preferred choice for international and domestic visitors	• Drive visitation, enhance visitor experiences and facilitate world-class destinations through catalytic projects, event acquisitions and tourism infrastructure. • Deliver contemporary governance, policy, legislative reform and strategic project support for tourism and events entities. • Create a competitive and innovative sector by partnering with industry and businesses to implement <i>Experience Victoria 2033</i>, focusing on addressing key opportunities and challenges such as workforce growth, investment facilitation, sustainability, and skills and capability development. • Leverage visitor trends, industry innovation and the strength of Victoria's regional brands to optimise our diverse range of tourism offerings and cultural activities.
Create an enduring legacy for Victoria by building an integrated sport system that delivers lasting value to the sector and the State	• Maintain and enhance a world-leading suite of major stadia and state facilities, which can host regional, national and international events, providing an uplift across the Victorian economy. • Ensure connected and coordinated pathways exist so Victorians can pursue sport at the highest level. • Partner with Visit Victoria and the sport sector to build a pipeline of sporting events – such as the National Football League regular season game that better leverages Victoria's sporting infrastructure. • Work with Global Victoria and other agencies to improve opportunities for Victorian sport businesses to access global markets.
Support the growth of Victoria's diverse and world-class events calendar	• Continue to implement the Major Events Acquisition Framework to guide government decision-making to maximise the value that Victoria's events calendar brings to the state. • Strengthen the state's position as a global major events destination by capitalising on Victoria's excellent sporting, creative, cultural and business events infrastructure. • Ensure that the economic benefits of events are distributed across regional Victoria as well as metropolitan Melbourne.



03. Create jobs and attract investment



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- Create higher value, secure jobs for Victorians** – Engage with industry, including small and family businesses, local government and communities; support industries and businesses across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne to be productive, competitive and resilient; and attract and facilitate new private and public investment and exports that support jobs growth, industry and community development – in line with the *Victorian Industry Policy, Economic Growth Statement, Housing Statement and Plan for Victoria*.
- Ensure the workforce has the skills needed for our priority industries** – Develop and attract world-class talent; provide opportunities for skills acquisition – including through apprenticeships, traineeships, upskilling and reskilling – in key areas including housing construction, clean economy transition, digital technologies, mRNA capability and the care economy; foster innovation in teaching and learning for new and emerging skills (including AI); and leverage public procurement as a pathway into skilled jobs.
- Foster better integration and participation of workforces to meet the future needs of regional Victoria** – Enable stronger integration across the jobs ecosystem, education providers, industry, research, employers and students, including in the growing health care and social services sectors in the regions, to grow the workforce and support employers to find appropriately skilled workers and drive more inclusive employment.
- Accelerate and support innovation, startups and commercialisation as drivers of growth** – Support increased business innovation; strengthen the state's medical research, mRNA ecosystem, innovation and digital ecosystem and its linkages with industry; make strategic innovation investments in line with the *Victorian Industry Policy*; and support key agencies, including Innovation Victoria.
- Deliver targeted employment support** – Provide tailored services for people facing barriers to work and continue testing interventions to improve service outcomes.
- Promote more and better creative job opportunities and pathways in the economy** – Strengthen First Peoples leadership and practice in line with the principles of self-determination; support career development, employment pathways and training; and help to develop a more sustainable, equitable and culturally safe sector and add to Victoria's cultural and creative vibrancy.
- Invest in creative industry growth** – Enable stronger organisations, businesses and enterprises through creating more jobs, supporting sustainable operations and investing in new creative products and services.
- Build a strong, skilled and resilient tourism and events industry that delivers innovative and outstanding experiences for visitors** – Work with industry to ensure the right conditions and settings are in place for the visitor economy's continued growth and success. Together with industry, build a highly skilled and diverse local workforce and strong, resilient businesses that can create richer, more meaningful experiences for all visitors.
- Develop a sport and active recreation sector that delivers safe and positive experiences for all Victorians** – Cultivate a highly skilled sport and active recreation workforce that leads a safe, sustainable, and inclusive sector that everyone can benefit from.
- Position Victoria as a state where business can invest, expand and innovate with certainty** – Enhance existing facilitation services to open doors for businesses to invest in Victoria, in line with the *Economic Growth Statement, AI Mission Statement and Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan*.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Create higher value, secure jobs for Victorians	In line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i> and <i>Economic Growth Statement</i>: • Attract and facilitate investment in priority sectors and locations, supporting strategic jobs growth, innovation and industry development, also in line with the <i>Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan</i>. • Develop strong relationships with key stakeholders, including businesses, intermediaries, local governments, and community groups, to provide key industry insights and identify and support opportunities for new investment, job creation, and exports. • Foster stronger partnerships between Victorian universities, TAFEs, research institutes, industry and government to address skills gaps to enable jobs growth. • Work with stakeholders and investors on key industry development initiatives with the potential for significant economic outcomes, in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, construction, defence, food and fibre, clean economy, creative economy, medical research, health and life sciences, AI and digital technologies. • Attract international air services (passenger and freight) from Victoria's key source markets to facilitate tourism, trade, international education and business connections. • Strengthen industry networks and inform people about Victoria's industry capabilities and key programs.
Ensure the workforce has the skills needed for our priority industries	• Progress strategic Victorian TAFE Network reforms to help TAFEs to align their planning with the skills needs highlighted in the <i>Victorian Skills Plan</i> and to develop common learning materials to support excellent and consistent TAFE teaching. • Support the TAFE Network to provide increased and coordinated training opportunities in housing construction and to respond with the collective expertise and resources of the Network to meeting skill needs in priority areas like transitioning to renewable energy and supporting the health and community care sectors. • Address skills gaps in priority sectors by increasing collaboration between industry, TAFEs and dual sector universities through the Skills Solutions Partnerships program to co-design and pilot new short courses and on-the-job training programs, aligned with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i> and the <i>Economic Growth Statement</i>. • Continue to support apprentices, trainees and their employers to meet Victoria's workforce priorities, including delivery of the Priority Apprenticeship Model. • Support targeted priority sector skills initiatives, such as the Australian Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Medical Innovation (ACAMI) and the Monash mRNA Workforce Training Centre. • Upskill business leaders and employees with cutting-edge and in-demand AI and digital skills that are critical for innovation and technology adoption, targeting the advanced manufacturing and construction sectors, through Digital Jobs, and developing the AI specialists of the future through the AI Career Conversion Program. • In line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i>, invest in a Future of Housing Construction Centre of Excellence at Melbourne Polytechnic to train workers in modern construction technologies and ensure Victoria remains at the forefront of new approaches to construction such as prefabricated and modular. • Attract world-class talent to Victoria to boost productivity and support industry, workforce and regional development through targeted marketing and migration programs. • Leverage public procurement and Victoria's investment in infrastructure, goods and services to create opportunities for local workers and businesses through the <i>Local Jobs First Policy</i> and the Major Projects Skills Guarantee, including maximising outcomes achieved on strategic projects by setting additional requirements that support key sectors. • Operationalise, monitor and evaluate the reforms to the <i>Local Jobs First Act 2003</i> (the Act), delivering on the Victorian Government's commitment to strengthen the Act to further maximise opportunities for local workers and businesses. • In partnership with the Victorian TAFE Network, pilot the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve recognition of prior learning to help skilled workers avoid unnecessary training and fast-track learning for students, per the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i>.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Foster better integration and participation of workforces to meet the future needs of regional Victoria	• Work with Regional Partnerships to better understand the workforce needs of regional Victoria and foster partnerships between employers, education providers and employment organisations. • Implement the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund to unlock economic benefits for regional communities and support job creation, economic growth and liveability. • Align TAFE infrastructure with the skills needs of Victorian regions, including outer metropolitan growth corridors, through strategic asset planning.
Accelerate and support innovation, startups and commercialisation as drivers of growth	• Make strategic innovation investments and deliver increased support for innovation through targeted programs in line with the <i>Victorian Industry Policy</i>. • Increase the adoption of digital technologies – including robotics, automation and AI applications – across Victorian businesses and industries, in line with the <i>AI Mission Statement</i>. • Support and grow Victoria’s innovation ecosystem and the commercialisation of ideas, including through supporting the effective operation of entities such as Innovation Victoria. • Support local translation of medical research and health technologies pipeline into health and economic outcomes for Victorians through programs such as Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, the Operational Infrastructure Support Program, the BioNTech Innovation Centre and R&D and Clinical scale mRNA Manufacturing Facility. • Establish dedicated economic hubs, operated by Traditional Owners, for First Peoples entrepreneurs, providing access to state-of-the-art facilities, resources and support networks.
Deliver targeted employment support	• Support local employment outcomes, including through operation of Thrive Hubs, Work and Learning Centres and the Youth Employment Scheme. • Work in partnership with Traditional Owner Corporations and the First Peoples on the delivery of employment programs to improve training and employment outcomes for First Peoples, in line with the <i>Yuma Yirramboi (Invest in Tomorrow) Strategy</i>. • Advocate to the Australian Government to shape the national employment system and services.
Promote more and better creative job opportunities and pathways in the economy	• Develop and promote First Peoples creative leadership and practice. • Support Victoria’s state-owned cultural agencies. • Improve access to employment opportunities for creatives who are deaf or have a disability by incorporating lived experience in program design and offering dedicated funding streams. • Deliver investment programs that provide opportunities for creatives to create and commercialise their intellectual property, by making and presenting new creative content. • Build Victoria’s future creative workforce, including by providing development opportunities for young leaders and more inclusive representation on creative industries’ boards. • Increase access to creative career opportunities and awareness for children and young people through programs like Creative Learning Partnerships. • Seek opportunities to identify and build capabilities so that First Peoples owned and led businesses flourish. • Support the development of demand for Victorian creative industries goods, services and experiences.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Invest in creative industry growth	• Deliver against the whole of government creative industries strategy to grow this vital industry sector and harness opportunities. • Invest in the development, growth and adaptation of Victoria's creative sector. • Position Victoria as a screen industry leader to build on the success of the previous VICSCREEN <i>Victoria's Screen Industry Strategy</i>. • Sustain a high level of creative achievement, growth and state-wide employment opportunities through investment in flagship creative institutions including the Creative Industries portfolio agencies, and streams such as the Creative Enterprises Program and National Performing Arts Partnership Framework. • Support the capability of Victoria's major institutions to collect, store and preserve art and cultural items. • Investigate future sector and audience needs and identify strategies to address these changes to maximise opportunities for all Victorians. • Support further development of business skills to commercialise and scale up creative businesses, in response to demand.
Build a strong, skilled and resilient tourism and events industry that delivers innovative and outstanding experiences for visitors	• Make the visitor economy a more valued employer by connecting employers to employment support programs, improving working conditions and addressing the needs and preferences of the emerging workforce. • Work with the education and training sector to ensure tourism, event and hospitality businesses and workers have access to the skills they need to succeed in the modern visitor economy. • Learn from our young people to understand the needs, preferences and motivations of our emerging workforce. • Connect industry to resources to increase their knowledge of CALD visitors and those with accessibility requirements, to improve their ability to attract and service these visitors, and introduce them to new and emerging markets. • Support businesses and events to invest in climate resilience, increase sustainability efforts, reduce waste, improve accessibility and adopt nature-positive practices.
Develop a sport and active recreation sector that delivers safe and positive experiences for all Victorians	• Attract and retain a skilled sport and active recreation workforce (paid and voluntary), that: – supports an industry-led plan that addresses current and future workforce trends (paid and voluntary) – facilitates development opportunities that help a variety of sporting and active recreation organisations engage, retain, build capability, and alleviate burden on volunteers – supports sport and recreation to reduce duplication and inefficiency in service delivery and become more financially sustainable. • Support the sector's implementation of frameworks to create and maintain safe and inclusive sport and active recreation settings. • Increase the representation of people with disability in regional Victoria in the sport and active recreation workforce, through paid roles, training and development opportunities and volunteer positions. – Develop pathways and training for people with disability within the sports and recreation sector for employment and volunteering. – Increase the skills and capability of the existing workforce in the sport and active recreation sector to create more inclusive environments and lasting workforce opportunities for people with disability. • Support the sector to prevent and minimise instances of racism, promoting sport and active recreation as safe and accessible for all.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Position Victoria as a state where business can invest, expand and innovate with certainty	• Deliver initiatives announced in the <i>Economic Growth Statement</i> and 2026-27 State Budget that will make it easier to do business in Victoria, including: – the Investment Front Door – the Investment Coordinator-General – Victorian Investment Fund – priority assessment teams to fast-track approvals. – enabling industry sponsored clinical trials via a specialised paediatric clinical trial network – delivering a new statewide fellowship program in clinical trials – deliver the Sustainable Data Centre Action Plan to strengthen Victoria's position as a global investment destination for data centres.



04. Identify and address current and future skills and workforce needs



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- Improve labour supply in priority areas through increased course completion rates in government funded training** – Increase the number of learners completing training (including through apprenticeships and traineeships), with a focus on training that is aligned with skills needs.
- Boost economic participation by supporting disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts in the tertiary system through targeted supports** – Increase training participation and completion rates for disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts, through targeted supports, foundation skills, a strong Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) sector and improved pathways between school and the tertiary system.
- Drive innovation through a joined-up tertiary system** – Enable strong links between employment services, pre-accredited training, VET, schools, industry and higher education to support delivery and innovation.
- Address skill shortages through a responsive VET system and strong system stewardship** – Effective design of Victoria's funded VET market and maximising National Skills Agreement investment to direct training supply towards greatest public benefits.
- Support TAFE in its critical role at the centre of the VET system through network reforms that further build capacity, coordination, innovation and quality** – Ensure market and system settings align with the Victorian Government's policy objectives for TAFE and grow TAFE training through a TAFE Network approach to delivery; invest in the TAFE Network's facilities, common technology platforms, shared best practice curriculum; workforce development; and student support services, inclusion and wellbeing programs.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Improve labour supply in priority areas through increased course completion rates in government funded training	• Improve completion rates in priority areas, including in apprenticeships, to drive economic productivity and maximise returns on existing investment in Skills First. • Improve retention, completion and success in VET across the learner lifecycle including from point of enrolment through to completion and employment outcomes. • Deliver an innovative, quality, safe apprenticeships and traineeship system that increases participation and completion rates and supports the skills needed to deliver government priorities such as Big Build, Housing Statement, clean economy, care economy and other initiatives. • Deliver the Apprentice Mental Health Training Program.
Boost economic participation by supporting disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts in the tertiary system through targeted supports	• Increase training participation and completion rates among disadvantaged and under-represented cohorts. • Strengthen pathways between school and VET. • Support and promote pathways between ACFE, further education training that meet learner needs. • Improve foundation skills. • Ensure system settings support access, including through Free TAFE, by maintaining expanded training eligibility and through investment in the TAFE Services Fund. • Deliver a strong ACFE sector and support the ACFE Board. • Drive delivery of the Marrung: First Nations Education Strategy in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) and contribute to the success of the <i>Yuma Yirramboi (Invest in Tomorrow) Strategy</i>. • Drive improved participation of women in traditional trades and other under-represented groups within apprenticeships.
Drive innovation through a joined-up tertiary system	• Lead the pursuit of improved pathways between schools, Learn Locals, TAFEs, RTOs and universities, including by supporting the implementation of senior secondary reform actions. • Support the implementation of the Australian Universities Accord to enable a more joined-up tertiary system, including a greater role for future skills and TAFE. • Deliver TAFE Centres of Excellence to drive innovation and partnerships with higher education and industry and contribute to the National TAFE Network (a National Skills Agreement initiative). • Support pathways between VET in schools and apprenticeships. • Deliver micro-credentials to address specific skills needs.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Address skill shortages through a responsive VET system and strong system stewardship	• Understand the demand for current and future skills and the issues which impact employers, industry, communities, and individuals building the skills they need. • Strengthen industry engagement architecture to ensure contemporary intelligence and workforce planning for future skilling. • Develop and publicly release an annual <i>Victorian Skills Plan</i>, <i>State of the Victorian Labour Market Report</i> and employment dashboard. • Act on intelligence to deliver training sector funding arrangements, market design and TAFE delivery that are consistent with the Victorian Government's policy commitments for a responsive VET system with TAFE at the centre. • Provision training with a focus on place, quality, sustainability and to support the central role of TAFEs and meet Victoria's commitment to the TAFE Funding Guarantee. • Deliver the ACFE pre-accredited training systems, settings and provisioning on behalf of the ACFE Board. • Improve quality and safety in the apprenticeship and traineeship system, including by providing comprehensive and holistic supports through continuation of the Apprenticeship Support Officer program, Apprentice Helpdesk, Apprentice Mental Health Program, Employee Assistance Program and the Workplace Rights Apprentice Training program as well as delivering legislative reform, as recommended by the Apprenticeships Taskforce. • Maximise National Skills Agreement investment and priorities to strengthen VET system stewardship and direct training supply towards greatest public benefits. • Maximise opportunities for the Victorian TAFE Network by the Australian Government also placing TAFE at the centre of its skills reform agenda, such as through the development of a National TAFE Network and TAFE Centres of Excellence. • Implement skills responses that address industry's current and future skilling and workforce needs that target priority areas and industries through programs such as Skills Solutions Partnerships.
Support TAFE in its critical role at the centre of the VET system through network reforms that further build capacity, coordination, innovation and quality	• Deliver the TAFE Reform Bill, including reformed TAFE governance, and legislation of the TAFE Funding Guarantee Election Commitment. • Coordinate creative and innovative ways of thinking across the Network to deliver benefits for students, employers and communities including ensuring TAFE campuses are accessible for people with disability. • Progress strategic TAFE Network reforms to help TAFEs focus their expertise and resources and respond as a Network to industry needs and align their planning with the skills needs highlighted in the <i>Victorian Skills Plan</i>. • Enable TAFE workforce growth and development including promotion and supporting the retention of teachers, trainers and assessors and provision of professional development opportunities including earn and learn pathways. • Advance key TAFE Network reforms and investments, including new and modernised facilities, common technology platforms, and shared best-practice curriculum. • Provide robust guidance – through the <i>TAFE Network Asset Strategy</i> – for future investment in the TAFE asset portfolio by taking a 'whole of State', TAFE Network view, informed by a clear understanding of existing assets and the advice of the <i>Victorian Skills Plan</i>. • Support increased industry partnerships and specialisation, including through Centres of Excellence and delivering flexible skills for new industries (such as clean economy, digital, AI and technology and home and community care). • Modernise TAFE to support teachers by planning and developing a human resources system that is purpose-built for TAFE teachers and support staff across the TAFE Network. • Support implementation of the <i>Statewide Treaty Act 2025</i> and continue enabling First Peoples self-determination in Victorian TAFEs.



05. Build prosperous and liveable regions



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- Enable prosperity and drive economic growth in our regions** – Advance capability and connection in Victoria's regions, leveraging existing and emerging strengths, skills, supply chains, and transport infrastructure to drive new and high-value opportunities, develop future-focused industries, support community cohesion and unlock new markets.
- Support the delivery and legacy of government's \$2 billion investment in regional Victoria** – Leverage government's investment in housing, tourism, sporting and community initiatives in regional Victoria to build healthier, economically and socially connected communities.
- Advise on the priorities of regional communities using a place-based approach, with a focus on addressing key issues and enabling prosperity** – Identify and communicate regional priorities directly to the government. Inform government decision-making and regional investment opportunities with advice based on regional knowledge and lived experiences and create opportunities for regions to have a greater say about the issues of importance to them.
- Support Victoria's cross border communities** – Victoria's Cross Border Commissioner works with border communities and businesses to identify and advocate for change along Victoria's borders. This involves working with Victorian Government departments and agencies, as well as interstate counterparts and other jurisdictions. Making it easier to do business across state borders has economic benefit, while addressing practical and regulatory barriers to people accessing various services improves health and social outcomes in border communities – making our border areas better places to live, work and study.
- Reduce negative consequences of emergencies** – Work with Victorian communities and businesses to ensure the negative consequences of natural and human-made crises are reduced. We do this by preparing for emergencies, working with the food and grocery sectors to minimise supply chain disruptions as well as implementing economic recovery and community connection programs for businesses and the broader economy to recover and become more resilient to future emergencies and a changing climate.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Enable prosperity and drive economic growth in our regions	- Facilitate targeted, high value, opportunities shaped by the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS), aligned to each region's profile and strengths. - Deliver regional infrastructure, precinct development and major investment projects, including through the Tiny Towns Fund, Regional Worker Accommodation Fund and regional trunk infrastructure. - Partner with regional and cross-border communities, First Peoples, industry, investors and government, including through Regional Development Australia committees, Regional Partnerships and Traditional Owner Corporations and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations in regional Victoria. - Deliver priority projects including the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct, Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment, and the Geelong City Deal, including the Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre and Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment. - Advance economic diversification, industry transition and resilience in priority regions, including delivery of the Gippsland Supply Chain Resilience Program and Portland Economic Diversification Plan strengthening supply chains and employment pathways. - Accelerate regional businesses to access new markets, export opportunities and investment pathways, including participation in Global Victoria trade missions and export facilitation services. - Design fit for purpose investment streams to back regional and outer metropolitan creative touring and activity. - Invest in regional, council owned creative venues to support programming and activities that deliver economic outcomes. - Ensure TAFE service delivery planning supports access for students to the right training in the right places, enriching communities and responding to local industry skills needs. - Deliver destination marketing campaigns to boost the promotion of Victoria's regional tourism businesses. - Deliver the Regional Events Fund and Regional Business Events Program to attract and support events in regional Victoria. - Support the network of Visitor Economy Partnerships by gathering industry insights to inform policy development, investment priorities and support for tourism operators. Support the sector's crises preparedness and recovery. - Deliver Regional Tourism Infrastructure Projects to drive year-round visitation and overnight stays in regional Victoria, supporting tourism businesses and attracting more local and international visitors.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Support the delivery and legacy of government's \$2 billion investment in regional Victoria	• Work across government and with regional stakeholders and communities to design and deliver the Victorian Government's regional investment including: – Regional Sport Infrastructure Program (RSIP) – Regional Community Sport Development Fund – All Abilities Sport Fund – Regional Tourism Industry Development – Regional Events Fund – Regional Business Events Program – Enabling Tourism Fund – Regional Tourism Investment Fund – Regional Tourism Marketing – Regional Worker Accommodation Fund – Aboriginal Economic Development Fund – Council Support Package – First Peoples Tourism Industry Strengthening Program – First Peoples Tourism Growth Program – Quality First Peoples Tourism Business Program – Tiny Towns extension – Victorian Investment Fund.
Advise on the priorities of regional communities using a place-based approach, with a focus on addressing key issues and enabling prosperity	• Support the work of Regional Partnerships to focus more sharply on economic growth and prosperity and ensure that issues important to regional communities are considered in government policy and decision-making. • Facilitate whole of government coordination to enable greater engagement and collaboration between regional businesses, communities and government. • Strengthen collaboration with the Australian Government's Regional Development Australia committees. • Provide linkages and support for stakeholders across relevant portfolio areas such as Industry and Advanced Manufacturing, Economic Growth and Jobs, Training and Skills and connections into relevant programs and opportunities to help facilitate investment, job creation and export opportunities.
Support Victoria's cross border communities	• Advocate for the interests of Victorian border communities by resolving issues and developing common approaches with neighbouring states.
Reduce negative consequences of emergencies	• Develop an economic recovery framework and programs in response to emergencies. • Support the Food and Grocery sector in preparing for and responding to supply chain disruptions. • Lead the department's coordination of emergency management activities and representation at senior level in the whole of Victorian Government emergency arrangements. • Ensure the department has the capability to maintain a 24/7 operational response capability in State and Regional Control Centres as required.



06. Enhance participation in the creative industries, sport and recreation



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- **Support Victorian creative industries to grow sustainably with diverse and original offerings in order that more people access culture and creativity in Victoria** – Invest in creative opportunities, content and partnerships, including ensuring that the creative workforce, audiences and consumers represent the diversity of the Victorian community. Ensure that our regional and outer-metropolitan areas can play a leadership role in defining the issues and outcomes most important to them.
- **Ensure all Victorians have access to high-quality environments and appropriate participation opportunities for sport and active recreation** – Facilitate equitable participation opportunities alongside inclusive, accessible, and respectful places and spaces for sport and active recreation.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Support Victorian creative industries to grow sustainably with diverse and original outputs, and more people accessing culture and creativity in Victoria	• Support Victorian creative industries and cultural organisations to: – have a greater diversity of investment and revenue – be financially resilient and more productive. • Remove barriers so that more Victorian creative workers build sustainable careers. • Ensure Victorian cultural facilities and agencies are widely accessed, fit for purpose and well utilised. • Prioritise investment in activity, businesses and organisations that make the creative industries more inclusive and representative of the Victorian community. Build the audience and market for Victorian creative events and experiences in both scale and diversity. • Ensure continued access to high-quality creative experiences across Victoria through regional and outer metropolitan touring. • Provide Victorian students and teachers with access to a diverse range of creative learning programs and opportunities. • Elevate Melbourne's 'cultural capital' status through the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation. • Ensure the creative workforce, audiences and consumers represent the diversity of the Victorian community (including regions and outer metropolitan) to provide leadership in defining the issues and outcomes most important to them.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Ensure all Victorians have access to high-quality environments and appropriate participation opportunities for sport and active recreation	• Increase and promote opportunities, by working in partnership, so Victorians can participate in sport and recreation in a way that suits them. • Target efforts towards individuals and communities that participate less, and/or that experience barriers to participation. • Enable a First Peoples community-led and self-determined approach to sport and active recreation. • Improve community sport and active recreation infrastructure coordination to better meet demand, with a focus on areas and populations that need it most. • Deliver inclusive, multi-use and sustainable community sport and active recreation infrastructure. • Support the state-wide transition to gender equitable access to, and use of, community sport infrastructure for women and girls. • Ensure investment aligns with priorities outlined in the <i>Active Victoria 2022-26 Strategic Framework</i>. • Increase opportunities for more Victorians to compete in national and international competitions and professional leagues to achieve success at the highest level.



07. Support First Peoples economic development



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- **Nurture a strong and ready First Peoples talent pool** – Support First Peoples in Victoria by nurturing diverse talent pools across the state, recognising their skills, interests and aspirations, and support First Peoples throughout their careers.
- **Support growth in the size, scale, diversity and maturity of the First Peoples business sector** – Take a coordinated, consistent, and long-term approach to supporting First Peoples business growth and economic development, underpinned by the principles of self-determination and supported by the Koori Caucus guiding our work. First Peoples economic success is vital to growing Victoria's economic success. The First Peoples business sector in Victoria is in the early stages of maturity with great opportunity for growth, via new and expanded markets, procurement targets, entrepreneurship, business development and capability development.
- **Generate First Peoples jobs and careers to reach employment parity** – First Peoples should have a genuine choice of employment pathways, and we play a key role in promoting opportunity through both direct employment within the public sector and across the private and community sectors using targeted policies and other incentives.
- **Work alongside First Peoples to deliver self-determined reforms** – These reforms should respect, recognise and empower First Peoples participation in, and contribution to, Victoria's economy as employees and employers, consumers and suppliers, investors and investees, creators and contributors.
- **Progress the implementation of Victoria's Statewide Treaty across the department** – The Victorian Government, including DJSIR, and Gellung Warl will work together to develop DJSIR guidelines that promote truth-telling and self-determination and ensure the department meets its obligations under the *Statewide Treaty Act 2025*.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Nurture a strong and ready First Peoples talent pool	• Enable First Peoples in Victoria to develop their own leadership, management and professional development capabilities in a culturally safe environment in the spirit of self-determination. • Redesign employment readiness programs that provide more enabling environments. • Support the development of First Peoples within the department to grow and develop their skills and careers. • Increase opportunities for board management and company directorships. • Advance First Peoples self-determination through the Skills and TAFE system and through employment opportunities to deliver the priorities of Closing the Gap; deliver on the <i>Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026</i> and embed best practice across the Learn Local sector. • Celebrate the successes and achievements of the First Peoples business sector in Victoria.
Support growth in the size, scale, diversity and maturity of the First Peoples business sector	• Boost opportunity for and capacity of Traditional Owner Corporations and First Peoples communities in regional areas. • Unlock new business development opportunities for First Peoples businesses and entrepreneurs in local and international markets, including improved access to capital, information and expertise. • Improve outcomes for First Peoples businesses through the department's procurement activities, and by meeting increased targets for procurement from First Peoples businesses in Victoria, specifically 3% of the department's procurements by supplier volume, and at least 1% of the department's total procurement spend. • Create partnerships with research institutions, business and industry to develop innovation and best practice models tailored to the needs of First Peoples enterprises. • Support First Peoples in Victoria to commercialise cultural knowledge, language, creativity and practices. • Leverage opportunities created through <i>Local Jobs First</i> to ensure that First Peoples owned and operated businesses are given a full and fair opportunity to compete for both large and small government contracts. • Support the growth of Victoria's First Peoples tourism sector and further embed the principles of self-determination to ensure it's an authentic representation of our state's cultural richness. • Deliver the <i>First People's Tourism Plan 2025 to 2030</i> to support the establishment and growth of sustainable First Peoples tourism businesses. • Partner with the First Peoples Directions Circle, a group of esteemed First Peoples leaders and professionals working across the creative industries, education, community and philanthropic sectors, to ensure self-determination is at the heart of the creative industries portfolio's work and help ensure a thriving future shaped by Community and culture. • Enable the work of the Yuma Yirramboi Council, including its Koori Caucus, to support initiatives that encourage the self-determined growth of the First Peoples business sector.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Generate First Peoples jobs and careers to reach employment parity	• Champion jobs growth and collaboration across all sectors to advance opportunities for pay parity and career progression. • Use available levers to activate the private sector to increase employment and employment experiences of First Peoples. • Support the growth of First Peoples in the workforce across all sectors and increase the number of First Peoples staff within the department. • Embed cultural safety to ensure staff, stakeholders and partners feel safe.
Work alongside First Peoples to deliver self-determined reforms	• Support and enable self-determination in the design, delivery and evaluation of programs for First Peoples. • Help protect First Peoples cultural and intellectual property, including Indigenous Data Sovereignty.
Progress the implementation of Victoria's Statewide Treaty	• Progress implementation of Statewide Treaty and <i>Statewide Treaty Act 2025</i> obligations, in partnership with the First Peoples Assembly of Gellung Warl, through the development of departmental guidelines. • Ensure Statements of Treaty Compatibility are completed for all DJSIR bills presented to Parliament. • Work to understand and support mandates of <i>Nyema Yoorrook Telkuna</i> and <i>Nginma Ngainga Wara</i>, as the truth-telling and accountability arms of Gellung Warl, as information becomes available.



08. Contribute to the transition to a net zero economy



This strategy will be delivered through the following priorities:

- Implement the Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy 2023-2033** – Ensure Victoria has the skilled workforce it needs to support the transition to a net zero economy. Bring together government, industry and educational institutions to plan and invest to prepare the future workforce needed for the circular economy, renewable energy sector and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Contribute to Victoria's decarbonisation and transition to net zero emissions** – Support transition to a net zero economy and decarbonisation through global engagement to attract environmentally sustainable business opportunities, invest in innovative startups, leverage low-carbon supply chains support capabilities growth in the sector and progress the CarbonNet project.
- Collaborate with Victorian Government departments/agencies for net zero transition policy initiatives** – Engage with DEECA and other Victorian Government departments/agencies on policy measures to support the transition to net zero contributing to the development and implementation of collaborative initiatives including the *Gas Substitution Roadmap*, the strategic review of the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program and deliver the Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) sector emission reduction pledge.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Implement the Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy 2023-2033	- Develop a new skilling approach that supports the development of transferable and technical skills required by the clean economy in parallel to the emergence of technologies and workforce demands. - Ensure training products can support multidisciplinary and cross-cutting clean economy skills. - Increase the capacity and capability of clean economy education and training for both known and emerging skills. - Actively plan for and support supply of critical roles across the clean economy. - Create the Renewable Energy Centre of Training Excellence to function as a facilitator of a coordinated and collaborative system-wide implementation of the <i>Clean Economy Workforce Development Strategy 2023-2033</i> and the skills response to the <i>Victorian Energy Jobs Plan</i>.

Portfolio Priority	Key Actions
Contribute to Victoria's decarbonisation and transition to net zero emissions	• Work with investors seeking to use the state's resources in an environmentally responsible manner that provides economic opportunities for regions in transition. • Support businesses seeking to establish access to minerals and resources in the state that are critical supply chain elements to support the transition to a low carbon economy. • Commercialise CarbonNet to provide a transport and storage solution to support industry transition to a low emissions economy. • Ensure the Renewable Energy Centre of Training Excellence is focused on optimisation of the skills development required for the energy transition that will achieve Victoria's net zero targets. • Assist investors to locate the talent required for the establishment of businesses that facilitate the transition to a net zero economy. • Support businesses to engage with local universities and research institutions to commercialise new energy and low carbon technologies. • Provide support for business infrastructure that reduces emissions and improves business sustainability. • Ensure that insights regarding skills needs of businesses inform the annual <i>Victorian Skills Plan</i>. • Engage with Traditional Owners and First Peoples communities to identify specific needs and opportunities within the clean economy.
Collaborate with Victorian Government departments and agencies for net zero transition policy initiatives	• Collaborate with DEECA regarding <i>Gas Substitution Roadmap</i> implementation, including: – development of policy options to address projected gas supply shortfalls and support the development of the alternative gas sector in Victoria (e.g. hydrogen, biomethane) – supporting the development of future Roadmap Updates, and development of carbon sequestration services (including the CarbonNet Project) to support new and existing industries that require carbon abatement, delivering jobs and economic growth to Victoria. • Partner with the SEC to establish the Renewable Energy Centre of Training Excellence and ensuring alignment with the SEC strategic direction. • Monitor implementation of the 2026-2030 Industrial Processes and Product Use (IPPU) Sector strategy to reduce emissions from leaking high emissions refrigerant gases in refrigeration and cooling equipment. • Work across government to support: – development and delivery of the Victorian Energy Jobs Plan – the strategic review of the Victorian Energy Upgrades Program – the Adaptation Action Plans to build Victoria's climate resilience – development of renewable energy projects and new transmission infrastructure to support the energy transition – delivery of the Portfolio Emissions Reduction Plan to contribute to the Whole of Victorian Government emissions reduction pledge 2026-30 – the Victorian TAFE Clean Economy Prospectus – uptake of zero emissions vehicles, and – analysis regarding implications for Victorian business arising from national and international policy measures (e.g., Safeguard Mechanism, US Inflation Reduction Act).

Financial Outlook and Assets

The Victorian State Budget 2026-27 was delivered on Tuesday, 5 May 2026.

The budget commitments in the 2026-27 State Budget will enable the department to:

- Support businesses and industries to invest, innovate and grow, including across our thriving creative and tourism industries
- Build the skills system to support jobs across the whole economy, both now and into the future
- Ensure communities across the state are great places to live, work, stay, study, invest and do business.

DJSIR's portfolio 2026-27 Output Costs by Departmental Objectives

Departmental Objectives and Outputs	2026-27 budget (\$ million)
Create and maintain jobs	
Jobs	43.6
Foster a competitive business environment	
Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	342.3
Economic growth through trade and investment attraction	
Trade and Investment	123.3
Build prosperous and liveable suburbs and regions, and manage and promote outdoor recreation	
Regional Development	227.0
Fishing, Boating and Game Management ^(a)	93.0
Grow vibrant, active and creative communities	
Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	75.8
Creative Industries Portfolio Agencies	502.3
Cultural Infrastructure and Facilities	77.0
Sport and Recreation	392.2
Tourism and Major Events	295.3
Deliver high-quality training and skills to meet industry needs and jobs for a growing economy	
Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	2,294.3
Total^(b)	4,466.1

Notes:

a) These functions are transferring out of the department in line with the General Order issued by the Premier on 7 August 2026.

(b) Table may not add due to rounding.

Source: 2026-27 State Budget Department Performance Statement.



Operating performance

The DJSIR portfolio is forecasting an operating deficit of \$23.0 million in 2026-27, compared with an expected operating deficit in 2025-26 of \$55.0 million for the revised budget.

The 2026-27 deficit primarily reflects expenditure funded from trust balances, including the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund and the Better Boating Fund, consistent with the requirements of the relevant trust accounts.

Balance sheet

The DJSIR portfolio's net asset position is estimated at \$14.4 billion by 30 June 2027. There are no significant movements in assets and liabilities in the 2026-27 budget compared with the 2025-26 revised budget.

Investing and finance

The DJSIR portfolio's net cashflows used in investing and finance activities is estimated at \$122.0 million in 2026-27. Cash flows from investing activities primarily reflect payments for non-financial assets, including asset projects funded in the 2026-27 Budget.

Asset outlook and investment

DJSIR has oversight and accountability for a diverse asset portfolio. This includes heritage assets, creative and cultural assets, property, buildings and facilities, intangible assets, information and communication technology assets, business systems and organisational structures that support our portfolios and service delivery needs.

The Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance mandates the requirement to apply the Asset Management Accountability Framework (AMAF). The AMAF assists DJSIR to manage their asset portfolios and provide better services for Victorians.

DJSIR's Asset Management Framework aligns to the AMAF to enable the department to demonstrate alignment of its asset portfolio to service delivery demands (current and future), and to examine the performance and need for assets.

DJSIR will continue to implement the requirements of AMAF across its asset portfolio and deliver its capital projects commitments in the 2026-27 Budget.

The DJSIR portfolio's total assets is estimated to be at \$15.5 billion¹³ by 30 June 2027, \$113.7 million has been committed in 2026-27 for new and existing capital projects and \$22.8 million remaining expenditure has been committed for future capital works. In addition, across DJSIR's portfolio entities, \$576.5 million has been committed in 2026-27 for new and existing capital projects, with a further \$577.5 million committed for future capital works. More detailed information on the department's asset program is available in the 2026-27 State Budget Paper 4: State Capital Program.

13 Sourced from 2026-27 State Budget Paper Number 5- Statement of Finances.

