Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions  
Annual Report 2021-2022

Section 1 – Overview

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# Secretary’s Foreword

I am pleased to deliver the 2021-22 Annual Report for the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR).

First and foremost, I’d like to extend my thanks and gratitude to our team members here at DJPR for their unwavering commitment to supporting Victoria’s economic recovery and growth and ensuring it benefits all Victorians – by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions, and supporting inclusive communities.

This past year, our ongoing focus has been on delivering the significant range of initiatives to help Victorian businesses, industries and communities recover and thrive as we navigate the evolving challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I want to acknowledge our team’s enormous efforts to support businesses through the COVID-19 restrictions and to safely reopen as part of the vaccinated economy. The $200 million Business Stimulus Package supported the sectors and jobs hardest hit by the Omicron wave in hospitality and tourism and was rolled out across the state from February.

We also delivered more than 6000 jobs through Jobs Victoria Fund workforce development projects and by attracting business investment to priority sectors. Through investments in infrastructure projects and key industries across the state – creative, sport, tourism, international education, medical research, agriculture and more – we have helped to build stronger, more resilient and inclusive communities in our suburbs and regions.

And our regional centres are set to shine on the world stage in 2026, following Victoria’s successful Commonwealth Games bid in 2021-22. The innovative, multi-city model will bring significant – and lasting – benefits to Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland.

In addition to all this, we’ve played a vital role in the sustainable development of Victoria’s earth resources, transition of the state’s native forestry sector, and maintaining the state’s biosecurity – including responses to a number of biosecurity emergencies.

Finally, I’d like to shine a spotlight on some transformative inclusion initiatives launched in 2021‑22 – to ensure the benefits of economic recovery and prosperity are available to all Victorians, supporting a stronger and fair society. These include the Sick Pay Guarantee, an Australian-first pilot program giving casual and contract workers access to sick and carer’s pay, and Yuma Yirramboi, the strategy to deliver economic parity for Aboriginal Victorians within a generation.

Within our organisation, we launched a Gender Equality Action Plan, developed in response to the *Gender Equality Act 2020*. The plan builds on the progress we’ve already made and the understanding that society – and DJPR as a department – needs to do more.

While it’s impossible to do justice in this foreword to everything that’s been delivered across our groups, I hope it provides a snapshot of our work to support all Victorians.

On behalf of our Executive Board, thanks again to our people for their contribution during the year in review. And a special acknowledgement to our Cross-Portfolio Services for supporting all that our department delivers and for enabling our teams to be the best they can.

I am incredibly proud of what everyone has achieved together, exemplifying our values of Accountability, Integrity and Respect.

## 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 2022.

Simon Phemister  
Secretary

# About the Department

Established on 1 January 2019, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) supports Victoria’s economic recovery and growth and ensures it benefits all Victorians – by creating more jobs for more people.

As at 30 June 2022, our work supports 11 ministers, spans 17 portfolios and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. We also oversee various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards and work with many government, industry and community stakeholders.

Our values of Accountability, Integrity and Respect underpin everything we do.

## Our purpose

Here at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, we’re firmly focused on Victoria’s economic recovery and growth and ensuring it benefits all Victorians by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions, and supporting inclusive communities.

For Victoria, this means:

**More jobs for more people:** we’re helping to recharge the economy by working with businesses to maintain and create jobs, so more people have safe and secure work. We’re supporting workers and helping businesses, industries and communities to grow, adapt, recover or transition. We’re fostering innovation, research and the digital economy, and creating jobs by leveraging and securing our natural assets and regional strengths. We’re also strengthening Victoria’s global connections by attracting investment and talent, and helping Victorian businesses successfully trade into international markets.

**Thriving places and regions:** we’re building vibrant, resilient precincts, suburbs and regions that help drive economic growth and opportunities. Our geographic focus on innovation and sector activity is helping attract investment. We’re ensuring Victorian regions and suburbs have the infrastructure and services they need for a liveable and sustainable future. We’re also helping our visitor economy and creative industries to bounce back, and cementing Victoria’s position as Australia’s leading destination for culture, sport, tourism and events.

**Inclusive communities:** we’re working across government and with councils, communities and business to ensure the benefits of economic recovery and prosperity are available for all Victorians – supporting a stronger and fairer society. We’re also supporting Aboriginal self-determination through employment and economic development, and working to grow Victoria’s social economy.

# Changes to the Department during 2021–22

On 25 June 2022, the Premier announced changes to Cabinet. The Hon. Ben Carroll was appointed as DJPR’s new Coordinating Minister.

On 27 June 2022, these Ministers were sworn in for the following portfolios:

* Minister Carroll for Industry Support and Recovery, and Business Precincts
* Minister Dimopoulos for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, and Creative Industries
* Minister Pallas for Trade
* Minister Tierney for Agriculture
* Minister Shing for Regional Development
* Minister Horne for Local Government and Suburban Development
* Minister Carbines for Racing.

As part of the changes, additional responsibilities were announced:

* Deputy Premier Allan to oversee Commonwealth Games Delivery
* Minister Leane to work with local communities as Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy.

## Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions organisation chart

## Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions organisation chart. The lists of names and roles can be found under the following headings Ministers, Executive Board, Audit and Risk Committee and Departmental groups.Ministers

The department supports 11 ministers across 17 portfolios.  
As at 30 June 2022, they were:

| **Minister** | **Role** |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon. Ben Carroll MP | Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions  Minister for Industry Support and Recovery  Minister for Business Precincts |
| The Hon. Jaala Pulford MP | Minister for Employment  Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy  Minister for Resources  Minister for Small Business |
| Steve Dimopoulos MP | Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  Minister for Creative Industries |
| The Hon. Melissa Horne MP | Minister for Local Government  Minister for Suburban Development |
| Tim Pallas MP | Minister for Trade |
| The Hon. Ros Spence MP | Minister for Community Sport |
| The Hon. Harriet Shing MP | Minister for Regional Development |
| Anthony Carbines MP | Minister for Racing |
| The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP | Minister for Agriculture |
| The Hon. Shaun Leane MP | Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy |
| The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP | Minister for Commonwealth Games Delivery |

The department also provides advice and support to parliamentary secretaries.   
As at 30 June 2022, 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 |
| Ms Katie Hall MP | Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries |
| Mr Darren Cheeseman | Parliamentary Secretary for the Commonwealth Games |
| Mr Frank McGuire | Parliamentary Secretary for Medical Research |

## Executive Board

The DJPR Executive Board (EB) is the department’s primary governance body.   
To continually improve governance and delivery, DJPR has two dedicated Executive Boards:

* Corporate Governance Board, which focuses on people, culture, ways of working and operational delivery.
* Strategic Governance Board, which focuses on strategic direction and the government’s commitments we are delivering for Victoria.

At 30 June 2022, members of Corporate EB were:

| **Name** | **Role** |
| --- | --- |
| Simon Phemister | Secretary |
| Penelope McKay | Associate Secretary |
| Paul Smith | Deputy Secretary, Forestry, Resources and Climate Change |
| Emily Phillips | Deputy Secretary, Local Government and Suburban Development |
| David Latina | Deputy Secretary, Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement |
| Gönül Serbest | Chief Executive Officer, Global Victoria |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Victoria |
| Matt Lowe | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture |
| Lisa Buckingham | Deputy Secretary, Jobs Victoria, Secure Work and Inclusion |
| Peter Betson | Deputy Secretary, Sport, Recreation and Racing |
| Chris Miller | Deputy Secretary, Tourism, Events and Priority Infrastructure |
| Claire Febey | Deputy Secretary, Creative Victoria |
| Julia Scott | Acting Chief Communications Officer |
| Andrew Parsons | Deputy Secretary, Delivery |
| Jessica Lambous | Associate Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |

## 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 2021-22, the ARC members were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Period** |
| Peter Lewinsky | Chair and Independent Member | From December 2021 |
| Pam Mitchell | Interim Chair Independent Member | July to October 2021 Ongoing |
| Patricia Neden | Interim Chair Independent Member | November to December 2021 Ongoing |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Employment and Inclusion | July to December 2021 |
| Emily Mottram | Executive Director, Industry Development and Participation | July to October 2021 |
| Nanette Fitzgerald | Associate Deputy Secretary, Industry Development and Participation | From December 2021  (replacing Emily Mottram) |
| Matt Lowe | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture | From December 2021  (replacing David Clements) |

## Legislation Administered by the Department

[djpr.vic.gov.au](https://djsir.vic.gov.au/) details DJPR administered legislation between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022.

# Entities

## Forestry, Resources and Climate Change

* VicForests
* Game Management Authority
* Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority
* Office of the Mining Warden

## Local Government and Suburban Development

### Local Government Victoria

* Victorian Local Government Grants Commission
* Councillor Conduct Panel List
* Panel of Administrators for local government councils

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

* LaunchVic Pty Ltd
* Office of the Local Jobs First Commissioner
* Victorian Small Business Commission

## Rural and Regional Victoria

* Regional Development Victoria
* Office of the Cross Border Commissioner
* Latrobe Valley Authority

## Agriculture

* Agriculture Victoria Services Pty Ltd (AVS)
* Dairy Food Safety Victoria
* Geoffrey Gardiner Dairy Foundation
* Melbourne Market Authority
* Murray Valley Wine Grape Industry Development Committee
* PrimeSafe
* Phytogene Pty Ltd (a subsidiary of AVS)
* Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria
* Victorian Strawberry Industry Development Committee

## Sport, Recreation and Racing

### 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 Pty Ltd

### Office of Racing

* Greyhound Racing Victoria
* Harness Racing Victoria
* Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner
* Victorian Racing Tribunal
* Victorian Racing Integrity Board

## Tourism, Events and Priority Infrastructure

* Australian Grand Prix Corporation Pty Ltd
* Emerald Tourist Railway Board
* Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust
* Visit Victoria Pty Ltd

## Creative Victoria

* Arts Centre Melbourne
* Australian Centre for the Moving Image
* Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas Pty Ltd (The Wheeler Centre)
* Docklands Studios Melbourne Pty Ltd
* Fed Square Pty Ltd
* Film Victoria (VicScreen)
* Geelong Arts Centre
* Melbourne Recital Centre Pty Ltd
* Museums Victoria
* National Gallery of Victoria
* State Library Victoria

# Departmental Groups

## Forestry, Resources and Climate Change

Forestry, Resources and Climate Change develops policy, programs and regulation to enable investment and generate jobs through the sustainable development of the state’s earth resources (including extractives, minerals and petroleum), forestry and game. The group works with commercial forest industries to maximise economic value from Victorian timber production and processing (plantations and native forests on public and private land) and assists industry to adapt to environmental, social, and economic change.

The group leads delivery of DJPR’s obligations under the *Climate Change Act 2017* and contributes to whole‑of‑government work on climate change and energy reform. It also helps industries and communities take advantage of Victoria’s shift to a carbon neutral economy, and to build thriving places and regions well adapted to a changing climate.

## Local Government and Suburban Development

Local Government and Suburban Development helps Victoria’s local communities to connect and thrive and works to ensure Melbourne’s suburbs have the infrastructure and services they need for a liveable and sustainable future. The group works across government to bring a place‑based response to the needs and priorities of communities at a local, city and regional level, including a focus on revitalising the inner city.

Working with councils to ensure Victorians enjoy a responsive, accountable, efficient and contemporary system of local government, the group also delivers grant programs for community infrastructure and recurrent funding for services such as public libraries.

It leads the coordination and implementation of DJPR’s emergency management and disaster resilience to support the capability of individuals, communities, councils, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow. This includes supporting critical infrastructure sectors and coordinating the department’s emergency response, relief and recovery responsibilities.

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement works to build trust‑based relationships with Victorian businesses – from global enterprises to small businesses, universities and startups – 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, planning and delivering precincts with significant economic and renewal potential, building on the state’s reputation for innovation and medical research, and advocating for a competitive and fair business environment that creates more and fairer jobs.

## Global Victoria

Global Victoria is the state’s trade promotion and facilitation agency, connecting Victorian businesses to global trade opportunities and building their export capability.

The group manages the Victorian Government Trade and Investment network of international offices delivering a strong and effective on‑the‑ground presence in key global markets and providing a critical conduit for Victorian companies to commence their export ambition or widen their export footprint. The network is the largest and strongest international network of any Australian State or Territory.

The group also promotes the state’s world‑class industry and education capabilities, and quality student experience, to international audiences. It takes a leadership role in global engagement across government and advocates for the best policy settings to support the global competitiveness of Victorian businesses.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

Rural and Regional Victoria works to ensure rural and regional communities and economies are vibrant, thriving and inclusive, to create more jobs for regional Victorians and to enable place‑based collective impact. The group develops policies and programs to support strategic planning, infrastructure and investment attraction, and facilitate job creation in established and emerging sectors.

The group oversees the Regional Development portfolio, supported by:

* Regional Development Victoria, which operates in partnership with regional businesses and communities, and all tiers of government, to deliver the Victorian Government’s regional development agenda
* the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner, who works with border residents, businesses and community organisations to increase the economic benefit of doing business across borders, while addressing practice and regulatory barriers to education, justice, health and other services
* the Latrobe Valley Authority, which works with local communities, councils, industry, education providers and government to secure a strong and prosperous future for the Latrobe Valley and the Gippsland region as it navigates economic transition
* a policy and analytics function that provides the evidence base to inform policy decisions including Regional Economic Development Strategies.

The group works with communities and across government to capitalise on emerging economic development opportunities for regional Victoria, including low‑emissions energy transition, regional innovation, agricultural diversification, advanced manufacturing, and growing the visitor economy.

The group also facilitates whole‑of‑Victorian Government priorities in rural and regional Victoria to help ensure better transport, digital connectivity, more affordable housing, and comprehensive health, education and community infrastructure.

## Agriculture

Agriculture Victoria supports an agriculture, food and fibre sector that is strong, innovative and sustainable. It does this by working with community and industry to enhance productivity, improve animal welfare, connect the sector with international markets, create jobs, support growth and maintain effective biosecurity.

The group helps the sector recover from the impacts of drought, bushfires and the COVID‑19 pandemic. It also ensures the sector is well‑placed to respond to other challenges such as climate change, pests, weeds, disease and increased resource scarcity. The team works alongside industry and research institutions to modernise Victorian agriculture through innovation, investment and education.

## Jobs Victoria, Secure Work and Inclusion

Jobs Victoria, Secure Work and Inclusion assists Victorians looking for work and businesses looking for staff. The group also supports economic inclusion and participation, strengthening communities by enabling their leadership, involvement and ownership in creating a socially and economically inclusive Victoria.

The group drives the whole‑of‑Victorian Government Social Procurement Framework and supports the social enterprise strategy to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits of government spending and partnerships.

The group works with:

* people looking for work
* all businesses and industries needing staff and wanting to support inclusive employment
* casual and contract workers, providing sick and carer’s pay to eligible workers via Australia’s first Sick Pay Guarantee
* social enterprises and the wider social purpose sector so social enterprises can thrive and maximise benefits for Victorians
* government departments and agencies and industry, to promote social procurement
* Victorians pursuing alternatives to mainstream employment by developing microenterprises.

## Sport, Recreation and Racing

Sport, Recreation and Racing works to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians, build stronger and more connected communities and maintain Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s leading state for sporting and major events. It delivers economic growth and jobs, enhances Victoria’s liveability and ensures Victorians are supported to achieve – at local parks and on the world stage.

Within the group:

* the 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 central to the racing industry’s integrity framework

## Tourism, Events and Priority Infrastructure

Tourism, Events and Priority Infrastructure is responsible for strengthening the profile of tourism and events across government and driving growth, strategic policy, reform and economic outcomes   
for the sector. The group develops and implements the visitor economy strategy, supports the revival and growth of Victoria’s diverse and world‑class events calendar, and drives delivery and facilitation of tourism infrastructure.

The group undertakes research and provides policy, strategy and industry development advice to 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.

The group is responsible for delivering the Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan, which is underpinned by a $633 million investment and serves as a statewide strategy to achieve $35 billion in annual visitor expenditure, supporting 300,000 jobs, by June 2024.

## Creative Victoria

Creative Victoria works to raise the profile, reach and impact of Victoria’s creative industries. It supports the career development of local artists and creative professionals and seeks to ensure all Victorians benefit from creative and cultural opportunities – from school kids to diverse communities to businesses.

The group also oversees the state’s major creative and cultural institutions, collections and facilities, valued at more than $7 billion, ensuring these rich assets can be enjoyed by all Victorians as well as visitors to the state.

## Cross‑Portfolio Services

Cross‑Portfolio Services encompasses four groups that provide services across the department’s portfolios and groups to underpin delivery of DJPR outcomes:

* Strategy and Priority Projects, which provides strategic and project management support for key projects.
* Strategic Communications, which drives the department’s internal and external communications.
* Corporate Services, which strives to build a safe, high‑performing organisation that supports DJPR people to perform at their best.
* Delivery, which supports the effective and efficient delivery of high priority departmental projects and grant programs.

# Group Achievements

## Forestry, Resources and Climate Change

### Forestry

* Commenced long‑term economic transition planning in Heyfield and Yarram and worked with the Orbost community to identify four transition opportunities as part of the Victorian Forestry Plan Local Development Strategy. Grants were approved for a further six communities.
* Completed 33 Forestry Business Transition Vouchers to assist businesses affected by the Victorian Forestry Plan to better understand their capabilities, options and strategies for transition.
* Supported sawmilling, harvest and haulage businesses to explore opportunities to transition from native timber to plantation fibre and facilitated transformative industry investment through the Timber Innovation Grants program.
* Established the Victorian Forestry Plan Advisory Committee to advise the department and minister on the design and implementation of business, community and worker support programs and provide feedback to improve program success.
* Completed market processes for the Gippsland Plantations Investment Program and progressed grant agreement negotiations.
* Reviewed the Code of Practice for Timber Production, in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, to support delivery of the Victorian Forestry Plan and implement obligations under the Regional Forest Agreements (notably the Major Event Review and Harvest Level review).
* Introduced the *Sustainable Forests Timber Amendment (Timber Harvesting Safety Zones) Bill 2022* to Parliament. The Bill seeks to modernise the *Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004* to better deter dangerous and illegal activities in Timber Harvesting Zones.

### Game Management

* Released the second Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2021-2024, to strengthen collaboration between government, agencies, Traditional Owners, hunters and the community, supporting safe, responsible and sustainable hunting.
* Supported implementation of the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy, collaborating with Traditional Owners and developing priority projects to deliver on key actions.

### Climate Change in Industry Transition

* Delivered the Primary Production Adaptation Action Plan 2022-26 as part of the Victorian Government’s approach to ensuring climate resilience:
* coordinated extensive public engagement on the draft plan and targeted stakeholder engagement, including with the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council.
* developed a plan that identifies priorities and actions to support accelerated adaptation in primary industries over the next five years.

### Resources

* Facilitated new minerals exploration investment in Victoria, with a quarterly record of $64.1 million minerals exploration expenditure in December 2021 (Australian Bureau of Statistics data).
* Delivered the North Central Victorian Goldfields Ground Release. The successful tenderers Fosterville Gold Mine Pty Ltd and Southern Star Exploration Pty Ltd committed to exploration investment of more than $90 million and $10 million respectively.
* Delivered new petroleum regulations to govern the onshore conventional gas sector, providing stronger provisions for community engagement and project transparency.
* Supported a Geological Survey of Victoria / Geoscience Australia collaboration that delivered an airborne electromagnetic survey of 98,200 square kilometres of western Victoria. The analysis of geological potential will inform future resource management decisions and help attract new exploration investment.
* Delivered new Strategic Extractive Resource Area planning controls in the growth corridors of Wyndham City and South Gippsland Shire. These will secure long‑term access to raw materials, including rock, sand and gravel via better planning for quarries, to support the construction sector and deliver new housing, schools, hospitals and infrastructure.
* Released a Strategic Extractive Resources Roadmap to improve mapping of resources and planning provisions to better identify and protect rock, sand, and gravel in priority locations, supporting delivery of Victoria’s Extractive Resources Strategy.
* Released the Quarry Transformation Grants program, to assist quarry operators to develop and test innovative ways to repurpose post‑quarrying land.
* Facilitated lifting the temporary hold on mineral exploration applications in western Victoria’s Stavely Project area, enabling new exploration for copper, other base metals, and minerals sands. This completed the Stavely Minerals Exploration Initiative that commenced in 2015.
* Delivered an improved work plan assessment process under the Better Approvals for Regulators program, with revised industry guidance and pre‑submission engagement expected to accelerate approval timeframes.
* Enabled expansion of key quarries in Colac and Bass Coast via approvals as part of the Extractive Industry Priority Project List quarry expansion program. In addition, Earth Resources Regulation approved work authorities for 15 new quarries, compared with three in 2020-21.
* Supported the response to the June 2021 Yallourn coal mine flood emergency, including surface remediation works for the Morwell River diversion, flood mitigation diversions and a 3000ML‑per‑day water diversion into the Hazelwood Mine.

## Local Government and Suburban Development

### Office for Suburban Development

* Supported eight Suburban Revitalisation Boards in Boronia, Lilydale, Melton, Noble Park, Reservoir, Tarneit, Frankston and Broadmeadows – chaired by members of Parliament, with representatives from local government, businesses, community organisations and other institutions – to deliver on local priorities to improve liveability and economic and social outcomes.
* Delivered Suburban Revitalisation activities in another 40 locations across Melbourne including at three 20‑Minute Neighbourhood pilot sites, and for projects in Thomastown, Lalor, Springvale and Altona.
* Invested $13.7 million in Suburban Revitalisation projects in 2021-22. Since the COVID‑19 pandemic began, more than $32 million has been invested in 187 Suburban Revitalisation projects with a combined value exceeding $88 million.
* Delivered the Metropolitan Partnerships program:
* Continued support of six Metropolitan Partnerships that engaged regional and local communities, advised government on community priorities, and drove local action through pilots and projects to test new approaches and develop solutions to local problems.
* Engaged 1872 people across 54 engagement activities on regional priorities including loneliness and social connection, transport, mental wellbeing, employment and skills, business resilience and local living.
* Supported the Metropolitan Partnerships to deliver 16 projects from round 3 of the Metropolitan Partnership Development Fund valued at $1.75 million and committed to a further 12 projects in round 4 valued at $3 million to drive local action and assist social and economic outcomes in local communities.
* Supported the Metropolitan Development Advisory Panel to provide strategic advice to government to assist Melbourne’s recovery from the COVID‑19 pandemic and ongoing metropolitan development.

### Local Government Victoria

* Funded 43 community infrastructure projects across Melbourne’s interface (outer) councils and peri‑urban councils under the $50 million 2021-22 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF).   
  The GSF supports councils to provide facilities such as community centres, playgrounds, parks and pavilions.
* Funded 14 projects through the $10.1 million Living Libraries Infrastructure Program, supporting councils to provide library facilities that meet community needs.
* Provided $47.4 million through the Public Libraries Funding Program to councils, regional libraries and Vision Australia to enable Victorian libraries to buy new books and collection items, run online services and deliver outreach community programs.
* Recommended the distribution of $646.8 million in untied financial assistance grants to Victorian councils through the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission.
* Supported an additional ten shared services projects across 25 rural Victorian councils through an investment of $6.9 million under the Rural Councils Transformation Program.
* Worked with 11 small rural councils to improve their local road asset capacity and capability under the $1.4 million Rural Roads Support Program.
* Supported 64 rural, regional and outer metropolitan councils to plan and prepare for emergencies through the Municipal Emergencies Resourcing Program.
* Provided access for councils to borrowings through Treasury Corporation of Victoria, giving them access to low interest loans.
* Supported the return to elected representation in South Gippsland Shire Council, from delivery of candidate training, to providing resources and grants to support women’s participation in local government, and the appointment of a municipal monitor to help facilitate the effective transition to the newly elected council.
* Developed new provisions in the *Local Government Act 2020* to allow councils to conduct virtual meetings on a permanent basis.
* Introduced new regulations and ministerial guidelines to support *Local Government Act 2020* and *City of Melbourne Act 2001* on matters relating to City of Melbourne, land information, engagement with Aboriginal communities and virtual meetings.
* Implemented Phases 3B and 4 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and through consultation and co‑design with individual councils provided implementation guidance via workshops, webinars and other online resources.
* Led nine joint state and local government forums to engage council CEOs with state government departments on important and strategic sector issues, including policy, legislative issues and program design.
* Published the seventh year of local government financial and service performance information on the State Government’s Know Your Council website, which attracted a record number of visitors and more than 1.5 million page views.
* Supported the Gender Equality Advisory Committee for the local government sector to advise the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Women to help drive implementation of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and deliver the State Government’s target of 50 per cent female mayors and councillors by 2025.
* Funded programs to facilitate gender equality in local government and boost the percentage of elected councillors who are women (42.9 per cent, the highest of all Australian states). Programs included mentoring via the Australian Local Government Women’s Association and the Victorian Local Governance Association’s Local Women Leading Change program in the lead up to the South Gippsland elections.
* Launched Women Leading Locally to support women with diverse backgrounds from 30 target municipalities to undertake a Fellowship in local government leadership.
* Supported 40 women to continue training as municipal building surveyors via the $6.3 million Women Building Surveyors Program to improve gender balance in the construction industry.
* Launched the Victorian Aboriginal and Local Government Strategy (VALGS), providing a framework for shared decision‑making for Aboriginal Victorians and local governments, based on mutual control, shared power, fairness, respect and trust. Additionally, continued funding was provided for the Maggolee website, developed by Reconciliation Victoria to promote partnerships between local governments and Aboriginal communities.
* Conducted the Local Government Culture Project to provide a platform for the sector to identify and take ownership of a positive and inclusive culture that will improve governance and build public trust. An Insights Report was released to the sector in May 2022.
* Developed legislative reforms to the arrangements for unpaid local government rates and charges for those facing financial hardship. Began implementing the supported recommendations of the 2020 Local Government Rating System Review and the 2021 Victorian Ombudsman’s ‘Investigation into how local councils respond to ratepayers in financial hardship’.

### Emergency Coordination and Resilience

* Delivered critical infrastructure planning for the food and grocery and communications sectors under the Victorian Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy (2015).
* Coordinated emergency management and disaster resilience to support the capability of individuals, communities, councils, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow.
* Responded to the Gippsland severe weather events in October, March and April to support response, relief and recovery under the State Emergency Management Plan.
* Increased the department’s capability and capacity to respond to emergencies by accrediting staff in the Australasian Inter‑service Incident Management System.

### Inner Metropolitan Melbourne

* Collaborated with the City of Melbourne to deliver initiatives to support businesses and boost economic activity in and around the CBD.
* Oversaw the Victorian Government’s $157.4 million contribution to the recovery and revitalisation of the CBD economy: Round 1 of Melbourne Money ($7.4 million), the Melbourne City Recovery Fund ($50 million) and the Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund ($100 million). These Funds provided economic stimulus during the pandemic through events, activations and small business support, including:
* direct grants to businesses to adapt to COVIDSafe settings
* the six‑week Extended Christmas Festival which resulted in 400,000 more visits to the Christmas Festival hub in Federation Square, compared to the four‑week 2019 festival
* a program of events and activities to reinvigorate the Docklands precinct, including the Docklands Drone Show and The Playground at Docklands featuring three, interactive family‑friendly creative spaces
* the City Activation Grants Program, providing grants of up to $50,000 to organisations to energise city streets and neighbourhoods
* the City of Melbourne Business Concierge service, which supports businesses to access government support and respond to the impacts of the pandemic
* support to make vacant shopfronts available to sole traders and businesses in Lygon Street, Docklands and the CBD
* three rounds of the Melbourne Money dining voucher scheme: in July 2021, November 2021, and March to April 2022.

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

### Business Investment and Engagement

* Actively engaged with businesses on growth opportunities, securing 49 new investments in priority sectors that will create 2720 jobs.
* Highlights include:
* 3D MEDiTech transforming its existing Port Melbourne facility into a world‑class, 3D‑printing medical manufacturing facility, providing opportunities to accelerate the commercialisation of new medical technologies. The project will deliver $27 million in expenditure and create 91 highly skilled jobs.
* George Weston Foods announcing a program of major investment and innovation projects across its Victoria‑based businesses Tip Top, Yumi’s, Don KRC, Mauri and Don’s Farms, including a new state‑of‑the‑art flour mill in Ballarat. The investments will build Victoria’s food production capacity and capability to deliver capital expenditure of $132.9 million and create 174 new jobs.
* Nissan Casting investing $15.5 million in its Dandenong South aluminium‑casting facility, which exports electric vehicle components. The investment will create 41 new jobs in engineering, management and production.
* Quickstep Holdings Limited investing $3.9 million to expand its Tullamarine maintenance, repair and overhaul operations, creating 63 full‑time jobs, including 51 in aircraft maintenance and engineering. Strengthening local capabilities will enable domestic airline operators to carry out functions that had previously moved offshore.
* Worldline choosing Melbourne’s Docklands as the location for its Australian headquarters and innovation centre, which will deliver 185 highly skilled jobs in the financial technology sector.
* Provided tailored packages of assistance, including grants and business planning support, to businesses significantly impacted by the COVID‑19 pandemic to support their economic recovery, with a focus on the manufacturing, creative, events and tourism industries to retain jobs in Victoria.
* Partnered with Greater South‑East Melbourne councils to deliver an industry showcase and roundtable celebrating the strength and breadth of the region’s electric and autonomous vehicle technology ecosystem and identifying investment and growth opportunities.

### Defence, Aviation and Aerospace

* Facilitated Avalon Airport Industrial Precinct’s selection as the location for Hanwha Defense Australia Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence (H‑ACE).
* Signed the Hanwha Defense Australia grant agreement, which covers the Commonwealth Government’s LAND 8116 Program, committing the company to create over 300 jobs at its H‑ACE facility.
* Partnered with the University of Melbourne to support Defence Science Institute operations, including delivering a Capability Directory to showcase defence research and development capabilities of 12 Victorian and Tasmanian universities and research centres.
* Hosted 28 Victorian Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) on the Victorian Government Pavilion at the 2022 Indo Pacific International Maritime Exposition Conference, Sydney where they pitched their capabilities to major national and international companies.
* Invested $1.3 million to partner with DMTC Limited to deliver the Smart Enough Factory program, which introduces Industry 4.0 technologies to modernise manufacturing operations to improve productivity and competitiveness.
* Supported $2.7 million expansion of MOOG Australia’s manufacturing multi‑use facility in Heatherton, expected to create around 70 highly skilled, full‑time equivalent jobs over five years.
* Secured new air services from Victoria, including:
* the first direct flights to Texas, with four Qantas services to Dallas weekly, and increased frequency of its services to Los Angeles
* the first direct flights connecting Melbourne and Hanoi, with Bamboo Airways commencing international services and establishing its Australian headquarters in Melbourne
* Etihad Airways to increase international services from Abu Dhabi to Melbourne to establish a daily year‑round service
* Emirates to grow its Dubai to Melbourne service to two daily Airbus A380 flights
* United Airlines to restart direct international air services from San Francisco to Melbourne.

### Industry Development and Participation

#### Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC)

* Launched the $3 million Medtech Manufacturing Capability Program (MMCP), assisting eligible small and medium manufacturing and medical technology businesses to create and manufacture new medtech products and investments, with matched grants of up to $500,000:
* 12 companies have been awarded grants to scale manufacturing, with projects spanning devices, diagnostics, advanced consumables, biologics and dental manufacturing
* the broad applicant profile – established medtech manufacturers, scale‑ups and traditional manufacturers transitioning into medtech – demonstrates the competitive capability of the sector.
* Provided funding towards Australia’s first pilot of the UK’s National Health Service Clinical Entrepreneur Program, working with MTP Connect.
* Funded a Medtech Industry Adviser for the Industry Capability Network to support Victorian medtech manufacturers to access health infrastructure procurement opportunities, including 12 priority health projects.
* Partnered with universities, medtech bodies and health services to deliver two Health‑led Manufacturing Innovation Program pilots that bring together clinicians, researchers, engineers, manufacturers, designers and industry to develop new products that meet health system needs. These programs include:
* Aikenhead Centre for Medical Design’s Medtech Challenge Workshops
* Swinburne University’s LivingAT Health Innovation Challenges to support health outcomes with local innovations by identifying and designing products for Victorian manufacture to assist people with diverse ability to live independently.

#### Local Jobs First

* Appointed a Local Jobs First Commissioner to promote the Local Jobs First Policy across government and industry and monitor compliance with local content and job commitments.
* Implemented the Local Jobs First Policy under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* and provided timely ministerial advice on requirements for 55 Local Jobs First strategic projects. Set requirements for 253 strategic projects from December 2014 to 30 June 2022, with a combined value of more than $117.52 billion and supporting more than 45,000 jobs across Victoria in industries such as construction, professional services and manufacturing.
* Implemented the Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG) as part of the Local Jobs First Policy, which since 2016 has been applied to 265 projects worth more than $117.4 billion. The most current information available (for the 12 months to March 2022) shows commitments to provide work for apprentices, trainees and cadets under the MPSG have grown by 6.7 million hours and 2.5 million hours were worked.
* Increased targeted additional requirements on Local Jobs First strategic projects to support workers and businesses supplying government construction projects, such as those for fittings, fixtures and equipment. In addition, set further requirements to support engagement with other government initiatives such as Apprenticeships Victoria and the nascent Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre.
* Supported the Industry Capability Network with advice and services to assist agencies and local businesses to meet Local Jobs First requirements: advising on evaluation weightings, hosting online reporting systems and supporting more than 4500 Local Industry Development Plans from more than 1600 businesses.

#### Fair Jobs Code

* Finalised preparations for the proposed Fair Jobs Code, following consultation with key industry stakeholders. The Fair Jobs Code will enable the Victorian Government to use its purchasing power to ensure businesses who receive government funding have fair labour standards including promoting secure employment and compliance with industrial relations and occupational health and safety laws.

#### Industry Development

* Delivered the Business Competitiveness Program, supporting 29 Victorian manufacturers to expand operations and implement new manufacturing technologies and processes allocating more than $10 million in grant funding towards a total project investment of over $37 million. These projects are expected to create over 550 jobs.
* Undertook a program of industry policy analysis and development that informed the design of manufacturing capability initiatives in the $120 million Victorian Industry Fund announced in the 2022-23 Victorian State Budget.
* Engaged with industry bodies, research institutions and businesses to provide key industry insights into opportunities and challenges for industry growth and supply chain development.
* Delivered a roadmap and vision to develop Victoria’s agri‑food manufacturing and innovation. This included supporting CSIRO and La Trobe University to scope opportunities to establish a cutting‑edge food innovation ecosystem centred in Melbourne’s north.
* Developed and published the annual Food and Fibre Export Performance Report which highlighted Victoria as Australia’s leading agri‑food export state.
* Sponsored food industry events including Ai Group’s ConTech 2022 and Food Frontier’s inaugural AltProteins22 Conference.
* Provided sponsorship and support for the CSIRO Protein Roadmap which identified strategic science and technology priorities to guide industry activities and position Australia as a global leader in this space.
* Supported NORTH Link to establish a network of strategic capabilities in manufacturing, including joint initiatives like the Melbourne’s North Food Group and the North and West Metropolitan Data Analytics Hub, and provided funding for scale‑ups to support job creation.
* Promoted digital construction technologies by providing support to the Building 4.0 Cooperative Research Centre.
* Supported Ethical Clothing Australia (ECA) to build and administer the Ethical Clothing Register, with 24 new businesses accredited for ethical supply chains and safe working conditions during 2021-22, bringing total accreditations – the majority of which are in Victoria – to 143.
* Provided ongoing support for the Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 Hub, delivered by Swinburne University, which conducted 39 Industry 4.0 roadshows / webcasts, with participants from over 250 Victorian companies.
* Chaired a Whole‑of‑Victorian Government (non‑health) Personal Protective Equipment taskforce and working group to discuss policy requirements and ensure appropriate equipment was supplied throughout the COVID‑19 pandemic (responsibility transitioned to Department of Treasury and Finance in early 2022).
* Provided more than 17.8 million face masks from the Whole‑of‑Victorian Government (non‑health) emergency stockpile to departments, portfolio entities, agencies and NGOs supporting vulnerable Victorians.

#### COVID-19 Industry Coordination and Recovery

* Hosted more than 600 sector engagements since the beginning of the financial year to provide timely advice to industry and business on how to implement, comply with and adapt to COVID‑19 restrictions and COVIDSafe settings, including industry roundtables / consultations and targeted forums and meetings with key industry stakeholders (peak bodies, associations, unions, as well as business, faith, and culturally and linguistically diverse leaders).
* Engaged directly with more than 52,300 businesses across regional and metropolitan Victoria.
* Engaged with industry to understand sector needs – including manufacturing, construction, aviation, creative industries, higher education, retail and hospitality, and related supply chains – and applied these insights to develop bespoke COVIDSafe policy practices (in partnership with other departments including Health) such as the QR code system, vaccine attestation, worker bubbles and surveillance testing.
* Responded to more than 7900 unique industry specific queries regarding COVID‑19 settings.
* Completed 232 targeted email campaigns and 47 SMS campaigns reaching 2.5 million businesses.
* Facilitated COVIDSafe plan reviews for 290 businesses and hosted online forums with 907 participants to support them to develop / review their COVIDSafe plan.

## Business Precincts

#### Fishermans Bend Business Precinct ‑Urban Renewal Area

* Released the Water Sensitive City Strategy in partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Melbourne Water, South East Water, City of Melbourne, City of Port Phillip, Water Sensitive Cities Australia and the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.
* Facilitated 17 significant property developments in partnership with DELWP with a total development value of $2.2 billion, totalling 155,000sqm of employment floor space (providing for approximately 5000 permanent jobs) and 3900 new dwellings (including 200 social and affordable housing dwellings).
* Undertook a rolling program of place activation and industry engagement activities in partnership with the City of Port Phillip.
* Secured $750,000 to support planning processes for Fishermans Bend.

#### National Employment and Innovation Cluster

* Released Advancing Manufacturing – the Fishermans Bend opportunity.
* Commenced implementing the $179.4 million package of works for Stage 1 of the Fishermans Bend Innovation Precinct to deliver infrastructure to support new industry investment projects.
* Commenced delivering the Gateway to GMH project in partnership with the City of Melbourne, including Melbourne Knowledge Week event.

#### Docklands Business Precinct

* Supported completion of the $46 million sound stage at Docklands Studios Melbourne.
* Supported delivery of the $225 million Marvel Stadium redevelopment.

#### Parkville Business Precinct

* Supported delivery of the $650 million Australian Institute for Infectious Disease.
* Commenced a Parkville Precinct Opportunity Statement, to further guide investment in the precinct and engage stakeholders.
* Continued planning for improvements at the Haymarket roundabout to support jobs, facilitate innovation, address safety issues and improve local amenity, in partnership with the Department of Transport.

#### Werribee National Employment and Innovation Cluster

* Secured $2.8 million to facilitate development of the East Werribee Roadmap and a fast‑track review of the Precinct Structure Plan to provide economic, social and environmental benefits within the western suburbs of Melbourne.

#### Footscray Business Precinct

* Released the Footscray Opportunity and Directions paper in December 2021.
* Commenced work on a Footscray Roadmap, to further guide investment in the precinct and engage stakeholders.

#### Talent and Migration

* Delivered the first three rounds of the $64 million Digital Jobs Program and commenced enrolment and training for the fourth round, engaging more than 2200 participants.
* The program also:
* Delivered on diversity targets, with 55 per cent female participation, 14 per cent regional participation, 65 per cent from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and in terms of age 55 per cent were in their thirties, 29 per cent in their forties and 13 percent 50 and above.
* Partnered with more than 145 Victorian employers who leveraged the program to access a new pool of talent including multi‑nationals, SMEs, startups, regionally based businesses, government departments and agencies, and local councils. Major partners include ANZ, Zendesk, Carsales, Infosys, Siemens, AWS, Salesforce and Microsoft.
* Provided 33 courses in digital subjects delivered by 13 leading Victorian training providers, including universities, TAFEs and private providers.
* Nominated 4250 skilled migrants to live and work in Victoria through the Skilled and Business Migration Program, with more than 2100 nominated to fill critical workforce shortages in the health sector, more than 600 in the hospitality and early childhood teaching sectors and more than 1500 others to fill gaps in the medical research and life sciences, digital, advanced manufacturing, new energy, agri‑food and creative industries sectors.
* Nominated 259 business and investor migrants to conduct business and investment activity and undertake entrepreneurial activity in Victoria, comprising:
* 71 business migrants committed to establishing and supporting innovative Victorian businesses in sectors including advanced manufacturing and medical technologies.
* 188 investor migrants committed to investing at least $166.5 million in Victoria’s start-up and scale-up ecosystem.
* Supported the assessment of more than 1300 overseas qualifications to assist overseas‑qualified professionals to gain employment in the Victorian labour market and fill skills gaps.

#### Policy and Regulation Reform

* Led the policy design and development of the Sick Pay Guarantee, launched in March 2022 to provide up to five days’ sick pay to eligible casual and contract workers.
* Launched Better Approvals for Business (BAB), a two‑year regulatory reform program of rolling reviews enabling industry, business, council and government stakeholders to co‑design reforms that improve business regulatory and related approvals to support economic recovery and jobs. This builds on the success of the Small Business Regulation Review Program and its flagship reform the Better Approvals Project, delivered from 2018 to 2020.
* Delivered the Telecommunications Infrastructure Provisions Review (first review under the BAB), which identified reforms that will provide direct benefits to telecommunication infrastructure providers due to reduced time and costs associated with improved approval processes, as well as support wider economic benefits to businesses and the community through improved access to digital services.
* Delivered the Business‑Friendly Council Approvals Review (second review under the BAB), which identified reforms targeted at improving the end‑to‑end ​regulatory approvals ​process for businesses.

#### Innovation and Medical Research

* Supported: 133 Victorian companies and new entrants; 1,535 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs (through online educational webinars, online workshops, online masterclasses and mentoring); 298 investors through angel networks and investor education programs; and 167 Victorians to access a career in a startup through LaunchVic.
* Established the Victorian Startup Capital Fund with the Government’s cornerstone investment of $60 million to leverage substantial private investment into early‑stage startups. V‑Ignite was appointed as the independent fund manager.
* Launched the $10 million Alice Anderson Fund to encourage investment in early‑stage startups founded by women, delivering $2.5 million in direct investments and attracting more than $10.6 million in private sector co‑investment to 11 Victorian startups.
* Supported 134 SMEs through the $6.1 million Technology Adoption and Innovation Program to develop or implement digital or innovative technology to improve business productivity and competitiveness. Matched grants of up to $50,000 have enabled $12.15 million research and development activity for technology innovation.
* Supported Victoria’s independent medical research institutes by delivering the Operational Infrastructure Support Program, providing $34 million annually to cover indirect research costs not met by competitive grants including the support services and facilities that underpin research activities.
* Provided $400,000 to support the new Ragon‑Doherty Fellowship program (Victoria’s Doherty Institute and the Ragon Institute in Massachusetts). This program will enable promising early‑career infectious disease researchers (a minimum of two a year) to complete a fellowship in either location with support from two world‑class research institutes.
* Provided $13.3 million through the COVID‑19 Treatments Medical Research Fund to support seven projects to address research gaps, including urgently needed treatment options for prophylaxis and acute and post‑acute COVID‑19 symptoms.
* Launched the Generation Victoria (Gen V) project which has recruited more than 46,885 statewide participants including 18,269 babies, making it the largest study of its kind in Australia. GenV aims to improve community health by tracking and analysing the health outcomes of a generation of Victorian children.
* Celebrated the official signing of the Foundation Partner Principles Agreement for the Australian Institute for Infectious Disease, a formal commitment to the $650 million project by the University of Melbourne and Doherty and Burnet Institutes.
* Recognised Victoria’s brightest emerging leaders in health and medical research at the 27th Annual Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research. The Premier’s Research Excellence Award went to Dr Xiaodong Liu from Monash University for his work in regenerative medicine, including research resulting in the creation of a model of human embryos from skin cells, termed iBlastoids.
* Committed $16 million to implement the Victorian Brain Cancer Centre’s globally unique Perioperative Clinical Trials Platform which will address the critical lack of trial options available to brain cancer patients and provide the means to translate Victorian discoveries into the clinic.
* Commenced building clinical trial capacity in rural and regional Victoria – supported by $7.87 million of national funding through the Medical Research Future Fund – with the initial two‑month activity report showing 34 new trials and 51 patients recruited to trials in the regions.
* Partnered with the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre SKILLED intern program to fund eleven new clinical trial workforce training positions with high retention of trainees in the regions. This has strengthened the ability to bring more trials to health services and communities across Victoria.
* Developed and launched the Victorian Innovation Statement that sets out six clear actions to remain at the forefront of innovation: capitalising on our research and innovation potential, developing our talent, cultivating our startup ecosystem, growing our innovation precincts, taking Victorian innovation to the world and delivering innovative services to Victorians.
* Opened Biobanking Victoria at Monash University, a state‑of‑the art and globally accredited biobank featuring 4.5 million biological specimens collected during clinical trials. With $1.5 million from the Future Industries Fund, it is Australia’s first industry‑standard biobanking facility, accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities.
* Extended the partnership with Monash University and Johnson and Johnson (J&J) for the J&J Innovation Partnering Office at Monash University’s Clayton campus. JJIPO@Monash provides mentoring, training and networking with emerging Victorian healthcare companies and academic researchers with J&J Innovation’s vast global networks.
* Attracted eight national AusBiotech conferences to be hosted in Melbourne over five years including the AusBiotech National Conference, Australia Biotech Invest and Partnering and AusMedtech conference.
* Celebrated Victorian leadership in science and innovation through the Victoria Prize and Fellowship Awards. Professor Anne Voss and Associate Professor Tim Thomas from Walter and Eliza Hall were awarded the Victoria Prize for Science and Innovation in life sciences for their research to treat cancer.

#### mRNA Victoria

* Established mRNA Victoria, a dedicated body to lead mRNA vaccine and therapeutics research, development and manufacturing capability in Australia and the Asia‑Pacific.
* Reached an agreement with the Commonwealth Government and Moderna to establish a commercial‑scale vaccine manufacturing facility, research and development centre and Asia‑Pacific headquarters, making Victoria the first place in Australia to manufacture mRNA vaccines. The manufacturing plant is expected to be completed in 2024, with capacity to produce up to 100 million vaccine doses each year.
* Funded clinical manufacture of Australia’s first mRNA COVID‑19 vaccine candidate, currently in phase one trials, by leveraging local Victorian expertise.
* Delivered $2 million in grants through the mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund to fast‑track RNA‑based therapeutics research and to support bold project ideas that will grow Victoria’s capabilities in RNA vaccine and therapeutics research, development and manufacturing.
* Delivered $21 million from the mRNA Victoria Activation Program to grow the RNA research ecosystem, including support for clinical research and projects to develop enabling technology such as artificial intelligence (AI), next‑generation manufacturing, safety testing and alternative vaccine delivery methods.
* Signed an agreement with Boston‑based Ginkgo Bioworks, world leader in synthetic biology, to establish its Australian headquarters in Victoria (its first outside of the United States) and support commercial manufacturing.
* Signed an agreement with San Francisco‑based InterVenn Biosciences, developer of an AI platform to detect cancer, to establish its commercial headquarters and research lab in Victoria, building on local RNA ecosystem and AI‑driven biotech capabilities.
* Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Korea on mRNA vaccine research and development, clinical trials and manufacturing between mRNA Victoria and Korean Health, Industry Development Institute, establishing regional alliances in the Asia Pacific region.
* Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health – Abu Dhabi to establish a relationship with the UAE to progress joint RNA research and facilitate investment in building manufacturing capability – the first step in a partnership to support the development of RNA ecosystems.
* Established the Scientific Advisory Group for mRNA Victoria comprising leaders of Victoria’s medical research institutes, international mRNA experts and chaired by the Lead Scientist of Victoria.

#### Office of the Lead Scientist

* Released the Victorian Space Industries Snapshot which raised the domestic and international profile of Victoria’s capabilities, resulting in increased engagement and enquiries from companies and research organisations.
* Supported the Australian Science Media Centre and STEM Sisters to create and deliver customised communication courses for culturally and linguistically diverse women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). These courses improved participants’ ability to develop and manage their public profiles to celebrate their achievements.
* Coordinated the efforts of the Victorian Quantum Technology Network of Victorian university researchers, supporting collaborative efforts in the fields of quantum computing, quantum sensing and quantum device prototyping.
* Supported the delivery of the Inspiring Victoria program to raise public awareness of STEM.

#### Telecommunications and Digital Economy

* Completed Connecting Victoria community and business engagement via roundtables and online consultation and released an engagement report detailing key findings from the more than 11,000 responses.
* Announced 66 locations funded for broadband upgrades, to benefit more than 34,000 households and 7700 businesses in Victoria.
* Funded additional locations for new or upgraded mobile towers as well as power resilience improvements at 76 existing mobile towers. This will provide new and improved mobile coverage to peri‑urban, rural and regional locations to support local economies and community safety.
* Delivered 11 new mobile base stations, completing the roll‑out of more than 225 of 253 in the program that commenced in 2014-15.
* Supported the Commonwealth Government’s Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters program to facilitate installation of satellite services in 344 relief and recovery and evacuation centres.
* Supported emergency management activities related to the April 2022 East Gippsland floods and October 2021 severe storm event, including supporting the State Control Centre with briefings on the status of service outages and supporting the telecommunications industry with their service restoration.
* Contributed to the Commonwealth Government’s Regional Telecommunications Review, advocating for more national funding for regional telecommunications and measures to improve the availability of digital connectivity in emergencies and natural disasters.
* Commenced establishment of the Cremorne Digital Hub to drive its development as a leading technology and innovation precinct, and support technology businesses, ecosystem capabilities and jobs in a digital economy.
* Supported the establishment of the Australian Sports Innovation Centre of Excellence in Cremorne to attract national and international opportunities for Victoria’s leading sports technology sector.
* Delivered the SummerTech LIVE program providing paid studentships to 128 students and recent graduates to develop work‑ready skills while contributing to projects with 75 SMEs to help solve digital challenges and boost competitiveness.
* Delivered Digital Innovation Futures: the online event hub provided access to 2400 live and on‑demand technology and innovation‑related events for around 45,000 business and community users and the online festival in August‑September offered 400 live and on‑demand sessions, supporting 20,000 Victorians to upskill, connect and share knowledge.
* Continued delivering the Regional Digital Fund, providing grants for 31 locally proposed, small‑scale digital projects boosting technology skills, capabilities and infrastructure across nine regional partnership areas.
* Co‑led the development of Victoria’s Cyber Strategy 2021 including Mission 3: A vibrant cyber economy which sets out the state’s first formal cyber sector development strategy.
* Launched and supported a pilot program with the Australian Women in Security Network to lift female representation and address workforce shortages in the cyber security industry, as part of Victoria’s Cyber Strategy – Mission 3.
* Stimulated the broader digital tech ecosystem by supporting initiatives including the AIIA iAwards, Advancing Analytics Conference, Connecting Up Conference, Australian Technologies Competition, ACS Industry Development and engagement events, the Women in AI Awards and the Tech Diversity Awards.

#### Small Business Victoria

* Provided businesses with support, information and capability-building resources they need to establish and thrive:
* Reached 142,586 subscribers through the Business Victoria Update eNewsletter providing small business with valuable information on grants programs and tools, expert advice and events to network and build capability. This represented a 18.6 per cent subscription increase that builds on the 230 per cent increase from the previous year.
* Introduced 197,220 new ABN holders to Business Victoria’s support services and related channels.
* Ensured the Business Victoria website continued to be an important and trusted information source to help Victorian businesses start, run and grow, attracting 5.3 million users and 9.5 million visits.
* Delivered capability building through the Small Business Toolkits program, with 719 attendees at 116 workshops, 1042 attendees at 84 live webinars, 1355 virtual business advisory sessions and 1744 self‑guided learning participants.
* Delivered 473 mentoring, wellbeing coaching and financial counselling sessions and 613 business engagements on the Small Business Bus.
* Launched the Business Planning Tool and the Event Planner, alongside useful tools and templates on the Business Victoria website, to guide business operators at all stages and connect them to support programs and services.
* Delivered the Microbusiness Concierge Service, with 24,046 calls received through the hotline and supporting microbusinesses with one-on-one support to navigate information and advice on business services and programs through 3578 appointments.
* Supported business health and growth through tailored support and resilience initiatives:
* Continued the Business Recovery and Resilience Mentoring Program in partnership with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to support more than 4742 businesses through some 15,246 mentoring sessions to make informed decisions about their business’s future. The program received over 97 per cent participant satisfaction rate.
* Provided 8012 rebates through the Small Business Digital Adaptation Program, helping businesses to acquire and implement digital products to improve cash flow, marketing and productivity.
* Continued to deliver Upskill My Business to 6472 participants, with 95 online short courses, micro‑credentials and events to help Victorian business owners prepare for a strong recovery.
* Delivered 31 grants through a second round of the Business Chambers and Trader Groups Program empowering businesses to collaborate, adapt and thrive.
* Continued to deliver Bushfire Recovery support to 644 businesses and engaged with 4829 businesses to assist their recovery and growth.
* Funded 13 embedded mental health clinicians in industry peak bodies and chambers of commerce hardest hit by the pandemic, providing mental health support and training to staff and employers.
* Delivered 18,358 sessions to more than 1239 unique clients through the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline, including more than 6948 wellbeing coaching sessions, 9935 financial counselling sessions and 1475 business advisory sessions.
* Provided essential Wellbeing and Mental Health Support to Victorian small businesses and attracted over 27,790 landing page visits to the Headway web page directing visitors to key initiatives, that included:
  + - more than 423 free licence registrations to Mindarma, an online mental health support tool to help build resilience and protect the mental health of small business owners and their employees
    - the Mental Wellbeing of Business Communities Grant Program, enabling 71 business community recipients to complete wellbeing training then deliver projects to improve the mental health of their members and workplaces
    - the WorkSafe WorkWell toolkit for small businesses is aimed at preventing mental injury and creating mentally healthy workplaces attracted 3282 unique webpage visits.
* Delivered the Small Business COVID Hardship Fund, providing $20,000 grants to 65,471 eligible business applicants.
* Extended the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme (CTRS) to March 2022 to support tenants and landlords to negotiate rent relief and help alleviate pandemic‑related financial hardship.
* Provided free CTRS mediation services through the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC). Received 6248 rent relief applications of which 4177 were eligible disputes, with 2375 cases resolved prior to mediation and 2052 cases resolved via mediation at an 80.1 per cent success rate.
* Delivered the Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund, providing support to landlords who experienced hardship as a result of waiving rent for tenants under the CTRS, with $20.7 million paid to 5408 applicants.
* Supported businesses to thrive and contribute to a strong economic recovery for Victoria:
* Provided 141 high‑growth potential small businesses with needs‑based, tailored advisory services to achieve their growth objectives through the Ready for Growth program, supporting access to new markets, creating jobs and supporting Victoria’s economic recovery.

## Global Victoria

### Trade

* Supported Victorian firms to achieve $627 million in export sales through participating in government programs such as physical and virtual Trade Missions, Access Program, eCommerce initiatives and an Export Skills Program.
* Delivered 21 outbound and inbound Trade Missions, ensuring support for Victorian companies – encompassing ICT / Technology, Health, Medical Technology and Pharmaceuticals, Education Technology, Food and Beverage, and Sport – to trade internationally.
* Delivered export skills training for more than 1060 participants, supporting them to enhance export capability and digital skills to emerge stronger after the COVID‑19 pandemic.
* Delivered Victoria’s successful six‑month engagement program at World Expo Dubai as the only Platinum Partner of the Australia Pavilion. The program engaged international stakeholders across business, government and education; promoted the best of Victoria’s major events, international education offerings, sporting ecosystem and premium produce; and delivered the message that Victoria is open for business and ready to welcome visitors.
* In the Australia Pavilion forecourt, Melbourne Lane café served more than 60,000 coffees using Victorian exports (Industry Beans coffee and MilkLAB milk varieties). More than 2900 cultural performances were held on the Victoria Stage, ensuring Melbourne and Victoria were front and centre for the 1.6 million visitors to the Pavilion over the course of the Expo.
* Continued to deliver the Global Victoria Trade Alliance supporting exporters to build knowledge, capabilities and connections via more than 60 events with Alliance partners.
* Supported the inaugural SportNXT summit, showcasing internationally Victoria’s world‑class sports ecosystem. The hybrid conference featured 79 international and national speakers and attracted more than 700 in‑person attendees, including some 250 international and interstate delegates. Global Victoria and Sport, Recreation and Racing worked closely with SportNXT to showcase capability across the sports value chain and deliver an inbound virtual Trade Mission, sports‑tech showcase and site visit program.

### International Education Recovery and Growth

* Opened three Study Melbourne Hubs: Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) and virtually in India. Together with the Shanghai Hub, these Hubs supported offshore international students studying online, engaged future students and alumni, and supported education providers. More than 130 events supported students’ connectedness, academic success and employability.
* Launched Make Melbourne Part of Your Story brand campaign in eight key offshore markets to showcase the benefits of connecting to Study Melbourne Hubs, and drive awareness of Victoria’s world‑class education offering to potential students. Onshore the campaign introduced new and returning students to Study Melbourne and its supports, services and programs.
* Awarded 1283 scholarships to international students from 63 nationalities enrolled in pathway courses at 18 TAFEs and university partners through the Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program.
* Provided information, referrals and complex casework support to around 1550 international students through the Study Melbourne Student Centre. More than $65,000 in material aid (for example, emergency rent assistance and food vouchers) was provided in over 200 payments.
* Implemented 18 grant projects through the Study Melbourne Inclusion Program to student associations, education providers and community organisations, providing wellbeing and inclusion activities to 7560 international students.
* Supported more than 9000 international students through Empowered programs (Leadership Labs, Career Catalyst, Future Founders, Everyday Heroes), achieving a 90 per cent satisfaction rate. The programs delivered a range of strengths‑based employability, entrepreneurship and empowerment initiatives, including building social capital and leadership skills.
* Delivered 14 Student Experience Webinars, attended by more than 1150 industry stakeholders.
* Delivered 12 excursions under the Study Melbourne Country to Coast program, providing more than 500 international students with access to edutourism‑based adventures.
* Sponsored Melbourne International Student Week, celebrating and welcoming back Victoria’s diverse student community.
* Partnered with Victorian universities to facilitate the arrival of 400 priority international students through the Victorian International Student Arrivals Plan.

### International Education Resilience Fund

* Supported Victoria’s 10 universities to respond to impacts of the COVID‑19 pandemic through the $50 million International Education Resilience Fund. The fund supports universities to deliver benefits to students onshore and offshore, including increased student welfare and support services, improved online teaching and learning, and increased student engagement initiatives.

### Global Victoria Women

* Strengthened the Global Victoria Women (GVw) network empowering women in business to connect, grow and establish global networks to succeed in doing business in international markets by engaging more than 225 local and international delegates across eight activities delivered through the GVw platform and partnering with the Victorian Government Trade and Investment international offices, bilateral chambers of commerce, foreign governments, the Consular Corps and other key international stakeholders.
* The themes covered through these engagements included leadership, entrepreneurship, industry transformation, International Women’s Day, empowerment, strengthening economic relationships and achieving export growth. Some activity highlights included:
* Delivered the GVw Breaking Barriers forum, where more than 65 delegates heard from highly successful Victorian and global female leaders on the keys to success on the international stage.
* Hosted Global Victoria Trade Alliance events focused on women in international trade, including Femmes Leaders, in partnership with the French‑Australia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, that attracted more than 100 individuals from 52 Victorian companies.
* Hosted a virtual seminar on resource sector trends in Latin America and Australia, promoting women’s roles in industry transformation and benefits and opportunities of workforce diversity.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

* Developed the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS) to provide a consistent evidence‑based framework for understanding Victoria’s regional economies and the economic development opportunities unique to each region. This enables RDV to work with government, regional communities, and businesses to support innovation, tackle challenges and facilitate investment decisions to achieve stronger outcomes for regional Victoria.
* Delivered recovery programs including: the Regional Recovery Fund, which addressed the impacts of the COVID‑19 pandemic, long‑term drought and 2019-20 bushfires; the Regional Community Events Fund, which supported community events in 2022; the Alpine Resorts Winter Support Program, which provided funding to businesses in the Alpine Resorts, Dinner Plain and surrounding towns; and the Agriculture Workforce Plan, which supported agriculture and food supply chain industries.
* Rolled out Regional Workforce Pilots across four areas facing acute workforce pressures and housing availability, in Robinvale, Alpine, Great South Coast and Ararat. The pilots will deliver responses targeted to drivers of workforce shortages; they will use a place‑based coordination approach to identify opportunities to unlock housing development, remove barriers to workforce attraction, build capability amongst local stakeholders and develop systems to support local employers to accommodate workers. Intelligence from the pilots will inform place‑based interventions in other areas of need.
* Managed the Regional Partnerships program, the Regional Development Australia program, and the Regional Development Advisory Committee. These forums support genuine and meaningful engagement with regional communities, enabling RDV’s role in delivering coordinated government responses to community priorities.
* Delivered the $156 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund across three streams: the Regional Jobs Fund, the Regional Infrastructure Fund, and the Investment Fast‑Track Fund (IFF).

### Regional Development Victoria

#### Barwon South West regional business centre

* Enabled construction of more than $12 million of visitor infrastructure at five sites across the UNESCO world heritage listed Budj Bim cultural landscape: Lake Condah (Tae Rak), Tyrendarra Township, Tyrendarra IPA (Indigenous Protected Area), Kurtonitj and Budj Bim National Park.
* Continued delivery of the Queenscliffe Hub, redeveloping and consolidating the Visitor Information Centre, the Queenscliff Library and the Historical Museum into an integrated space creating a destination for locals and visitors. The Victorian Government contributed $2.5 million towards the $5.7 million project.
* Managed the $17.4 million Portland Economic Diversification Plan, which incorporates the $7.5 million Portland Diversification Fund. The fund aims to support activities to strengthen the Glenelg Shire’s economic diversification, growth and resilience. The plan also supported development of a dedicated team in Portland, including a new Regional Development Victoria office which opened in April 2022.
* Supported Hanwha Defense Australia to establish an Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence at the Avalon Airport Industrial Precinct to build self‑propelled howitzer vehicles to deliver the Commonwealth’s LAND 8116 program. The $170 million H-ACE facility will deliver over 300 highly skilled local jobs in design, engineering and advanced manufacturing.
* Facilitated a $10 million investment by Care Essentials in Geelong for the purchase and commission of a fully automated machine to manufacture patient‑warming blankets. The machine will produce six million forced‑air warming blankets annually, significantly increasing the company’s capacity and creating 100 new jobs for the Geelong region.
* Supported the Great South Coast Regional Workforce Pilot to plan enabling infrastructure for residential development in Simpson and Timboon, develop a Key Worker Housing Plan and identify relevant local transport solutions.

#### Gippsland regional business centre

* Continued to support council recovery through the East Gippsland Bushfire Economic Recovery Working Group, identifying key projects and delivering $73 million of Victorian Government grant funding following the 2019‑20 bushfires that destroyed key assets and infrastructure and impacted the region’s tourism, agriculture and forestry industries. More than 75 per cent of the priority projects are in the delivery phase.
* Continued to support construction of an on‑water café at Bullock Island near Lakes Entrance, East Gippsland, with a commitment of $1.5 million to the Lakes Entrance Fisherman Limited. The project will deliver a new cafeteria with a fresh fish sales outlet, an all‑abilities access ramp and fishing fleet viewing platform.
* Supported delivery of the $42 million Latrobe Creative Precinct, which included $12 million Victorian Government investment. The project delivered a state‑of‑the‑art, 750‑seat performing arts centre in Traralgon, refurbished the existing performing arts centre and created an outdoor civic space in the precinct.
* Supported industry diversification across the region, with a focus on creating jobs and attracting investment to support the transition of the energy, mining and native forestry sectors. This included securing full tenancy at the Morwell Innovation Centre, where lead tenant Alinta Energy relocated their contact centre and management from offshore, creating 239 new jobs for the region. Other tenants include Opal Australia and Committee for Gippsland.
* Supported establishment of a $3.6 million End of Life Solar Panel Recycling facility for Elecsome in Rosedale, creating 30 new jobs. This first-of-its-kind facility in Victoria will extract 98 percent of the end-of-life solar panels, delivering a regional competitive advantage for Gippsland. The project aligns with the Victorian Government’s 10-year circular economy policy with scale-up opportunities along with supply chain and waste management benefits.
* Established a $13.3 million distribution facility for BidFoods in Morwell, creating 40 new jobs. The project will provide the efficient and competitive supply of food products to customers in the region, including local hospitals, aged care, schools, clubs, and restaurants. Part of the project will be focused on energy efficiency with the installation of a commercial solar power system at the facility.
* Continued to deliver the Stage 1 main works package of the Regional Car Parks Fund, which will deliver 270 new free car parks in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon, with Stage 2 expected to commence early 2023. Construction works are expected to create 75 full‑time jobs for local contractors.
* Facilitated a $3 million investment with GBP Exports in Poowong to install new cold store facilities, new infrastructure and processing equipment. This will enable local processing control over production, improved traceability assurance and expansion into export markets. The project will create 40 new jobs and increased export of up to $5 million per annum.

#### Grampians regional business centre

* Supported Frew Food International to attract $30 million investment in Stawell. The project capitalises on export market opportunities and includes a significant expansion, doubling processing capacity, improving efficiencies by adding on‑site cold storage, and creating 250 new jobs.
* Supported the Grampians Workforce Pilot which provided $1.9 million funding to Ararat Rural City Council for workforce development opportunities. The pilot aims to address critical issues in the community including challenges in the housing market and attraction of suitable workforces.
* Supported Ballarat and District Aboriginal Cooperative with $2.7 million funding to develop a culturally‑safe, supported Elders Independent Living Community for 16 local Aboriginal Elders. The project will support construction of self‑contained units, a central hall for community meals, gardens and spaces for social connection activities. Elders will be fully engaged in design and cultural details for the village.
* Supported Hindmarsh Shire Council with $500,000 funding to develop the Rainbow Rises Events Centre. The project will deliver infrastructure to improve the venue for participants, crews, officials, volunteers and spectators, to establish the site as Victoria’s premier off‑road motor sports racing venue and attract additional events.
* Supported the Wimmera Southern Mallee (WSM) Regional Partnership to advocate successfully for increased digital connectivity in the region, with $1.3 million towards a new 4G Mobile Network across its more isolated and remote districts committed by the Victorian Government and additional funding through the Commonwealth Government’s Regional Connectivity Program Round 2.

#### Hume regional business centre

* Facilitated a $700,000 grant to Cannatrek Limited to establish a $18.8 million glasshouse in Shepparton, creating 76 new jobs. The project is expected to quadruple Cannatrek’s supply of medicinal cannabis to 20 tonnes each year, with plans to transition the project to renewable power.
* Facilitated completion of Wodonga’s distinctive new library‑gallery Hyphen. The Victorian Government contributed $4 million towards the $10.2 million project, which will strengthen Wodonga’s economic, cultural and social capacity.
* Supported development of a new glasshouse for family‑owned Tatura company Flavorite, one of Australia’s largest glasshouse producers of fresh fruit and vegetables. The Victorian Government contributed $900,000 towards the $17.1 million project which will create 60 new jobs to grow more produce year‑round in the company’s temperature and pest‑controlled glasshouse.
* Commenced the $3 million round two of the Ride High Country program, awarding 13 grant recipients up to $500,000, creating 50 new jobs and bringing total capital investment to more than $5 million to make the region the premier cycling tourism destination in Australia.
* Supported delivery of significant upgrades to the Euroa Community Complex including upgrading interiors, installing 160 new seats and refurbishing the cinema space, enabling the complex to accommodate patrons with a wide range of needs.
* Supported the Alpine Regional Workforce Pilot to develop a Key Worker Housing Plan by exploring medium‑to long‑term opportunities to increase affordable housing options and develop a Seasonal Workforce Management plan, partnering with Tourism North East, to address systemic challenges associated with workforce planning.

#### Loddon Mallee regional business centre

* Supported key priorities for the Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership including $6.6 million for Healthy Heart of Victoria, funding for Youth Live4Life and additional weekend Maryborough‑Ballarat train services.
* Supported Mallee Regional Partnership Light / State project in the Mallee with $3 million for a light installation to reflect the unique environment and culture of the border region and delivering the Small Towns Big Difference Fund pilot project.
* Implemented the Border Broker initiative to support communities and businesses along the Victorian, New South Wales and South Australian borders during the COVID‑19 pandemic.
* Delivered Regional Development Australia Loddon Mallee priorities including Mallee Regional Skills Demand pulse check and Mallee Region Food Industry Supply Chain Analysis, which resulted in the True Foods upgrade and Australian Eatwell expansion.
* Continued support to establish the Cann Group’s medicinal cannabis cultivation and processing facility in Mildura, and Apiam Animal Health’s autogenous vaccine laboratory in Bendigo, and to construct DWM Engineering’s structural steel fabrication workshop in Irymple.
* Supported the Robinvale Regional Workforce Pilot, a government and industry partnership exploring seasonal workforce housing opportunities.

#### Latrobe Valley Authority

* Supported 3092 enquiries from Gippsland businesses, connecting them to tools, information and advice to support their growth through a local Business Support Service concierge team at each of the six Gippsland local governments.
* Supported the Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley program, assisting young people into employment or to re‑engage with secondary or vocational education. Ladder has supported 178 young people to engage with education, employment and training options, with 69 employed post‑program.
* Funded the Gippsland Trade and Labour Council to deliver an Inclusive Employment and Workforce Transition project of support, training and projects for vulnerable community cohorts, supporting engagement in employment with an initial focus on energy, construction and advanced manufacturing sectors.
* Facilitated the creation of Events Gippsland, a collaborative model for events in the region, and transitioned leadership to Destination Gippsland. This group received Latrobe Valley Authority and Regional Development Victoria funding to attract and acquire a diverse range of new events across the region, maximising the regional economic impact through increased visitation, tourism and enhanced regional profile.
* Helped secure funding of $2 million through the Forestry Transition Program using the Gippsland Smart Specialisation approach to establish the Radial Timbers Renewable Energy Park in Yarram and build a local bioenergy cell.
* Funded Federation University to develop ten pathways videos to attract people to the health and Community service sector, including a pathways directory, course guide and journey map. The series showcases multiple access points to education within the Gippsland Region and was launched to support the 2022 mid‑year intake.

## Agriculture

* Supported more than 1000 workers to enter the horticulture industry through the Seasonal Harvest Sign‑On Bonus Program and facilitated the arrival of 1630 Pacific workers, bringing the program total to more than 880 workers.
* Supported more than 2000 workers through the Seasonal Workforce Accommodation Program and the Seasonal Workforce Industry Support Program to boost industry capability and deliver COVIDSafe accommodation, transport assistance, pastoral care, and services and resources to connect businesses to jobseekers.
* Launched a horticulture traineeships pilot program across critical horticulture regions including Sunraysia, Goulburn Valley and Gippsland, to help build a sustainable and resilient seasonal workforce.
* Deployed in‑market agriculture trade specialists in Beijing, Kuala Lumpar and Dubai under the Pathways to Export Program, to provide business support services, collect market intelligence and facilitate in‑market engagement in priority and high‑growth potential markets for food and fibre exporters.
* Opened Vic House, a food and fibre trade pavilion in Shanghai, to showcase premium Victorian produce, create export opportunities and promote business‑to‑business engagement in Victoria’s largest export market for food and fibre.
* Continued delivering the $15 million Food to Market Program, providing Stream 1 grants of $8.6 million to 16 industry and regional peak bodies and Stream 2 grants of $5.3 million to 15 agri‑food businesses to improve supply chain efficiency, support jobs, deliver productivity improvements and capitalise on new opportunities across the agri‑food supply chain.
* Collaborated with the sector and the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council to deliver initiatives under the Agriculture Sector Pledge. This included commencing the On‑Farm Action Plan Pilot to support 250 farm businesses to measure and implement actions to reduce emissions and developing the first Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Statement, a shared vision for agriculture’s role in a net‑zero climate resilient economy.
* Supported farmers to reduce energy costs and be more energy efficient and productive through the $30 million extension of the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan.
* Engaged with almost 2200 stakeholders, including direct calls to almost 180 businesses, facilitating job connections and ensuring COVIDSafe business practices.
* Delivered more than 1000 rebates of up to $5,000 through the Farm Safety Rebate Scheme to enable farmers to invest in infrastructure and equipment to improve farm safety for their families, workers and visitors.
* Supported delivery of infrastructure projects at two agricultural colleges to provide on‑campus student accommodation for more than 70 students through the $50 million Agricultural College Modernisation Program.
* Launched a $5.5 million Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund to support schools to deliver agriculture skills of the future.
* Supported the mental health of Victorian farmers through the $2.9 million Resilient Farming Communities Project which has funded 11 projects to build resilience in more than 25 local government areas.
* Building on an existing long‑term bilateral arrangement, Agriculture Victoria and the Grains Research and Development Corporation signed a Heads of Agreement confirming commitment to a new mission‑driven five‑year strategic partnership. The current bilateral arrangement is expected to deliver net benefits of $495.7 million.
* Developed a genomic breeding approach for the commercial breeding of ryegrass, that resulted in five times the existing rate of genetic gain. This is an outcome of a $55 million research partnership between industry and government over five years, to address issues facing dairy farmers.
* Funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs Trade, Agriculture Victoria in partnership with the Timorese Government created an early warning system to help Timor‑Leste detect major biosecurity threats and to safeguard Australia from exotic animal diseases.
* Developed world‑leading statistical tools, in partnership with industry, to inform crop‑breeding strategies that accelerate the development of varieties resilient to a changing climate.
* Reduced enteric methane from livestock by testing feed additives on dairy cows at the Ellinbank SmartFarm, with preliminary data indicating more than 40 per cent reduction in emissions.
* Provided genetic analysis services, enabling Australian grains breeding companies to more quickly release higher‑yielding, locally‑adapted cereal (wheat and barley) and pulse (lentil, chickpea, field pea and lupin) varieties.
* Enhanced productivity benefits for farmers via the Good Bulls Guide and research by DairyBio through improved genomic breeding values for selection, such as improved feed efficiency, health, reproductive traits and heat tolerance.
* Achieved greater water use efficiency through precise matching of irrigation events with plant‑water demands through innovative approaches to irrigation scheduling at farm level taking farmers a step closer to autonomous irrigation management.
* Supported the Rural Financial Counselling Services Program to provide free and impartial counselling to farmers and related small businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors worked with more than 1500 businesses to assist with developing and implementing plans to improve finances and build resilience.
* Supported the next generation of farmers via the Young Farmers Network, including 13 scholarships focused on upskilling, and a mentoring program for 10 young farmers, plus workshops and training to build skills and confidence.
* Administered more than 120 rebates of up to $25,000 for farm businesses to invest in on‑farm water infrastructure to address the needs of grazing livestock or maintain existing permanent horticultural plantings (co‑funded with the Commonwealth Government as part of the On‑Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme).
* Assessed farmers’ recovery from the 2019‑20 bushfires in East Gippsland and North‑East Victoria, through stakeholder engagement by the Rural Assistance Commissioner, to inform Agriculture Victoria’s current and future recovery programs.
* Established the Agriculture Planning and Advisory Service to provide expert advice and strengthen links between agricultural businesses and local government planners for better agricultural planning outcomes.
* Launched the Planning for Agricultural Growth initiative to make planning approvals easier, faster and smarter when establishing and expanding businesses, easier, faster and smarter.
* Established the Victorian AgTech Entrepreneurs Initiative, with funding of $2.2 million, to help grow Victoria’s AgTech startup sector in partnership with LaunchVic. The initiative supports delivery of pre‑accelerator programs for AgTech early‑stage startups, to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with the skills to turn an idea into a business.
* Supported COVIDSafe practices in farms and food businesses – through an industry reference group of over 45 peak agricultural bodies and associations.
* Convened sector‑specific stakeholder engagement groups (e.g. horticulture, meat processing), providing targeted information and support to help businesses minimise supply chain impacts of COVID‑19.
* Partnered with Dairy Australia for the $1.5 million pilot Farm Business Resilience Program for Victorian grain, red meat, mixed and dairy farm businesses (jointly funded by the Australian Government and Victorian Government through the Future Drought Fund). Following the success of the pilot, the program was extended to 2024 and expanded to include horticulture workshops.
* Led response and recovery for biosecurity and natural disaster emergencies and incidents, including the Japanese encephalitis virus, anthrax, abalone viral ganglioneuritis and khapra beetle.
* Led the response and recovery for a bushfire in Langkoop‑Edenhope, and flood and storm events in the Central Highlands and East Gippsland. Conducted more than 1800 interactions with farmers to support recovery from fires, floods and storms, consisting of field days, workshops, webinars, farm visits, community drop‑in centres and phone calls.
* Finalised the five‑year implementation of mandatory electronic National Livestock Identification System for sheep and goats. This system supports Victoria’s global reputation for high‑quality food, enabling a speedy response to major food safety or disease incidents.
* Provided grants of $2.9 million to employ regional coordinators and support management programs in Sunraysia, Yarra Valley and Goulburn.
* Strengthened agricultural traceability systems, in partnership with industry, to enhance Victoria’s reputation for high‑quality food and fibre products (e.g. exported 600,000 units of table grapes with farm‑to‑consumer QR code traceability to 11 Asia Pacific countries).
* Recognised with a National Biosecurity Award for maintaining biosecurity integrity in responding to the 2020 avian influenza outbreak. In addition, received two awards in the community category, for the work of the Urban Plant Health Network and Goulburn Murray Valley Fruit Fly Areawide Management Program.
* Protected the integrity of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) – crucial to identifying and tracking livestock for disease control, food safety and market access purposes – by prosecuting several producers and a livestock agent involved in removing and replacing NLIS ear tags and falsifying records.
* Established the inaugural Biosecurity Reference Group to ensure industry and community views shape the future of biosecurity.
* Negotiated a national cost‑share arrangement for the locally‑developed MAX biosecurity technology platform.
* Progressed developing the new Animal Care and Protection Bill including research activities, policy development and targeted stakeholder engagement.
* Progressed the *Agricultural Legislative Amendment Bill 2022*, which proposes amendments to 11 pieces of legislation to improve their administration, operation and enforcement. The Bill passed its third readings in Parliament’s Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council in May 2022.
* Progressed the *Livestock Management Amendment (Animal Activism) Bill 2021* to give effect to recommendations four and five of the 2020 Parliamentary ‘Inquiry into the impact of animal rights activism on Victorian agriculture’ report. The Bill passed Parliament in March 2022. The amendments provide additional protections against biosecurity risks caused by unlawful entry onto agricultural premises and provide additional means of prosecuting trespassers.
* Finalised reforms to allow animal shelters and participating vets to reunite lost pets and owners more efficiently.
* Improved traceability of dog and cat breeding and sales by delivering the Pet Exchange Register, issuing or renewing more than 42,000 source numbers to individuals, organisations and selling or giving away these animals.
* Delivered round 10 of the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program, fulfilling the $3 million commitment and awarding more than $1.5 million to projects to upgrade shelters’ and foster carers’ equipment or services, maintain or expand not‑for‑profit / community vet services and to set up low‑cost clinics in areas of need.
* Simplified regulatory requirements for businesses operating across state borders by aligning aspects of pesticide use laws with a national agreement.
* Delivered the 2021 Livestock Biosecurity Funds Grant Program, awarding $3.5 million across 18 projects that prevent, monitor and control diseases to enhance animal health, biosecurity and market access, benefiting cattle, sheep, goat, swine and honeybee industries.

# Jobs Victoria, Secure Work and Inclusion

### Jobs Victoria – Strategy and Engagement, and Delivery

* Developed and updated policy and programs in response to changing labour market conditions, including updates to program guidelines and eligibility and redesign of existing programs including the Local Transition Response Service.
* Collaborated closely with other Victorian Government departments to integrate service delivery and reduce social service demand. For example, Jobs Victoria partnered with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to provide tailored support to culturally and linguistically diverse cohorts through the Community Employment Connectors program.
* Redesigned the Youth Employment Scheme program to support young people into traineeships in the public sector.
* Supported critical supply chain work including delivering food and other necessities to communities across the state.
* Delivered more than 3300 jobs through Jobs Victoria Fund workforce development projects in sectors including disability and aged care, warehousing and distribution, land and fire management, construction, heavy vehicles, transport and logistics, hair and beauty, hospitality, local government, and social housing. The $34.2 million Omicron Worker Support Package provided further support for impacted industries including hospitality, warehousing and logistics, and food processing, and placed more than 1500 people into jobs.
* Developed and delivered a suite of Cabinet, ministerial and central agency reports to transparently report on Jobs Victoria operations and provide insights on demand and performance trends.
* Implemented the Mentors, Advocates and Career Counsellors service system with 600 people supporting Victorians into employment.
* Responded to unanticipated worker shortages through rapid stand‑up of Critical Workforce Demand response and an agile, solutions‑focussed approach to Priority Workforce Projects recruitment support.
* Supported employers whose business or service model were at risk due to worker shortages and prioritised key industries and sectors including critical supply chain, hospitality and disability and aged care.
* Supported and built capability with key employers and sectors to respond to the changing workforce environment, supporting rapid, inclusive and engaging recruitment practice.

### Jobs Victoria – Operations, Insights and Digital Channels

#### Secure Work Pilot

* Transformed casual and contract work in Victoria by launching the $245.7 million Sick Pay Guarantee scheme, providing eligibility for more than 150,000 workers to receive up to 38 hours sick and carer’s pay at the national minimum wage.
* Planned, developed and released a digital platform to administer Jobs Victoria’s wage subsidy program, attracting applications from 4226 Victorian employers, and administering 1859 grants to Victorian businesses who employed jobseekers from priority cohorts, as at late May 2022.

### Inclusion

* Launched the Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy 2021-2025 to support and grow the social enterprise sector, strengthen connectivity and unlock potential to create more jobs and deliver enhanced economic and social value to the community.
* Delivered Social Enterprise Support Grants to help social enterprises expand their business activity and increase impact, including for job seekers facing barriers to economic inclusion. 32 social enterprises shared in $956,799 grants to purchase key plant machinery or equipment.
* Allocated more than $1.5 million in grants to organisations to deliver microenterprise development programs with priority groups including Aboriginal people, young people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and people with a disability. Six organisations each received up to $300,000 in grants.
* Published buyer and supplier guidance and contract clauses for construction projects, to support the implementation of the Building Equality Policy.
* Delivered Funding and Evaluation Toolkits, a Place‑Based Guide, practice advice on Joined‑Up Work and a What Works research report for place‑based initiatives.
* Worked in partnership with Community Revitalisation sites in Dandenong, Hume, Moonee Valley, Shepparton and Wyndham to strengthen the sustainability of local economic inclusion activity, including driving inclusive employment for people facing barriers to work.
* Created Targeted Employment Plans in Geelong, City of Yarra, Flemington / North Melbourne and Shepparton to leverage government investment to support communities facing the highest barriers to employment.
* Recognised for collaboration with the social enterprise sector at the international Catalyst 2030 Awards. This award recognised Victoria’s leadership in social procurement and social enterprise.

## Sport, Recreation and Racing

* Allocated more than $99 million to 200 community sport and recreation infrastructure projects. This included 81 projects that received a share of $21.5 million in funding through the 2021‑22 Local Sports Infrastructure Fund, supporting $48.8 million of infrastructure and generating at least 106 direct jobs and 223 indirect supply chain jobs.
* Allocated more than $1.5 million to 37 organisations through 15 grants in the Access for All Abilities Program to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in sport and active recreation.
* Funded 34 organisations for 12 projects through the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program, to support the sports sector to create change in communities to prevent violence against women.
* Funded 115 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants through the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation to support initiatives that celebrate the role of women and girls in community sport and active recreation. The office also funded 140 professional development opportunities across governance, leadership, finance and sports broadcasting, and four ground breaking research projects.
* Allocated $10 million to more than 6500 Victorian clubs, associations and leagues through Community Sport Sector COVID‑19 Short‑term Survival Package.
* Delivered 42,666 vouchers in the Get Active Kids Voucher Program, helping eligible Victorian families with the costs of participating in organised sport and recreation.
* Supported 29 organisations to employ 86 people in new jobs to deliver COVID‑19 support, volunteers and participation projects through the Working for Victoria Fund – Community Sport and Recreation Sector Revitalisation program.
* Supported 49 promotions and more than 400 professional boxing and combat sports contests to ensure the safety and integrity of these events.
* Provided more than $8 million for 69 grants through the Together More Active program to support Victoria’s sport and recreation organisations to improve participation and develop their organisational capacity and capability over the next two years.
* Invested $150,000 in outdoor sector capacity building and COVID‑19 recovery initiatives leveraged through the sport and recreation camps lease.
* Supported the 140th Stawell Gift carnival, attracting 12,000 attendees and 1 million viewers through live broadcast.
* Hosted the inaugural SportNXT conference, bringing together 79 world class speakers and more than 700 delegates to discuss the future of sport and to showcase Victorian expertise on a global stage.
* Funded 78 events through the Significant Sporting Events Program including the Baseball Australia Women’s Baseball Showcase, National Tenpin Bowling Disability Championships, Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles and the Australian Open National Diving Championships.
* Completed the $972 million Melbourne Park Redevelopment, securing the Australian Open Tennis Championships until 2044.
* Completed the $18.8 million Australian Golf Centre at Sandringham Golf Course, the $15.4 million upgrade to John Cain Arena, and opened the $7.3 million Danny Frawley Centre for Health and Wellbeing at Moorabbin Reserve.
* Commenced construction of the $116 million La Trobe University Sports Park Stage 3 incorporating the Home of the Matildas. The project will be delivered ahead of the Federation Internationale de Football Association Women’s World Cup 2023.
* Commenced construction of the $225 million Marvel Stadium upgrade, $132 million State Basketball Centre redevelopment and $141.2 million Kardinia Park Stadium Stage 5 redevelopment.
* Completed the Australian Football League Women’s facility upgrades at The Hangar, Tullamarine and Mars Stadium, Ballarat to support professional women’s sport outcomes.
* Progressed works on North Melbourne Football Club Redevelopment Stage 2, Ikon Park, Richmond Football Club’s Runt Road Oval, Whitten Oval and Rugby League State and Community Centre.
* Supported the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS) to increase scholarship athletes, employ additional staff and introduce archery, wheelchair basketball and triathlon.
* Facilitated VIS scholarship holders to compete at the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games (52 athletes), Tokyo Summer Paralympic Games (31), Beijing Winter Olympic Games (five) and Beijing Winter Paralympic Games (one).
* Implemented reforms to the Racing Act 1958 that allowed racing to be held on Good Friday for the first time. Good Friday race meetings will be rotated annually throughout country Victoria to support and promote regional tourism.
* Delivered more than $19 million in grants through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund to support 163 projects that will deliver total value in excess of $43 million. The grants included $3.65 million to extend research into Equine Limb Injury Prevention, and purchase of a new Positron Emission Technology scanner for Werribee and a new Computerised Tomography scanner that will be located near the Cranbourne training centre.
* Allocated $1.6 million to the harness racing industry to upgrade LED lights and infield at Tabcorp Park Melton to provide a premium racing and entertainment venue.
* Contributed $1.5 million to upgrade Warrnambool racecourse’s grass training track, enabling more horses on site and larger field sizes in trials.
* Provided $857,000 for stainless steel kennel upgrades at greyhound racing clubs in Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Sale and Shepparton to improve the quality and safety of racing and training infrastructure and the greyhounds’ welfare.
* Supported 105 events to the value of $1.6 million to help clubs attract spectators back to Victorian racetracks.

## Tourism, Events and Priority Infrastructure

* Delivered key initiatives of the Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan, a statewide plan to grow the visitor economy and create jobs by developing new and innovative tourism products, destinations and experiences:
* commenced delivery of programs and initiatives to address skills gaps and workforce development issues
* provided funding to Regional Tourism Boards to deliver industry development programs, regional workforce plans, regional Destination Management Plans and Local Area Action Plans
* released a directions paper to test the vision and strategic directions for Victoria’s Statewide Visitor Economy Master Plan with industry
* commenced reform of Regional Tourism Boards, including supporting the inclusion of non‑networked councils into the regional tourism network
* commenced work on a nature‑based tourism pillar plan to help grow the sector and establish it as a priority for Victoria
* conducted crisis media training targeted to industry spokespeople in the Grampians, Daylesford and Macedon Ranges, Geelong and the Bellarine, and Yarra Valley regions, in partnership with the relevant Regional Tourism Boards
* supported the Victoria Tourism Industry Council to deliver industry development and support programs for Greater Melbourne
* delivered Greater Melbourne Tourism Recovery Forums to engage industry to reactivate tourism and support recovery across Greater Melbourne
* delivered stimulus to regions by investing in 49 tourism infrastructure projects
* launched the $100 million competitive round of the Regional Tourism Investment Fund utilising private and public investment to facilitate new and innovative tourism infrastructure projects, supporting the key pillars: Nature, Epicurean, Arts and Culture, and First Peoples’‑led Experiences
* launched the $10 million Enabling Tourism Fund to fund new and innovative projects to investment‑ready status.
* Allocated 150,000 vouchers across the Victorian Travel Voucher Scheme and the Seniors Travel Voucher Scheme.
* Implemented changes to the *Major Events Legislation Amendment (Unauthorised Ticket Packages and Other Matters) Act 2022* to increase ticket resale transparency and prohibit selling ticket packages for declared major events without the authorisation of the event organiser.
* Declared 19 major events under the *Major Events Act 2009* (The Act), including the Australian Open, AFL Finals Series, Boxing Day Test, Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix, Hamilton, Moulin Rouge – The Musical and the Foo Fighters concert.
* Enforced ticket scalping provisions for declared major events by removing 2970 ticket listings from secondary ticketing platforms and issuing 11 penalty infringement notices for breaches of the Act.
* Supported event organisers and venues to enforce the Act’s crowd management provisions by applying major sporting event orders.
* Secured nine business events, in collaboration with Melbourne Convention Bureau, including the Global Entrepreneurship Congress 2023, International Congress of Psychology 2028 and the Symposium of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures 2023.
* Delivered the National Business Event Program with the Melbourne Convention Bureau and Business Events Victoria to support the attraction of national business events to Melbourne and regional Victoria.
* Secured major events, in collaboration with Visit Victoria, including the Bledisloe Cup international rugby matches in 2022 and 2023, the Presidents Cup Golf tournament in 2028 and, in 2022, the Picasso Century exhibition at the NGV and Manchester United Tour. In total, 15 major events were held across Victoria in 2021‑22.
* Supported the safe return of the Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix with more than 400,000 attendees across four days – a record in the race’s history in Melbourne.
* Supported the COVIDSafe delivery of other major events, including the Boxing Day Test, the Australian Open and the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach.
* Worked across government to support the resumption of COVIDSafe events under Phases C and D of Victoria’s Roadmap: Delivering the National Plan, progressing event approvals for large venues and major events under the Public Events Framework.
* Introduced the *Puffing Billy Railway Bill 2022*, to replace the *Emerald Tourist Railway Act 1977*, providing a new legislative framework to support future growth and sustainability for this significant tourism attraction.
* Completed the $24.8 million Puffing Billy Railway Lakeside Visitor Centre at Emerald.
* Provided support and advice to assist industry to manage ongoing implications of the COVID‑19 pandemic, including bespoke advice on outbreak management, and research and statistics related to Victorian tourism.
* Delivered the Sustainable Events Business Program and Impacted Public Events Support Program (components of the $20 million Victorian Events Support Package), which supported event organisers, hosts and suppliers to manage the impacts of the pandemic.
* Collaborated across the department to support delivery of other COVID‑19 support measures, including the Business Costs Assistance Program, Licenced Hospitality Venue Fund and Australia’s first COVID‑19 Event Insurance Product.

## Creative Victoria

* Provided $288 million in new funding to the sector in addition to the significant COVID-19 business support measures that helped creative businesses and organisations through the impacts of the pandemic.
* Launched an updated four‑year creative industries strategy, Creative State 2025, identifying 25 actions for the recovery, reactivation and growth of creative industries in the wake of the COVID‑19 pandemic, all of which are underway.
* Delivered, under the leadership of the First Peoples Directions Circle, the inaugural First Peoples Creative Industries Forum (via webinars) and a statewide roadshow to bring together, connect with and hear from First Peoples working across creative industries.
* Delivered the third iteration of the Yalingwa visual arts initiative, strengthening the development of outstanding contemporary First Peoples art and curatorial practice in Victoria.
* Supported state‑owned agencies in the Creative Industries portfolio to maintain solvency, staffing and programming levels as the COVID‑19 pandemic continued to challenge their financial sustainability.
* Announced multi‑year funding for 113 creative organisations of all sizes and types through the new Creative Enterprises and Creative Ventures programs. These organisations are the engine room of Victoria’s creative sector, driving ideas, creating employment and opportunities, and delivering art and creative experiences.
* Completed the NGV Contemporary gallery design competition and announced the winning design by Angelo Candalepas Architects. NGV Contemporary will be a new landmark for the city, part of the $1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation.
* Increased investment in Deaf and Disabled artists, awarding 72 grants in partnership with Regional Arts Victoria through the Sustaining Creative Workers initiative and 18 grants through Creative Victoria’s dedicated Deaf and Disabled funding streams across the Creative Ventures Program, Music Works and Creators Fund.
* Provided more than $23 million in support to more than 10,000 individuals across 11 programs co‑designed by creatives for creatives.
* Backed the success and growth of Victoria’s screen industry through the $191.5 million VICSCREEN strategy, and the opening of the new $46 million super sound stage at Docklands Studios Melbourne. These investments helped support significant Victorian-driven projects, such as Force of Nature (sequel to The Dry), and attract major screen productions to Victoria such as NBCUniversal’s epic television series Metropolis, that will create around 4000 local jobs.
* Invested in the revitalisation of Melbourne Museum, resulting in thousands of visitors to the new Triceratops exhibit.
* Continued to invest in the return of the live music industry with the On the Road Again initiative supporting Victorian artists to get back to work and in front of audiences across inner and outer‑metro Melbourne and regional Victoria. This included more than 700 acts, including several internationally renowned artists, busking in iconic CBD sites, bringing the buzz back to the city.
* Continued to invest in regional centres, incorporating additional creative outcomes in the new, world‑class Shepparton Art Museum and the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon, now open to the public.
* Provided accredited training for live performance workers and technicians in regional Victoria through the Tech Connect program. Delivered by Arts Centre Melbourne, the program helps trainees build careers in the live performance industry and ensures regional venues have access to skilled staff.
* Positioned Victoria as a design leader and promoted the value of design via the Victorian Premier’s Design Awards and Melbourne Design Week.
* Delivered a record‑breaking Melbourne International Games Week in a virtual format: more than 50 events that reached 4.3 million online participants from more than 50 countries. Creative Victoria also curated its first ever Steam page, a global online platform, allowing 36 local studios to showcase their games to more than one million unique visitors.
* Promoted Victoria’s creative strengths and businesses internationally through virtual trade missions to 10 events in eight countries, allowing more than 80 creative companies to present products to more than 25,000 consumers across platforms including Suzhou Design Week, London Tech Week and Gamescom.

## Cross‑Portfolio Services

* Processed more than 2.3 million grant payments, providing critical support to individuals and businesses impacted by the COVID‑19 pandemic. The volume of grants delivered in 2021-22 represents 450 times the average annual pre‑COVID‑19 volume. This included Victoria’s largest‑ever grants program by value (the Business Costs Assistance Package) and Victoria’s largest‑ever grants program by application volume (the Test Isolation Payment Program).
* Delivered the Business Stimulus Package – including dining and entertainment rebates, travel vouchers, small business support initiatives and targeted job placements – to help fast‑track Victoria’s economic recovery.
* Advised on close to 300 Pandemic Order changes as part of the department’s role in supporting Victoria’s economic recovery and minimising the COVID‑19 impact on industry. This included maintaining 21 industry‑specific pages on the **coronavirus.vic.gov.au** website and responding to more than 750 escalated queries from stakeholders.
* Coordinated the development of COVID‑19 business supports, supported Victoria’s bid for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, analysed workforce shortages, and developed a new governance model for the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council.
* Supported more than a dozen teams across the department with data modelling and products, including a substantial revamp of the DJPR Jobs Dashboard and economic analysis for the Commonwealth Games.
* Produced quarterly economic and trade updates to support the department to develop evidence‑based policy and targeted interventions to support Victoria’s economic recovery.
* Hosted an economic spotlight series and led DJPR’s liaison with the Commonwealth Government on market access, free trade agreements and international freight policy issues.
* Delivered 24 significant evaluation projects, coordinated all lapsing program evaluations and provided an expert advisory service on evaluation and monitoring practice.
* Delivered eight bills which passed Parliament and five new principal regulations which will promote greater efficiency in the administration of legislation administered by DJPR.
* Drove diversity and inclusion by implementing a range of initiatives including the embedding of key principles of Aboriginal self-determination into future policies and programs across DJPR; and by preparing DJPR’s Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025 and workplace gender audit.
* Delivered $15.3 million in cost savings and avoidance through the centralised management of procurement for the department. This included establishment of supplier panels in information technology and probity that are fit for purpose and ensure value-for-money to support the department to deliver outcomes for the Victorian community.