Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to this land and we pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future.

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OVERVIEW

# Secretary’s Foreword

2019-20 has marked the start of a year unlike any other. When we set our objectives for the year, we could never have imagined the unprecedented challenges we have faced locally, nationally and globally.

The department’s role has always been critical in responding to potential disruptors to Victoria’s economic progress, but the recent scale of disruption is beyond anything that has come before. Continuing drought, devastating bushfires and the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have placed our economy under unparalleled pressure.

It is hard to imagine a more demanding environment. The pandemic has changed the way we live and work; as public servants, we have faced demands not only at a personal level, but professionally too, with businesses and industries struggling to survive and families facing job losses and hardship.

It is within this context, and amidst these challenges, that I’d like to acknowledge how hard DJPR team members have worked to help Victorians during this time. We have assisted businesses and industries to navigate the pandemic and helped people who have lost their jobs to find new work. We’ve continued to engage, listen and partner with our stakeholders, understanding what our communities need when we design response and recovery plans. From our agricultural businesses and regional centres, through to the suburbs and city, we are working at pace to respond.

Our workforce has quickly adapted to a virtual environment, supported by a rapid improvement in our technical capabilities. This, coupled with a power of work to equip our people to thrive in new ways, has helped us to stay connected and focussed on supporting the government to ensure Victoria recovers from the economic impacts of the pandemic.

On behalf of our Ministers and the Executive Board, I thank everyone for their significant contribution. I look forward to working with this inspiring team to help drive Victoria’s recovery, building stronger and more resilient communities than before. That’s our priority, and where we can truly make a difference.

## Accountable Officer’s Declaration

In accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions for the year ending 30 June 2020.

Simon Phemister  
Secretary

# About the Department

### About us

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) was established on 1 January 2019 to grow our state’s economy and ensure it benefits all Victorians – by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions, and supporting inclusive communities.

Our work supports six ministers, spans 14 portfolios (as at 30 June 2020) and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. We also oversee various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards.

Ultimately, our work is about sustainably developing the Victorian economy by growing employment and improving the lives and prosperity of all Victorians. We work with many government, industry and community stakeholders to do this.

### Our purpose

Here at the DJPR, we’re firmly focused on growing our state’s economy and ensuring it benefits all Victorians.

For Victoria, this means:

More jobs for more people: we’re helping to grow the economy by working with businesses to create and maintain jobs, so more people have meaningful work that’s safe and secure. We’re supporting workers, developing and growing our industries, and assisting industries in transition. We’re creating jobs by leveraging and securing our natural assets and regional strengths, along with fostering our visitor economy, creativity and innovation. We’re also connecting Victoria to the world by attracting investment and talent, and helping Victorian businesses successfully trade into global markets.

Thriving places and regions: we’re building vibrant, prosperous precincts, suburbs and regions that drive economic growth and opportunities. We’re supporting businesses to establish and grow, and our geographic focus on innovation and sector activity is helping attract investment. We’re also cementing Victoria’s position as Australia’s leading cultural, sport, tourism and events destination.

Inclusive communities: we’re working to create opportunities for all Victorians in communities that are well connected, culturally diverse and economically resilient. We’re doing this by taking a collaborative approach – working across government and with communities to understand how we can share the benefits of economic prosperity, address entrenched disadvantage and support a stronger and fairer society.

# Entities

As at 30 June 2020

#### Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

* LaunchVic
* Office of the Local Jobs First Commissioner

Victorian Small Business Commission

#### Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

##### Creative Industries

* Arts Centre Melbourne (ACM)
* Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)
* Docklands Studios Melbourne (DSM)
* Film Victoria
* Geelong Arts Centre (GAC)
* Melbourne Recital Centre
* Museums Victoria
* National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)

State Library Victoria (SLV)

##### Sport and Recreation Victoria

* Kardinia Park Stadium Trust
* Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust
* Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust
* Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board
* State Sport Centres Trust

Victorian Institute of Sport

##### Office of Racing

* Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV)
* Harness Racing Victoria (HRV)
* Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner
* Victorian Racing Tribunal (from 1 August 2019)

Victorian Racing Integrity Board (from 1 August 2019)

##### Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy

* Australian Grand Prix Corporation (AGPC)
* Emerald Tourist Railway Board (ETRB)
* Fed Square Pty Ltd (FSPL)
* Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust (MCET)

Visit Victoria

#### Rural and Regional Victoria

##### Resources

* Office of the Mining Warden

Office of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

##### Forestry and Game

* Game Management Authority (GMA)

VicForests

##### Regional Development Victoria

Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner

#### Agriculture

* Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd (AVS)
* Dairy Food Safety Victoria (DFSV)
* Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation
* Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area Industry Development Committee (ended in 2019)
* Melbourne Market Authority (MMA)
* Murray Valley Wine Grape Industry Development Committee (MVWGIDC)
* PrimeSafe
* Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria
* Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Committee (VSIDC)

Victorian Broiler Industry Negotiation Committee (this agency was repealed under legislation in December 2019)

Infographic 
DJPR Organisation Chart

## Ministers

The department supports six ministers across 14 portfolios.

As at 30 June 2020, they were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Minister | Role |
| The Hon. Martin Foley MP | Minister for Creative Industries |
| The Hon. Shaun Leane MP | Minister for Suburban Development |
| The Hon. Martin Pakula MP | Minister for Industry Support and Recovery  Minister for Business Precincts  Minister for Trade  Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  Minister for Racing  Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions: COVID-19 |
| The Hon. Jaala Pulford MP | Minister for Employment  Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy  Minister for Small Business |
| The Hon. Ros Spence MP | Minister for Community Sport |
| The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP | Minister for Regional Development  Minister for Agriculture  Minister for Resources |

The department also provides advice and support to parliamentary secretaries.

As at 30 June 2020, they were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parliamentary Secretary | Role |
| The Hon. Jane Garrett MP | Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs |
| Ms Danielle Green MP | Parliamentary Secretary for Sport  Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria |

## Executive Board

The DJPR Executive Board (EB) is the department’s primary governance body.

At 30 June 2020, members of EB were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Role |
| Simon Phemister | Secretary |
| Penelope McKay | Associate Secretary |
| David Latina | Deputy Secretary, Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement |
| Gönül Serbest | CEO, Global Victoria |
| Andrew Abbott | Deputy Secretary, Creative, Sports and Visitor Economy |
| Brad Ostermeyer | Acting Deputy Secretary, Precincts and Suburbs |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Victoria |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Inclusion |
| Emily Phillips | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture |
| Andrew Parsons | Associate Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |
| Tess Hughes | Chief Communications Officer |

## Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is an independent body established in accordance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the Financial Management Act 1994. The Secretary appoints all committee members based on their qualifications and experience to ensure that the committee can adequately discharge its duties. The Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Audit Executive are standing invitees to all ARC meetings; the ARC meets six to seven times a year as determined by the Chair.

The ARC provides the Secretary with independent assurance on the department’s:

* financial and performance reporting
* risk oversight and management
* internal control systems

legislative and policy compliance.

##### In 2019–20, the ARC members were:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Role |
| Michael Perry | Chair and Independent Member |
| Pam Mitchell | Independent Member |
| Patricia Neden | Independent Member |
| Nanette Fitzgerald | Executive Director, Industry Development and Participation (from August 2019) |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Inclusion |

## Legislation Administered by the Department

djpr.vic.gov.au details DJPR administered legislation between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

## Subsequent Events

In June 2020, Machinery-of-Government (MoG) changes were announced by the Secretary following ministerial changes. These changes came into effect on 1 July 2020:

* Local Government Victoria from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning joined DJPR and became part of the new Local Government and Suburban Development group.
* The Place Based Reform team from the Department of Premier and Cabinet joined DJPR.

The Medical Research team from the Department of Health and Human Services joined DJPR.

The finalisation of the 2018 MoG processes to establish DJPR as a department were completed on 30 June 2020, with the separation of DJPR and Department of Transport (DOT) systems, services and staff. From 1 July 2020 both departments will deliver their own corporate systems and services.

# Departmental Groups

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE)

The JIBE group focuses on helping Victorian businesses grow, creating more job opportunities, developing key industries and being innovation leaders.

The group works to build trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses, from global enterprises to small businesses and start-ups, to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy. The group does this by facilitating and enabling new investments, developing and attracting world class talent, supporting key industry capabilities, building on the state’s reputation for innovation and advocating for a competitive and fair business environment that creates more jobs.

JIBE comprises nine branches: Industry Development and Participation; Innovation, Digital and Bio Economy; Telecommunications; Skilled and Business Migration; Business Investment and Engagement; Small Business Victoria; Policy and Regulation Reform; and Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams (encompassing Capture Teams and Aviation Strategy and Services).

## Global Victoria

The Global Victoria group connects Victoria to global opportunities by building the export capability of Victorian businesses and connecting them to global trade opportunities through its international networks. The group promotes the state’s world class industry and education capabilities to international audiences and quality student experience to international students, with Melbourne, the nation's best student city and third best in the world. The group takes a leadership role for global engagement across government and advocates for the best policy settings to support the competitiveness of Victorian businesses.

The group’s objective is to support the growth in the value of Victorian exports and number of Victorian exporters and jobs created as a result of export activities. The group also aims to diversify the state’s export markets and strengthen the digital offering capabilities of Victorian exporters.

The breadth and scale of the Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) network continues to deliver a strong and effective on-the-ground presence in key global markets. The international network is a critical conduit for Victorian companies to commence their export ambition or widen their export footprint. The group’s international presence comprises 22 VGTI offices (and a 23rd office was announced for Vietnam in October 2019), a team of 90 people and six Commissioners who deliver for the whole of Victoria by leveraging their networks and detailed knowledge of market opportunities to grow Victoria’s exports and facilitate foreign direct investment into Victoria. This network is the largest and strongest of any state or territory in Australia.

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy (CSVE)

The CSVE group works to strengthen Victoria’s status as Australia’s leading cultural, sport, racing, recreational, tourism and events destination, and to ensure the best cultural and sporting experiences are accessible to everyone.

Creative Victoria raises the profile, reach and impact of Victoria’s creative industries, supports the career development of local artists and creative professionals, and oversees the state’s major creative and cultural organisations, collections and facilities, valued at $7 billion[[1]](#footnote-1).

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) works collaboratively with the not-for-profit, private and government sectors to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians and build stronger and more connected communities. It also supports the development of major sports facilities and high-performance pathways to maintain Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s leading state for sporting and major events – delivering economic growth and jobs, enhancing Victoria’s liveability and ensuring that Victorians are supported to achieve, from local parks to the world stage.

[Two Offices work alongside SRV in the Sport, Recreation and Racing portfolio.](https://sport.vic.gov.au/about-us/what-we-do)

The [Office of Women in Sport and Recreation](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/the-initiative/office-for-women-in-sport-and-recreation) works to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation, from grassroots through to senior leadership.

The Office of Racing provides policy and legislative support to the Minister for Racing, delivers the government’s racing agenda, administers the Victorian Racing Industry Fund, and supports organisations that are central to the racing industry’s integrity framework.

Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy undertakes research and provides policy, strategy and industry development advice to the government and industry. It also provides governance support and advice to entities that market the state, secure events, and manage large scale tourist attractions, precincts, facilities and entertainment venues in Victoria.

## Precincts and Suburbs

The Precincts and Suburbs group coordinates a whole of government approach to the planning and development of Melbourne suburbs and Priority Precincts. The group works to maximise business growth, job creation, housing options and liveability in these places of opportunity. The group does this while making people part of the decisions that affect them; translating community feedback into advice for government policy.

The Office for Suburban Development, which sits within the Precincts and Suburbs group, develops and delivers the government vision and policy agenda for Melbourne’s suburbs. Through support for the Metropolitan Partnerships, Revitalisation Boards and the coordination of suburban development investment programs, the Office facilitates coordination across government, business and community sectors in the delivery of infrastructure and services for suburban communities.

The group delivers a vision shared with local communities to revive urban areas and realise their potential to create thriving growth centres that attract investment and generate jobs.

## Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV)

The RRV group works to create more jobs for more rural and regional Victorians, build thriving economies and communities and enable place-based collective impact.

The group works across three portfolios – Regional Development, Resources and Agriculture (for Forestry and Game) and facilitates investment and promotes job creation in both established and emerging sectors. The group provides vital support for regional communities during times of need, whether through intensive programs for economies in transition or helping regional Victorians recover from natural disasters such as bushfires and floods. The group is responsible for sustainably managing natural resources (minerals, extractives, petroleum and forests) to support improved economic, employment and social outcomes.

The group’s efforts facilitate broader whole-of-Victorian Government priorities in rural and regional Victoria aimed at ensuring better transport, digital connectivity, more affordable housing, comprehensive health, education and community infrastructure. The group works with a wide range of stakeholders across industry, local communities and all tiers of government to promote rural and regional Victoria as a great place to live, work, visit and invest.

## Agriculture Victoria

The Agriculture Victoria group delivers policy, regulation and compliance, market access and facilitation, biosecurity and emergency management, and research and innovation services. This work supports both well-established agricultural industries such as dairy, grains, horticulture and livestock, as well as new and emerging industries such as medicinal cannabis and the small-scale and craft agri-business sector.

The group has around 1250 staff who usually work at 47 locations throughout Victoria. The group works with industry to enhance productivity and growth, as well as protect and grow market access by addressing trade barriers and managing the risks of pests, diseases and chemical use. The group actively partners with industry and research institutions to innovate and accelerate adoption of new technologies and practices.

The group works with the community and industry to respond to and recover from natural disasters, emergencies and major challenges that affect community wellbeing and agriculture businesses. The group’s staff are a key part of bushfire response and recovery, and work alongside industry to manage the economic impact of major global events.

## Inclusion

The Inclusion group champions the fair distribution of the economic and social benefits that stem from a strong economy.

The group achieves this by using its resources and skills to understand how the economy impacts different socio-economic groups, communities, regions and businesses, and acting to maximise the impact of government investment. The group works with colleagues around the department to support a more inclusive organisation and a stronger focus on economic inclusion across all portfolios. The group also collaborates across government on how a stronger and more inclusive economy can support wider government priorities. In doing this, the group is informed by the experiences of excluded people and communities.

## Corporate Services

The Corporate Services group enables DJPR staff to focus on growing the state’s economy to benefit all Victorians by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions and supporting inclusive communities. The group works to build a safe, high-performing organisation where DJPR staff are supported to perform at their best. The group does this by providing strategic and operational support services and is creative and innovative about how it makes that happen.

## Office of the Lead Scientist

The Office of the Lead Scientist aligns and connects the state's innovation system across government, industry and the research sector to foster links and catalyse investment in Victoria’s science and research capability. The Office also identifies emerging economic opportunities (e.g. space industries and quantum technologies), advocates for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills and raises community awareness of science and innovation.

## Climate Change in Industry Transition

Climate Change in Industry Transition works to deliver the government’s obligations under the Climate Change Act 2017 and whole-of-government work on climate change and energy reform. During 2019–20 the team worked across DJPR groups to lead the delivery of DJPR’s climate change and energy work, including work on emission reduction sector pledges and adaptation action planning, providing a consolidated view to all DJPR Ministers and the Executive Board. The team also worked to help the state’s industries and communities take advantage of Victoria’s shift to a carbon neutral economy and build thriving places and regions well adapted to a changing climate.

# Priority Projects/ COVID-19 Coordination

## Victorian Public Service Missions during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

From April 2020 the most senior levels of the Victorian Public Service (VPS) were structured to focus on a small number of core Missions to help respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and to prepare for the recovery and restoration of Victoria.

Departmental Secretaries have been appointed as Mission Leads by the Premier, who are responsible for planning and delivery of the Missions. Mission Leads engage with the Crisis Council of Cabinet (CCC) Coordinating Ministers and support the CCC as the structure’s core decision-making forum.

A Mission Coordination Committee, chaired by the Secretary, Department of Premier and Cabinet, was also established as the key officials’ forum to support delivery of the Missions, reporting to the CCC. This Mission structure has allowed the VPS to effectively focus activity, share resources and coordinate coronavirus (COVID-19) responses across departments.

From June 2020, the initial eight public service Missions were consolidated into six key Missions, to support a more focused effort on public health response and resilience, and to support the delivery of the deferred 2020–21 state budget. The Missions led by the Secretary, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, are as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Mission | Lead(s) | Description |
| Economic program delivery, supply, logistics and procurement | Secretary, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions | Leadership and delivery for the economic programs needed to support business and employment.  Leadership for the supply and transport of essential goods, and the timely procurement of goods and service and potentially premises. |
| Economic Recovery and growth | Secretary, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions  CEO Invest Victoria | Leadership for the identification of recovery and growth strategies and actions for Victoria to recover economically. |

## DJPR response to coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

DJPR’s role in supporting business, industry and sectors through the pandemic and into recovery is critical. As part of this ongoing work, the department has contributed to supporting business and employment including the delivery of two key programs – the Business Support Fund and Working for Victoria Fund.

### Business Support Fund

The Business Support Fund was announced on 21 March 2020 and closed on 1 June 2020.[[2]](#footnote-2) The fund provided financial support through a one-off $10,000 grant to eligible businesses impacted by the economic effects of coronavirus (COVID-19). Grant funding could be used by businesses to meet ongoing business costs, obtain financial or legal advice, and finance other supporting business activities.

Achievement (at 30 June 2020):

Supported over 77,000 business providing $770 million in grants through the period 30 March 2020 up to 30 June 2020.

### Working for Victoria Fund

Announced on 21 March 2020, Working for Victoria is a $500 million Fund helping Victorians find work that supports the community. This includes Victorians who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The Working for Victoria initiative is working with the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to identify employment opportunities, and is part of the Victorian Government’s $1.7 billion Economic Survival Package. The Working for Victoria Fund is designed to connect workers with new opportunities that will help our community and contribute to Victoria’s ability to respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

At 30 June 2020, more than 50,000 jobseekers had registered with the Working for Victoria online marketplace.

Achievements (at 30 June 2020):

* Committed $246.9 million to create and support jobs across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, including Aboriginal organisations.

Supported almost 6500 Victorian jobseekers into employment, including 197 people in regional jobs.

# Achievements 2019–20

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

### Small Business Victoria (SBV)

* Assisted Local Councils to cut red tape by delivering the Better Approvals Project to a further 42 councils over 2019–20, bringing the total to 61 Victorian councils to date. Councils that have completed the project and implemented the reforms have reported a significant reduction in council permit approval times for small businesses, averaging around 73 per cent improvement when approving multiple permits.
* Delivered support to small businesses impacted by the Victorian bushfires, including Local Business Recovery Advisers to support more than 900 businesses from the initial response through to business recovery planning, as well as mentoring for rebuilding and resilience.
* Administered the $50,000 Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grant with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). Sixty-eight successful applicants received a total of $1,760,996. SBV provided a consultative role for the $10,000 Small Business Bushfire Support Grant which resulted in 1563 approved grants worth a total of $15,630,000.
* Transitioned SBV’s service delivery programs, including workshops, mentoring services and the small business bus to online and teleconference delivery during coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. In 2019–20, 4929 participants attended 432 small business workshops across Victoria.
* Engaged with 27,996 intermediaries via email and SMS to communicate coronavirus (COVID-19) support information including the Business Support Fund. Also engaged with 1,000,438 ABN holders to send coronavirus (COVID-19) support information via email during April and May 2020.
* Delivered regulations to support small and medium commercial tenants and landlords engaging in good faith negotiations on rent relief to assist business survival through the coronavirus (COVID-19) economic impacts.
* Partnered with SBS TV to celebrate and showcase small businesses from multicultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are driving economic growth and jobs in Victoria. These were aired across eight episodes on SBS.
* Delivered workshops in partnership with VCCI that supported small businesses in regional Victoria to transition to the digital economy. The free workshops focused on how to make the most of the digital economy and reduce cyber-security risks. A total of 353 participants attended 36 digital opportunities workshops across rural and regional Victoria. This initiative was established in collaboration with Rural and Regional Victoria.
* Partnered with Registered Training Organisation Insight Academy of Entrepreneurship and Innovation to deliver training and business networking to entrepreneurs of the LGBTIQ community. These sessions enabled members of diverse minorities within the LGBTIQ, indigenous and non-binary communities to explore their journey in emerging from adversity to become their best-self and create business opportunities.
* Delivered Ignite, a short, free online program designed to spark business ideas and create a pathway to starting a business for people with a disability. The program also included online community building sessions and one-on-one mentoring which will provide guidance and inspiration by sharing stories of personal and business growth.
* Partnered with the Moonee Valley City Council’s Flemington Revitalisation Project to deliver the intensive Food Business Boost Program to four small business owners in the food and beverage sector.

Delivered the Business Literacy and Entrepreneurship Program for African Australians living in Shepparton, in partnership with RMIT University. The series of workshops for 25 small business participants included topics such as financial management, pricing, marketing and customer service. It represented part of DJPR’s contribution to the Victorian Government’s African Communities Action Plan and built on SBV’s many years of work with culturally and linguistically diverse small businesses.

### Industry Development and Participation

#### Industry Development

* Supported 31 manufacturers through the Boost Your Business Voucher program. Over $950,000 worth of vouchers valued up to $50,000 were awarded to implement projects that increase competitiveness, develop new products and grow exports.
* Delivered the Regional Manufacturing Clusters program in partnership with the Australian Industry Group. Supported over 100 regional manufacturers in 10 locations to adopt new business practices to increase competitiveness and innovation.
* Assisted manufacturing small to medium enterprises (SMEs), through the Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 Hub, to add value to their products, services and business processes through adoption of digital technologies. Roadshows and webinars were delivered to over 100 manufacturers.
* Promoted the use of digital construction technologies, including support for the establishment of the Building 4.0 Cooperative Research Centre.
* Supported the growth of the prefabricated construction sector through industry-led collaborations to connect Victorian industry and government procurers, including through the publication of the Prefabricated Construction Supply Chain Directory.
* Developed wind and solar farm business supply chain directories to facilitate use of Victorian manufactured goods and services in the renewable energy sector.
* Delivered two significant roundtables with the steel industry to identify local capability and capacity to link the industry into major projects across Victoria.
* Facilitated the development of an online directory with Sustainability Victoria which features Victorian products containing recycled content. The directory assists the public and industry to access products that can achieve positive environmental outcomes and organisations’ sustainability goals.
* Delivered the Victorian Manufacturing Showcase, in partnership with the Industry Capability Network, to provide opportunities for over 650 attendees, including manufacturers, industry bodies and exhibitors to strengthen their networks and find new ways to grow locally and internationally.
* Delivered the inaugural Global Table event for Melbourne through a partnership with Food and Wine Victoria and Seeds & Chips Milan. Global Table was held in Melbourne in September 2019, attracting 3000 delegates.
* Supported the delivery of the major agri-food event, Evoke AG, held in Melbourne in February 2020, attended by 1500 people from 20 countries.
* Expanded the Food Innovation Network (FIN) to enhance innovation in the Victorian food sector through industry, research and expert collaboration. More than 1500 registered businesses or individuals and 40 service providers now form the FIN’s community of practice.

Supported Ethical Clothing Australia which promotes ethical and transparent working conditions in the Australian textile, clothing and footwear industry. This initiative ensures workers in the clothing industry and supply chains have safe working conditions.

#### Industry Participation

* Implemented the Local Jobs First Policy under the Local Jobs First Act 2003, which has set local content requirements for 160 strategic projects from December 2014 to June 2020, with a combined total value of more than $87.6 billion and supporting 35,000 local jobs.
* Implemented the Major Projects Skills Guarantee, as part of the Local Jobs First Policy, which has been applied to 137 projects worth more than $53.1 billion since its introduction. This has led to more than 4.55 million contracted hours for 3389 apprentices, trainees and cadets.

Continued to support the Office of the Local Jobs First Commissioner, which balances advocacy, facilitation and compliance functions and works closely with industry and government departments to create opportunities for SMEs, workers, apprentices, trainees and cadets.

### Innovation, Digital and Bio Economy

* Supported Victoria’s start up agency Launch Vic to deliver programs for startups, including Grant Round X ($1.9 million) to support 12 accelerator programs to connect startups from a range of disciplines with investment opportunities. Recipients included Impact Investment Group, to establish the Impact Angel Network, and Startup Victoria, to establish peer-to-peer mentoring groups for 50 of Victoria’s most promising Scaling Startup founders and CEOs to share learnings and challenges and accelerate growth opportunities.
* Engaged an estimated 10,000 people across 60 school communities (students, teachers and parents) in opportunities to hear from digital technology professionals on their careers through the Digital Innovation Festival – Back to School program.
* Supported the Australian Computer Society’s Reimagination national conference, held in Melbourne for the second time in 2019 which attracted more than 1000 participants.

Supported Australia’s premier awards program for the Information Communications Technology industry. The Australian Information Industry Association iAwards were held in Melbourne, attracting around 800 people.

#### Medtech and Pharmaceuticals

* Secured a new technology and innovation agreement with the Jiangsu Province of China to support cooperation in fields including biotechnology and new medicines, information and communications technology, clean technology, food and fibre industries and advanced manufacturing.
* Launched two bilateral competitive funding programs, one with Jiangsu Province and a separate program with Israel to support collaboration and joint applications in innovative industrial research and development.
* Led the delivery of an industry showcase of Victorian companies at the AusBiotech national conference and the Australia Biotech Invest & Partnering 2019 conference.
* Secured the AusMedtech 2021 conference for Melbourne, supporting Victoria’s biotechnology, medical technology and pharmaceuticals industries.

Led the delivery of BioMelbourne Network’s suite of three industry events; 2020 Women in Leadership Awards, the Devices and Diagnostics Lab, and Biotech Development Lab – Molecules, Medicines and Markets.

#### Telecommunications

* Improved mobile connectivity across regional Victoria, with an additional 43 new mobile towers constructed.

Delivered enhanced broadband services, which provide high capacity business grade broadband to the regional cities of Horsham and Morwell.

#### Skilled and Business Migration

* Supported the assessment of 986 overseas qualifications to assist overseas qualified professionals gain employment in the Victorian labour market and fill skill gaps for employers via the Skilled and Business Migration Program.

Nominated 3543 skilled migrants to live and work in Victoria, which included nomination of 1043 skilled migrants into regional Victoria through the Skilled and Business Migration Program. Of these 3543 skilled migrants, 384 had completed a PhD and an additional 1290 were international student graduates of Australian universities.

#### Business Investment and Engagement

* Engaged with over 3500 businesses to contribute to the government’s investment attraction and facilitation function, achieving Budget Paper No. 3 (BP3) targets of 5000 jobs and $2.3 billion in new investment resulting from government investment facilitation services and assistance.
* Provided continued support to Carbon Revolution Limited through its Initial Public Offering of shares and listing on the Australian Securities Exchange.
* Engaged with companies and directly assisted them to grow and become more productive, with an emphasis on the following key sectors: food and fibre, defence, advanced manufacturing, biotech, medtech, pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals, recycling and energy.
* Provided rapid responses to industry regarding coronavirus (COVID-19) in partnership with key departments and agencies and provided key industry insights to support decision makers.
* Played a critical role in identifying and supporting supply chain adaptation and expansion in response to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Worked collaboratively across Government and the private sector to activate and advance key precincts and industrial estates, including identifying and supporting private sector investment opportunities at La Trobe University National Employment and Innovation Cluster, Melbourne Airport and Biomedical Precinct – Parkville.

#### Policy and Regulation Reform

* Launched the Small Business Regulation Review Construction Action Statement. The reforms in the Action Statement were co-designed with industry and key regulators in the sector and are expected to deliver savings for businesses of up to $42.6 million. A key reform is the Small Business Regulatory Engagement Charter which will make it easier for businesses to understand and meet their regulatory responsibilities.
* Progressed development and undertook industry consultation of the Victorian Fair Jobs Code, to promote fair employment, industrial and workplace practices by business through government procurement.

Contributed to the delivery of the Business Support Fund, developed and delivered the Night-Time Economy Business Support Initiative, to support pubs, clubs and restaurants impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

#### Capture Teams

* Partnered with the Australian Defence Alliance – Victoria to deliver the five Victorian Defence Alliances (Aerospace, Digital, Land Systems, Maritime and Submarines) which assist in developing, promoting and showcasing Victoria’s highly capable and innovative defence industry supply chain. The alliances delivered 13 industry engagement activities and assisted Capture Teams with business-to-business matching with domestic and global defence prime contractors.
* Partnered with the University of Melbourne and the Department of Defence’s Defence Science and Technology Group to continue the operation of the Defence Science Institute, which sponsored 10 PhD students, six industry internships and attracted $10 million of defence related research and development to Victoria.

Secured the establishment of Leonardo’s maintenance, repair and overhaul facility at Fishermans Bend.

#### Aviation Strategy and Services

Supported 10 charter flights by Asiana Airlines during the period December 2019 to February 2020, the first direct flights between Seoul and Melbourne since 2013.

## Global Victoria

* Supported Victorian firms to achieve $709 million in export sales through participation in government programs such as the Access Program, the Outbound and Inbound Trade Mission Programs, Asia Gateway and Export Skills Program.
* Delivered 25 outbound and inbound trade missions involving over 550 Victorian companies in total in key sectors such as food and beverage, medical technology and EdTech. These missions ensured the department maintained a market leading presence at flagship international trade shows including Gulfood 2020, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the world’s largest food trade show; and China International Import Expo 2019 Shanghai, China.
* Supported 593 international delegates to visit Victoria, to connect with Victorian businesses and industry through the inbound trade missions program. The program delivered inbound activity that leveraged key industry events such as Global Table 2019, the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, and the International Mining and Resources Conference.
* Delivered support for over 42,000 international students through welfare programs and services in 2019 and in 2020, pivoted all student support services, including the Study Melbourne Student Centre, to virtual delivery, while experiencing a 250 per cent increase in demand. Distributed over $12 million in hardship relief to 12,800 international students through the International Student Emergency Relief Fund in 2019–20.
* Seized education technology (EdTech) and innovation opportunities, with 30 Victorian EdTech exporters supported by live and virtual trade missions, such as the Global Victoria EdTech and Innovation Virtual Expo. The Expo attracted 250 potential buyers from over 28 countries.
* Delivered new trade focused events to inspire global possibilities – Global Victoria Export Summit and Global Victoria Women (GVw). GVw 2020 event attracted 70 international female delegates from 19 countries for a four-day inbound mission during March 2020 and offered seven concurrent program streams across key sectors with the final day coinciding with International Women's Day. Events were held in Melbourne and regional Victoria, with international satellite events in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Delivered a 12-month program of events commemorating the 40th anniversary of Victoria’s sister-state relationship with Jiangsu Province in China. This included visits to Melbourne for the Victoria-Jiangsu Leadership Exchange, the Victoria-Jiangsu Joint Economic Committee meeting and a visit of the Vice Governor of Jiangsu, which focused on cooperation in education, medical research and transport.

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

### Creative Industries

* Established the First Peoples Partnership Group to embed Aboriginal self-determination and community voice throughout Victoria’s next creative industries strategy, with, and for the benefit of, First Peoples in Victoria. The Group of 11 state-wide First Nations representatives includes elders, artists, producers, researchers, curators and community engagement staff.
* Delivered the First Peoples Investment Program (pilot) supporting First Peoples’ creative and cultural practice, including to develop creative and professional skills, to undertake projects that involve living on Country and learning from Elders and Traditional Owners and to support the next generation of First Peoples creative talent.
* Announced Melbourne’s newest winter festival, initially intended to launch in 2020, to celebrate the state’s thriving arts, culture, food and wine scenes, providing a significant mid-year boost to tourism and becoming a fixture on Victoria’s major events calendar.
* Completed a series of state-wide public forums and online consultation in order to update the Creative State strategy to guide investment and initiatives between 2020 and 2024. This work will contribute to the reconsideration of the strategy in light of the impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Delivered the first round of the Creative Activation Fund where $553,000 was distributed to five creative projects that promote community cohesion, increase visitation to an area and have strong potential to become cultural tourist attractions. This program is delivered in partnership with Regional Development Victoria, and four of the supported projects were based in regional Victoria.
* Completed an award-winning transformation of the State Library Victoria through a $60.4 million investment from the Victorian Government and almost $28 million in philanthropic support, opening 40 per cent more of the iconic building to families, students, researchers and visitors of all ages.
* Delivered the architecturally recognised Ryrie Street redevelopment of the Geelong Arts Centre, improving accessibility through the centre and creating a new entrance, four state-of-the-art studios, a new foyer bar and a creative industries co-working space, the Creative Engine, spanning an entire floor.
* Completed the award-winning transformation of Melbourne’s iconic Regent Theatre that has repaired the façade of the heritage-listed theatre, increased seating capacity to more than 2300 and given it the flexibility to reconfigure to host productions and events of all sizes.
* Established a creative hub in Bendigo located at the former Morley’s Emporium as a co-working and events place for local creative practitioners, entrepreneurs and businesses to work, connect, build their skills and expand their networks, operating in association with ACMI.
* In partnership with the City of Melbourne, achieved an Australian first planning scheme amendment covering the Melbourne Arts Precinct, introducing permanent zone controls to enable performance space, rehearsal space, galleries, workshops, event spaces and studios within the first four storeys of all major commercial and residential building developments.
* Opened the collection and programming of the NGV virtually, during its temporary public closure, with virtual tours, online collection galleries, eBooks and activities for children made available through the NGV Channel via the website and social media.
* Delivered a full range of educational and cultural resources and experiences, including virtual visits to the collections and education resources through Museum at Home during the temporary public closure.
* Engaged audiences in new and innovative ways through the digitally broadcasted performances by local musicians from the Melbourne Recital Centre.
* Delivered the second Asia Pacific Triennial of Performing Arts (Asia TOPA) through a consortium led by ACM. With an audience in excess of 900,000, Asia TOPA featured 72 Australian and over 50 international program partners, 960 artists from 22 countries, 15 world premiere seasons and 18 Australian premieres.
* Provided creative industries employers and workers with information and resources to ensure workplaces foster the health and wellbeing of creative professionals, including the Arts Centre Melbourne Arts and Wellbeing Collective.
* Delivered stage one of the $13 million Strategic Investment Fund providing urgent and immediate support to non-government small to medium creative organisations. The fund helped organisations affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to stabilise and continue their operations, provide opportunities for local artists, deliver programs and develop creative work.

Delivered the $4.75 million Sustaining Creative Workers initiative offering quick response grants for Victorian-based independent creative practitioners and micro-organisations that were impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19). Targeted support was provided to deaf or disabled creative practitioners, disability-led organisations, First Peoples creatives, micro-organisations and regionally based applicants.

### Sport, Recreation and Racing

* Delivered the $338.15 million stage two of the Melbourne Park Redevelopment ahead of time and on budget. Stage two works supported around 1100 full time jobs during construction between 2015 and 2019. Stage two of the redevelopment supported a record turnout for the Australian Open Tennis in 2020, with 812,174 spectators visiting Melbourne Park and contributing $388 million to the Victorian economy.
* Delivered the St Kilda Australian Football League Women (AFLW) change rooms and administration facilities as part of the $13 million Moorabbin Reserve redevelopment Stage two works in August 2019. Commenced work on the $8 million AFLW change rooms, amenities, strength and conditioning and indoor training facility at Casey Fields in October 2019. Commenced construction on the $2.3 million AFLW home and away change rooms, warm up area and aquatic recovery facilities for the Collingwood Football Club in May 2020.
* Delivered the 2020–21 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, supporting 100 projects though $31.2 million to develop high quality, accessible community sport and active recreation infrastructure across Victoria. This investment has enabled a total construction value of $243 million across the state.
* Sport and Recreation Victoria’s Together More Active program supported 75 sport and recreation organisations to develop their sector capability initiatives, nine Regional Sport Assemblies will deliver Access All Abilities opportunities, and 79 organisations will deliver 134 initiatives to increase participation by enhancing the equity, diversity and inclusiveness of sport and recreation.
* Supported the Bicycle Network’s Ride2School Program which saw over 72,000 children from across 184 schools increase their daily physical activity levels through riding a bicycle or scooter, skating and walking to and from school. Schools participating in the Ride2School Program reported an active travel rate of 33 per cent, approximately 15 per cent higher than the Victorian state average. Furthermore 294 Victorian schools participated in National Ride2School Day held on 13 March 2020.
* Supported Regional Sport Assembly partnerships to deliver over 200 programs across the state which engaged over 4600 participants with a disability and provided them the opportunity to be physically active and connect with their local community through sport.
* Delivered the Gender Equality in Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, facilitating a Community of Practice to over 100 people from 29 organisations across the sport and recreation sector. This increased sector capacity and awareness on how to create a gender equitable sport and recreation setting and prevent violence against women.
* Office for Women in Sport and Recreation implemented the world’s first 40 per cent women on board quota for funded sporting organisations. Delivered 20 community sport and recreation forums across Victoria. Presented the 2020 International Women’s Day community sport symposium and lunch with guest speaker Billie-Jean King to over 900 attendees, and granted 63 women Change Our Game scholarships to enhance their sport and recreation leadership and management skills.
* Delivered grants totalling $6.9 million to support 162 projects with a total value of $19.4 million through the renewed Victorian Racing Industry Fund, which commenced on 1 July 2019. The projects supported new or upgraded infrastructure, enhanced integrity measures, support for animal and participant welfare and race day events. The government also provided $44 million to reduce coronavirus (COVID-19) impacts on participants and maintain jobs and animal welfare standards within the racing industry.
* The Victorian Racing Tribunal and Victorian Racing Integrity Board commenced operations on 1 August 2019. The two bodies play a key role in enhancing the integrity of Victorian racing. A total of 140 matters were heard by the Victorian Racing Tribunal, chaired by Judge John Bowman, during the reporting period. The Victorian Racing Integrity Board reports separately on its operations.

Sport, Recreation and Racing created an independent Return to Play expert panel to provide advice and guidance to state sporting associations. This guidance included a published communications and support strategy for professional sport and high-performance athletes as well as community sport and recreation and racing industries. The panel also reviewed 143 return to play plans.

### Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy

#### Events

* Collaborated with Visit Victoria to continue to secure and deliver world-class major events including Come From Away, the ICC T20 Women’s World Cup Final, UFC243 (Ultimate Fighting Championship), The President’s Cup and Boomers vs USA Basketball.

Continued to implement the Major Events Act 2009 to ensure consumers are given fair access when purchasing tickets for declared events. This legislation gives all Victorians the chance to attend major events without being priced out, or forced to pay exorbitant costs to attend major events. Forty-nine penalty infringement notices were issued for ticket scalping offences and 2036 listings and 7612 tickets were removed from ticket selling platforms.

#### Industry Support

* Completed the Regional Tourism Review, which examined opportunities to grow regional visitation and boost local businesses. Review findings are being used to inform Government support for the industry to respond and recover from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Worked closely with Visit Victoria, the Victoria Tourism Industry Council, Regional Tourism Boards and the tourism industry to provide advice and support during the January 2020 Victorian bushfires and coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the Experience Economy Survival Package.
* Delivered grants for Tourism North East of $350,000 and Destination Gippsland of $500,000 to assist with their bushfire recovery efforts, including support for a dedicated staff member to work directly with operators and coordinate marketing and campaign activities.

Worked with Yarra Valley Railway on the second and final stage of the Yarra Valley Railway Redevelopment Project.

#### Portfolio entities

* Supported visitor economy portfolio entities in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic including the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust, Puffing Billy Railway and Federation Square.
* Worked with the Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy Railway) to implement the Victorian Ombudsman recommendations, which included:
* supporting the Victorian Government’s apology for child sexual abuse linked to Puffing Billy and other railway bodies in Parliament on 27 November 2019
* completing an independent review of governance arrangements at the Railway.

Undertook a review of Federation Square to identify opportunities to improve the experience for visitors to Federation Square and investigate best financial and governance frameworks. The review involved extensive community and expert consultation and the recommendations are now being considered by the government.

## Precincts and Suburbs

* Supported the Australian Football League to make progress on design work for a major upgrade of Marvel Stadium that will deliver enhanced fan and public amenities plus improve Melbourne’s major event hosting capabilities.
* Delivered a draft Arden Structure Plan (with the Victorian Planning Authority and City of Melbourne) that will help realise a new destination for Melbourne hosting 34,000 new jobs and 15,000 residents.
* Partnered with Suburban Rail Loop Authority on a plan for Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster that focuses on the future Monash and Clayton stations and will help realise economic opportunities from the $564 million Victorian Heart Hospital.
* Facilitated a $1 million grant agreement that will be matched in funding by La Trobe University to advance its University City of the Future project which proposes a $5 billion investment over 10 years, creating over 20,000 new jobs in its uplift of education facilities and local liveability.
* Launched Footscray Priority Precinct to support the $1.5 billion Footscray Hospital investment and develop this key western gateway, driving jobs and business growth for its cultural, commercial and educational hub.
* Managed over $100 million in major project payments under the department’s public-private partnerships contracts and helped revitalise Royal Melbourne Showgrounds with $1.5 million to develop a site masterplan.
* Attracted a $6 million investment for multiple projects in Fishermans Bend that will give local streets a facelift and improve transport choices in the employment precinct by creating better walking and cycling connections.
* Supported the Victorian School Building Authority in its engagement and design for a Fishermans Bend secondary school opening in 2022. This building will showcase how community infrastructure and public spaces will be designed and delivered in Fishermans Bend – as flexible multi-purpose sites that integrate with community services and facilities.
* Progressed objectives of the five Fishermans Bend precincts by collaborating closely with key stakeholders, including state and local government, tertiary partners, business and industry. This work is tackling challenges to realise the many opportunities for Fishermans Bend, including urban planning and ecology, flood mitigation, affordable housing, infrastructure delivery and place activation.

Secured a new global headquarters for global biotech giant, CSL, that will occupy a purpose-built facility in the heart of Australia’s premier biomedical precinct at Parkville, assuring the company’s future in Victoria. This move will help further collaboration and drive innovation in the biomedical sector that contributes $16.5 billion to Victoria’s economy every year.

### Office of Suburban Development

#### Suburban Revitalisation

* Supported Hume City Council to deliver the Broadmeadows Town Hall redevelopment with a government co-investment of $7 million. This project generated an $18 million local government contribution, and enabled construction of an award-winning building with flexible events and office spaces that also houses Start North, the first innovation and co-working hub in the northern metropolitan region.

Facilitated the Frankston town centre Station Street Mall upgrade in partnership with Frankston City Council and Vicinity Bayside Shopping Centre. The government investment of $360,000 leveraged over $1.2 million in co-contributions from council and the private sector. The upgraded mall provides a better, safer connection between the new Frankston station and town centre and provides options for local business activation and community events.

#### Metropolitan Partnerships

* Engaged Melburnians on the priorities that matter to them in Melbourne’s regions. Conducted six major events in 2019–20 with a total of 506 people attending. Over 8000 people have joined an event since the partnerships’ 2017 inception.
* Helped shape the government response to coronavirus (COVID-19) by advocating for business support, youth mental health and addressing social isolation with funding to connect communities.
* Supported community priorities by investing $1 million in 10 different projects from transport to economy and innovation, community connectedness, climate adaptation and housing.

Delivered co-designed engagement and youth-led consultation to give young people a voice.

#### Pick my Project

Delivered 42 events in Melbourne as part of the $33 million Pick My Project initiative. This community led grants program has made an impact by supporting education, connectedness, inclusion and the disadvantaged.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

### RRV statewide coronavirus (COVID-19) stimulus response

* Facilitated the administration of the Business Support Fund and fast-tracked grants of up to $10,000 to help small businesses cope with the sudden impact of coronavirus (COVID-19).
* Implemented the Regional Jobs Fund to facilitate the manufacturing of personal protective equipment (PPE). For example, RRV contributed funding to Med-Con, an Australian company that specialises in manufacturing of PPE. Med-Con is scheduled to produce 59 million masks by the end of 2020.
* Worked with regional Victorian communities and businesses to identify projects for the government’s consideration in developing a stimulus package. The department funded 30 regional development and tourism infrastructure projects that were catalytic in boosting regional economies during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Leveraged the nine regional partnerships across the state to conduct coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery roundtables to identify impacts and mitigating strategies. The roundtables provide a platform for developing response and recovery plans to support the regional economy that are locally owned and driven.

Conducted extensive audits on impacts of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on businesses to provide advice on how to best triage support across government to assist business to adjust. For example, Midfield Meat, one of Warrnambool’s largest employers, lost the majority of their export markets overnight. Regional Development Victoria engagement leveraged government networks to identify workable solutions relating to interstate borders, freight and logistics, supply chain, markets, workforce and productivity.

### Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA)

#### Support for business

* Provided over $1.9 million in funding to 195 early stage businesses through the Latrobe Valley Business and Industry Capability Fund. This will help build their organisational capability through funding for collaborative activities, training, professional services, feasibility studies, infrastructure and equipment.
* Provided reimbursements of state and local government fees to 263 businesses in the Latrobe Valley to help them grow, expand and employ more people.
* Improved local and social procurement and inclusive employment practices with 76 businesses signing up to be Compact Members as part of Growing Regional Opportunities for Work (GROW) Gippsland.
* Supported 623 Latrobe Valley businesses through the Business Support Service pilot program – connecting them to the tools, information and advice they need to grow their business. The Service is delivered by a team of local concierges based at the LVA, Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council and Baw Baw Shire Council.

Partnered with industry, education, government and community using the Gippsland Smart Specialisation (S3) approach to leverage opportunities associated with Gippsland’s four growth sectors; Food and Fibre, New Energy, Health and Wellbeing and the Visitor Economy.

#### Support for community

* Supported the Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley program with more than 100 young people participating – 40 gaining employment, and 30 re-engaging in secondary or vocational education.
* Completed construction of Traralgon Tennis Centre, Traralgon Sports Stadium, Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium, Morwell Recreation Reserve, and Ted Summerton Reserve. Commenced construction of the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre and Sale Tennis Centre. These are major projects under the Latrobe Valley Sport and Community Infrastructure program.
* Approved 102 Community and Facility Fund grants for a total value of $7,567,526. A total of $22,456,293 in funding was awarded to 232 community projects including facility upgrades, events and strategic planning activities.
* Supported 18 schools and 20 industry partners across Gippsland to provide ‘real world’ experiences to over 900 local primary and secondary school students through the Broadening Horizons industry-school partnership program.

Opened the new Cricket Centre of Excellence at Moe’s Ted Summerton Reserve where over 6000 people attended a Big Bash League match between the Melbourne Stars and Hobart Hurricanes.

#### Support for workers

* Established a new pilot program, supporting 15 participants into employment by helping businesses identify employment opportunities for people with barriers to work. Linked the Worker Transition Service and GROW Gippsland to focus on both jobseeker and business needs during the recruitment process.
* Assisted 1488 workers and their families impacted by industry closures through the Worker Transition Service.
* Provided Back to Work payments supporting 374 businesses to hire and train 1436 unemployed people who live in the Latrobe Valley.
* Supported 112 people to complete training programs as part of the LVA’s Access New Industries Program, with 17 training programs and growth sector introductory courses being delivered through partnerships with local industry and education providers.

Commenced construction of the Innovation Centre with completion scheduled by September 2020 – part of the $17 million Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland which will also co-locate the already established TAFE Gippsland Morwell Campus, the Gippsland Tech School, Latrobe City Council’s Kernot Hall, Lake and Immigration Park.

### Regional Development Victoria (RDV)

#### Loddon Mallee regional business centre

* Supported various projects including the Walking Together or Balak Kalik Manya project, the Murray River Adventure Trail – Stage One Business Case and Design, and the Silo Art Extension project. Also supported nine community investments through the Stronger Regional Communities Program, eight business and community investments through the Living Regions Living Suburbs Program, and 15 Building Works package projects to help get Victorians back to work.

Supported the publication of the Mallee and Loddon Campaspe Economic Growth Strategies, which provide a blueprint for growing the region’s economy. The Mallee Regional Partnership addressed ways to reduce the prevalence of people living with entrenched disadvantage, and the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership Deep Dive focused on improving the journey of school leavers from education to employment.

#### Gippsland regional business centre

* Worked closely with local community and industry leaders to manage recovery initiatives and priorities that will support bushfire impacted regions of Gippsland. Chairing the Bushfire Economic Recovery Working Group, RDV has led the development of an economic recovery sub-plan as part of the broader municipal recovery plan. This will activate delivery of a range of projects that will drive regeneration of key industries, such as the visitor economy, agriculture, small business and the construction sector.

Supported construction of the Latrobe Valley GovHub, with completion expected to be ahead of schedule in October 2020. This commitment forms part of the Government’s response to transitioning the Latrobe Valley after the closure of Hazelwood Power Station and Mine; and delivers on the government’s policy to strengthen and grow regional economies. The GovHub is expected to bring an additional 300 jobs to the CBD of Morwell and is employing up to 100 people during construction.

#### Barwon South West regional business centre

* Facilitated delivery of the Geelong City Deal, a 10-year plan to revitalise Geelong and unlock the potential of the Great Ocean Road economy. The Australian Government, Victorian Government and City of Greater Geelong will deliver $370 million in government investment to the region, supporting Geelong’s continued economic diversification, growth of the visitor economy and a thriving city centre. At this stage it is estimated implementation of the projects under the City Deal will create up to 1000 jobs.
* Supported various projects including the Samaritan House and Formflow Housing Project, Budj Bim Master Plan Stage 1 and 2.
* Provided facilitation to Boral Cement Limited to secure a $130 million investment in a new cement manufacturing and importing facility at GeelongPort.

As part of the Business Support Fund, Barwon South West also fast-tracked grants of up to $10,000 to almost 4400 small businesses impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### Grampians regional business centre

* Supported the University of Melbourne to develop the Stawell Underground Physics Lab (SUPL). Once operational, SUPL will be the first underground physics lab in the southern hemisphere supporting up to 79 ongoing jobs  
  in the region.
* Facilitated the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) which continues to drive economic growth and supported the development and expansion of key regional businesses including Luv-a-Duck, Cervus and Finlay Engineering into the BWEZ precinct resulting in over 130 jobs.
* Led a strong regional response to adapt to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including the deployment of expertise to other government programs. Support included stimulus funding through the Building Works Package for the Ararat Hills Mountain Bike Project ($2.7 million), Parwan Employment Precinct ($2.7 million) and the Warracknabeal Education Precinct ($19.8 million).
* Undertook impact assessments across the top 100 businesses in the region and held over 450 meetings with key stakeholders and local government.

Continued the facilitation and development of the Ballarat GovHub. Since breaking ground in early 2019, site excavation has been completed and construction has commenced, including the completion of the timber structure. RDV continues to work closely with Development Victoria and Department of Treasury and Finance, along with a range of stakeholders, on supporting the transition of government tenants into the Ballarat GovHub in 2021 including 600 new and relocated positions.

#### Hume regional business centre

* Supported various projects including: the Wangaratta Gateway Precinct project, Activating Lake Eildon to Grow the Regional Economy Business Case, the Ride High Country – Beechworth to Yackandandah Rail Trail Extension, Mount Buller Water Storage, and the Shepparton GROW program.
* Continued to engage across industry in the food and fibre, manufacturing, tourism, transport, distribution and logistics sectors; through this work we supported the creation of 217 jobs and $132.2 million in capital investment.
* Supported food and fibre sector projects including:
* a $50 million investment by Geoffrey Thompon’s, Mooropna for the establishment of a fruit packing and processing facility creating 44 new jobs;
* a $400,000 investment by Goulburn Valley Walnuts, Toolamba, for the establishment  
  of a new walnut processing facility creating 13 new jobs;
* a $20 million investment by Meatworks, Gilleston for the establishment of an abattoir facility creating 100 new jobs;
* a $3.6 million investment by Aussie Pride, Tallygaroopna, to secure a glasshouse development creating 10 new jobs; and
* a $1.8 million investment by F&K Goegan, Cobram to secure a glasshouse development creating 30 new jobs.

#### Resources

* Progressed delivery of the $150 million CarbonNet Project, investigating the feasibility of a large-scale integrated carbon capture and storage network in the Gippsland region. In January 2020, the program for drilling an offshore appraisal well in Bass Strait was successfully completed. Preliminary results confirm that suitable geology for CO2 storage is present. This provides an opportunity for a low-emissions pathway for Victoria and Gippsland and the potential for new investment and development.
* Implemented the Victorian Gas Program to improve the understanding of Victoria’s onshore conventional gas resources and enable further development of offshore gas and underground gas storage. Based on the results from this program, it was announced in March 2020 that onshore conventional gas exploration and development would restart in July 2021.
* Progressed the delivery of key Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry actions. This included establishing the new Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority and appointing board members. The Latrobe Valley Regional Rehabilitation Strategy was released in June 2020. The Strategy includes the proposed outcomes and principles process for integrated rehabilitation planning and implementation actions to mitigate risks and costs to community and government.
* Progressed the implementation of the Minerals Resources Strategy, including the Stavely minerals initiative (three mineral exploration licences awarded to date) and launch of the North Central Victorian (Lockington) ground release to attract new exploration investment. In addition, more than 7000 participants from over 80 countries attended the International Mining and Resources Conference held in Melbourne in October 2019, and the new gold royalty came into effect on 1 January 2020.

Delivered improvements to the regulation of earth resources in response to the Getting the Groundwork Right report, released by the Commissioner for Better Regulation in September 2019. Improvements include significantly reducing the backlog in regulatory approvals, introducing new guidelines for the preparation of work plans and variations, and implementing a new notification approvals process. The new Earth Resources website has also significantly boosted the regulator’s communications to communities and key stakeholders.

#### Forestry and Game

* Released the $1.1 million Forestry Business Transition Voucher program in June 2020 to timber businesses that will be affected by the Victorian Forestry Plan, following the release of the Victorian Forestry Plan in November 2019. Under the plan, commercial harvesting of native timber on public land in Victoria will cease by 2030 and be transitioned to plantation timber. The plan provides $120 million of dedicated funding to support the transition of industry, workers and communities.
* Commenced the new Kangaroo Harvesting Program commenced in October 2019 with the aim of providing landowners with another avenue for controlling kangaroos on their property, while ensuring that Victoria’s kangaroo population is harvested sustainably and in a manner that protects animal welfare and community safety. Approximately 26,000 kangaroos were harvested by 71 authorised harvesters between October 2019 to May 2020.

Supported the extension of five Victorian Regional Forest Agreements approved in March 2020, by the Australian and Victorian governments. These extensions provide certainty for the Victorian Forestry industry.

## Agriculture

#### Drought

* Responded to drought and dry seasonal conditions, in East and Central Gippsland and the far North West of the state.
* Delivered the Drought Support package providing grants for on-farm resilience and farm machinery, household relief payments, mental health support and programs to support small business and community resilience.

Facilitated technical support and one-on-one consultations to Central and East Gippsland with more than 1350 farmers and 440 service providers.

#### Bushfire

* Led efforts to deliver animal welfare relief, agricultural loss and damage assessment and recovery services to primary producers impacted by bushfires.

Supported more than 960 farmers impacted by fire across the North East and East Gippsland, including providing immediate animal welfare relief, loss and damage assessment, and recovery services.

#### Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Implemented the $50 million Agriculture Workforce Plan to address labour force issues due to coronavirus (COVID-19) through job matching, skills development, business adaptation grants and job creation. Established a COVID-19 Agriculture Industry Reference Group that included nearly 40 agricultural industry peak bodies to inform industry support initiatives. Delivered a series of business continuity webinars to the agriculture sector, supporting businesses to continue to prepare and adapt business processes and protocols relevant to coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### Rural Financial Counselling

Provided the Rural Financial Counselling Service program, including free and impartial financial counselling to farmers and related small businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. Due to drought, bushfires and coronavirus (COVID-19), there was increased demand from farmers across the state. The cumulative impacts of these disasters saw increased demand from farmers for the Rural Financial Counselling Service program, with 1900 active clients.

#### Biosecurity Emergency Response

Contributed to the management of Timor-Leste’s emergency response to African Swine Fever, through developing and validating the world’s first in-field diagnostic LAMP test for African Swine Fever and using it to support the East Timorese national surveillance program.

#### Adaption to climate change

Supported establishment of the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council as a major step in our efforts to help the sector adapt to climate change. Led a nationally coordinated approach to support the sector to adapt to climate change. This culminated in the Agriculture and Climate Change work program, unanimously endorsed by the Agriculture Ministers, and the establishment of the Climate Change Task Group to oversee implementation.

#### Innovation in agriculture

Delivered ongoing research and innovation programs providing productivity and sustainability benefits to Victoria’s farmers. The $30 million Agriculture Energy Investment Plan delivered $7 million in on-farm energy assessments and $10 million in grants to farmers to improve their energy efficiency. The $12 million On-Farm Internet of Things Trial delivered network infrastructure across the four trial regions and four Agriculture Victoria SmartFarms. More than 125 farmers are now selecting technology to install on farms.

#### Agriculture Technologies

* Developed and trialled satellite-based precision irrigation scheduling systems for dairy pastures that can increase water-use efficiency by up to 20 per cent, at a time when farmers continue to experience limited water availability and increasing water prices.

Integrated AgTech and multi-disciplinary research teams in pulse genetic improvement to optimise yield and yield stability across an expanded range of pulse-growing regions. Grain growers are provided with better varieties faster, which enhances growers’ profitability.

#### Cutting edge applied research in collaboration with industry

* Developed sensor-based technologies for real time estimates of pasture yield variability at plot and paddock scales. These technologies have the potential to improve pasture utilisation by 20 per cent and increase dairy farm profitability.

Identified new genomic breeding values, giving farmers the ability to select more profitable cows with increased mastitis resistance and improved calving ease. These world-first innovations developed by Agriculture Victoria scientists improve animal welfare and deliver economic value to farmers of over $300 per cow per year.

#### Animal Welfare

Improved management of pet sales, including establishing the Pet Exchange Register. There were 11,252 source numbers issued to people selling or giving away a puppy, kitten, dog or cat. There were more than 1100 reports of alleged non-compliant advertisements reported via the Pet Exchange Register. Of the reports, 88 per cent were resolved, with the remainder under further investigation.

#### Rehoming pets and supporting low-cost veterinary clinics

* Committed to delivering a $3 million boost to Animal Welfare Grants over four years. In 2019–20, round eight of the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program awarded a total of $579,043 to projects enabling:
* shelters and foster carers to purchase equipment or upgrade or expand their services
* not-for-profit and community vet clinics to maintain and expand their services and allow new low-cost clinics to be set up in areas of need around Victoria.

## Inclusion

#### Employment

* Supported more than 3000 Victorian jobseekers into work through Jobs Victoria services. Since late 2016, these services have supported more than 13,000 Victorians into work including long-term jobseekers, and people facing barriers to employment such as recently arrived refugees and young people gaining work through the Youth Employment Scheme.
* Allocated $9.3 million in funding to existing Jobs Victoria services to enable increased capacity and to support jobseekers impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Evaluated the Jobs Victoria Employment Network program. Findings suggest that:
* over 45 per cent of jobseekers supported by Jobs Victoria services live in the 15 local government areas with the highest unemployment rates in the state;
* employers use Jobs Victoria for ‘repeat hiring’ and are even ‘creating vacancies’ as a result of positive experiences with Jobs Victoria Partners; and
* Jobs Victoria is helping jobseekers break the debilitating cycle of job search disappointment and social exclusion.

#### Working for Victoria

* Launched Working for Victoria in April 2020, a $500 million fund helping Victorians, including those who have lost their jobs as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19), find work that supports the community. At 30 June 2020 more than 50,000 jobseekers had registered with the Working for Victoria online marketplace.
* Committed $246.9 million in funding by 30 June 2020 to create and support jobs  
  across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, including Aboriginal organisations. At 30 June 2020, almost 6500 jobseekers were placed into funded roles through Working for Victoria, including 197 in regional Victoria. Working for Victoria is on track to place at least 10,000 jobseekers into funded jobs.

Contributed to the emergency response including facilitating over 650 people to work in call centres, including as part of coronavirus (COVID-19) contact tracing efforts, helplines and administration. Over 1500 workers were funded and recruited to sanitise and clean public spaces across Melbourne. In addition, more than 80 bushfire recovery jobs in Gippsland and the North-East were funded.

#### Aboriginal Economic Development

* Commenced the development of the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council which will bring together leaders from the Aboriginal community and government to advance economic opportunities and prosperity for all Aboriginal Victorians.
* Launched the Aboriginal Recruitment and Career Development Strategy; the foundation of the department’s commitment to achieving a minimum of two per cent Aboriginal employment by 2022.
* Continued implementation of the Victorian Aboriginal Economic Strategy and Tharamba Bugheen: Victorian Aboriginal Business Strategy to support the implementation of 31 initiatives.
* Supported 29 Working for Victoria proposals from Aboriginal Community Organisations, Traditional Owner Corporations and the Creative Arts Sector.

Provided funding of $5 million for the Traditional Owner Economic Strategy Program to support Traditional Owner Corporations to develop economic strategies.

#### Social and Economic Inclusion

* Continued to deliver the place-based Community Revitalisation (CR) and Microenterprise Development pilot programs at five and three sites respectively.
* Evaluated the CR program, finding that it plays a critical role in supporting community development by addressing economic and social exclusion at a systemic level. Five pilot sites have engaged more than 1000 participants from targeted cohorts, secured at least 490 new employment outcomes and established 24 new business enterprises.
* Commenced lapsing program evaluations of the Microenterprise Development Program and the Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy.
* Continued implementation of the Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy including a fourth round of Boost Your Business Social Enterprise Capability Building vouchers and the launch of the Social Enterprise Network of Victoria. Several other initiatives were implemented such as a social enterprise skills development program, community social enterprise rejuvenation program and a research and evidence project.

Developed refreshed supplier guidance and an Industry and Supplier Communication and Engagement Strategy to support implementation of the Social Procurement Framework.

#### Outcomes, Performance and Evaluation

* Led and developed DJPR’s first Strategic Plan and associated Outcomes Framework, in consultation with stakeholders across the department.
* Reviewed the department’s model for undertaking Evaluations and commenced implementation of an improved operational model aimed at lowering costs and increasing effectiveness.
* Delivered the Inclusion in Government Seminar series, exploring the benefits of coordinated approaches to economic and social inclusion. In 2019–20, DJPR hosted three significant seminars.
* Paul Briggs, Executive Director of the Kaiela Institute in Shepparton, talked about the Goulburn-Murray regional governance model, including the importance of Aboriginal economic participation and self-determination.
* Conny Lenneberg, Executive Director of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, reflected on the power of collective action and the protections that a charter of human rights provides.

Jeff Borland, Truby Williams Professor of Economics at University of Melbourne, discussed the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Australia, focusing on identifying those workers experiencing the largest negative impacts and what we could do to help people get back into work.

#### Program Centre

* Developed and deployed a major reform of the grant management system, GEMS Grants 2.0, which offers all DJPR grant users a seamless digital end-to-end grant program delivery system.

From late March to June 2020, the Program Centre and GEMS Grants 2.0 supported over $750 million in DJPR-led coronavirus (COVID-19) programs including 100,000 grant applications received via the Business Support Fund, International Student Emergency Relief Fund, Community Sport Sector COVID-19 programs plus other coronavirus (COVID-19) programs.

## Corporate Services

* Established the infrastructure for the roll out of the Business Support Fund, Community Sport Sector coronavirus (COVID-19) Short-term Survival Package, International Student Emergency Relief Fund and Working for Victoria Fund, which provided much needed support to Victorians and Victorian businesses impacted by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
* Launched a program of extensive service improvements including delivering more efficient finance and procurement systems and better internal engagement platforms. The program has uplifted the quality and accessibility of services provided across DJPR.
* Enabled system upgrades and replacements that digitalised decision-making processes and facilitated the efficient processing of policy, funding and correspondence. Approvals can now happen anywhere, at any time and on any device ensuring government work continues around the clock.
* Led a successful transition to working from home in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The transition has allowed the department’s nearly 3000 employees to continue to deliver services that benefit Victorians in a highly dynamic environment, without compromising quality.
* Delivered the virtual teams initiative, designed to improve work practices and support the health and wellbeing of DJPR staff to help combat isolation as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The initiatives include, team pulse checks, mindfulness and health and wellbeing sessions, virtual learning modules, and induction and tips and tricks for navigating a virtual environment.
* Established the department’s values-lived culture through the development of the DJPR Way, an actions-based statement of how the department integrates desired values and behaviours. The department continually strives for excellence while simultaneously ensuring the safety, wellbeing and development of its people. These values are incorporated in DJPR’s People Strategy which provides a long-term view to how the department attracts and retains a diverse and capable workforce in a flexible and inclusive environment.
* Led the implementation of a three-year program of work to increase the level of security and privacy applied to sensitive information and critical systems used in DJPR. The objective of the strategic program is to ensure information shared by the Victorian public and DJPR employees is stored, used, and managed safely. It also ensures that services provided to the Victorian public by DJPR are not impacted via malicious cyber-attack. Key achievements in the reporting period include:
* Migrating the department to 24/7 security monitoring for critical systems.
* Implementing Web Application Firewalls to mitigate attack against DJPR websites and Digital Brand.
* Uplifting access management controls via password and multi factor authentication.

## Office of the Lead Scientist

* Chaired the independent Stakeholder Advisory Panel (SAP) on Onshore Conventional Gas made up of farmers, environment groups, industry representatives and local councils. The SAP oversaw detailed scientific investigations and community engagement undertaken by the Geological Survey of Victoria through the Victorian Gas Program. The SAP delivered a Risks, Benefits and Impacts assessment to the Minister for Resources to inform the Petroleum Legislation Amendment Bill 2020.
* Facilitated exchange of information and services between Victoria’s universities, the Victorian Government and industry on a range of policy priorities including transport: “Delivering Victoria’s Transport Future Through Local Research Expertise”, advanced manufacturing and response to coronavirus (COVID-19).
* Established the Victorian Quantum Technology Network to position Victoria to provide the future workforce to take advantage of emerging quantum technologies. The network is a partnership between government and Victoria’s universities and aims to catalyse collaboration among quantum technology researchers, enable development of talent and enhance access to state-of-the-art quantum hardware.

1. Valuation as at 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Business Support Fund was subsequently extended from 13 July 2020 to 14 September 2020, and then from 18 September 2020 closing in November 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)