



The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP
Treasurer
House of Representatives
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer,

RE: BUDGET SUBMISSION
March 2022 Budget Priorities – Electorate of Indi

Please see the attached priorities for my electorate of Indi ahead of the budget in March 2022.

The projects in this submission were identified in consultation with the nine local government areas across Indi including Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, and Wodonga, as well as the broader Hume Regional Local Government Network, the Alpine Resort Management Boards of Mount Hotham, Falls Creek, Mount Stirling, Lake Mountain and Mount Buller and other local stakeholders, including Albury Wodonga Health and Tourism North East.

Other funding opportunities across the electorate are also profiled spanning employment, tourism, health, climate change, small business, and telecommunications, among other areas.

I ask that you consider these projects in the upcoming budget, and I look forward to meeting with you and your cabinet colleagues to discuss them alongside the Expenditure Review Committee process.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Helen Haines'.

Dr Helen Haines MP

27 January 2022

cc: Hon. Scott Morrison MP, Prime Minister
Hon. Michael Sukkar MP, Assistant Treasurer

Dr Helen Haines MP

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MARCH 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES – ELECTORATE OF INDI

Local Priority Projects

The electorate has identified the following priority local projects seeking over \$350 million in direct or joint funding. The Government should expand the eligibility, size, and transparency of existing regional infrastructure funds for these projects or fund them direct.

Alpine Shire

Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing

The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing is a proposed multi-day 57-kilometre walk through the spectacular Alpine region from Falls Creek to Mt Hotham. It will be one of Australia's outstanding alpine walking experiences that captures the essence of the Australian Alps – the solitude, the seasons, the breathtaking beauty, and the stories of the High Country.

The Master Plan for the project outlines the proposed route, combining and upgrading an existing track network and adding up to 3 kilometres of new track. The facilities created as part of the five-day, four-night route may also provide options for shorter overnight walks. The Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing is identified as one of Victoria's key long-distance walks, which also includes the Great Ocean Walk, the Grampians Peaks Trail and the Coastal Wilderness Walk. More information can be read [here](#).

Total Project Cost:	\$32,000,000
State Contribution:	\$17,000,000 for planning, business case and Stage 1.
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$15,000,000
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation

Myrtleford Splash Park

The project will deliver a new and unique Platypus themed water play space to Myrtleford's Happy Valley Creek Precinct. Situated on Myrtleford's Mosaic Art Trail and adjacent to Myrtleford's town centre, the splash park will feature an all-accessible water splashpad, toilet and change room facilities, shelters, public seating, carparking, and a bespoke mosaic installation creating a new nature and arts based tourism experience in Myrtleford. The project will be catalytic for the Happy Valley Creek Precinct and drive economic recovery through increased tourism, geographical visitor dispersion, employment opportunities and the facilitation of private epicurean investment opportunities.

Total Project Cost:	\$2,250,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$2,250,000
Other Information:	Council has submitted a Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Application for \$2,250,000
Portfolio:	Tourism, Community Infrastructure and Bushfire Recovery



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Harrietville Dredge Hole Precinct

The project will deliver new infrastructure at Harrietville’s popular Dredge Hole Precinct creating a vibrant and enhanced open space. Development of this popular landmark includes a meeting plaza, picnic shelter, amenities, landscaping, and directional trail signage. The project designs draw inspiration from Harrietville’s gold mining and Chinese settlement heritage. This community supported project will create a revitalised and connected town, improve liveability and help strengthen Harrietville’s reputation as a nature-based tourism hub. The project will aid social and economic recovery and resilience after the BlackSummer Bushfires.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,100,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,100,000
Other Information:	Council has submitted a Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Application for \$1,100,000
Portfolio:	Tourism, Community Infrastructure and Bushfire Recovery

Alpine Better Places Harrietville

The project will deliver new and upgraded infrastructure at three of Harrietville’s popular precincts - Dredge Hole Precinct, Pioneer and Tavare Parks and Community Hall - creating a vibrant and enhanced open spaces that uplift the heart of the township and community. Development of these popular landmarks includes a meeting plaza, picnic shelters, amenities, landscaping, and directional trail signage. The project designs draw inspiration from Harrietville’s gold mining and Chinese settlement heritage. This community supported project will create a revitalised and connected town, improve liveability, and help strengthen Harrietville’s reputation as a nature-based tourism hub. The project will aid social and economic recovery and resilience after the BlackSummer Bushfires.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,600,000
Other Information:	If funded, this project would supersede the Harrietville Dredge Hole Precinct project above.
Portfolio:	Tourism, Community Infrastructure and Bushfire Recovery

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure for Alpine

The project would fund five Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations to be installed across Alpine Shire. Electrical vehicle infrastructure (charging stations) will be critical for our communities and visitors as the demand for electric vehicles continues to rise. This project strategically fills gaps by providing chargers at remote townships (e.g., Bright, Mount Beauty, Harrietville) and expanding EV tourism and regional connectivity by providing users low risk of running out of power with spacings of 50-100km between recharge sites. Increasing economic development with an estimated linger time of around 20-60 min, providing local cafes and businesses with greater visitation and tourism expenditure.



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Total Project Cost:	\$600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$600,000
Portfolio:	Transport and Environment

Benalla Rural City

Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre

In 2017/18 the Council resolved to allocate \$10,000 towards a review of the 2002 Masterplan for the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre. A committee worked on the revised Masterplan and in October 2019 the Council received and adopted that Plan. Given the growth in the Benalla, there is a strong belief that there is a big opportunity to create a sporting hub for the future. This could be built into a community multi-purpose sport precinct for the future that could be utilised 7 days a week to build onto the 500-600 participants that currently utilise the facility.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$8,000,000
Portfolio:	Sports and Recreation

Rail Precinct Upgrade

Aside from the benefits to the regional economy on the planned Inland Rail project that is to be delivered in the next 3-5 years, we see tremendous opportunity for increased activity in the visitor economy and general commuter use utilising passenger rail services.

The rail precinct that includes Mackellar Street, Carrier Street and Railway Place are key thoroughfares that connect the rail precinct to the Benalla CBD and surrounding areas. An upgrade of these streets and the land abutting the rail precinct will lift the visitor and commuter experience.

Total Project Cost:	\$2,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$2,000,000
Portfolio:	Local Infrastructure

Benalla CBD Upgrade

In March 2021, Benalla Rural City Council commissioned a landscape architect to develop streetscape designs for the town centre and surrounding areas. The streetscape plan covers a number of components including pedestrian connectivity, entrance gateway feature, signage and way-finding, safer crossings, shaded structures, street planting, bicycle route and public spaces.

Total Project Cost:	\$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$8,000,000
Portfolio:	Local Infrastructure



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Benalla Art Gallery Phase 2

This project was drawn from the Benalla Art Gallery, Feasibility and Business Case completed by Urban Enterprises in August 2020. Phase one of the project which is funded and is due for completion in early 2023 will see the construction of a secure off-site facility for the optimal storage of art and cultural artefacts. It will also see enhancements to the café and facilities for back of house operations. Phase 2 will see an expansion of gallery space to activate opportunities to improve the interface and activities between the gallery, Lake Benalla, the CBD and the heritage Botanical Gardens to create a unique point of difference for Benalla.

Total Project Cost:	\$7,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$7,000,000
Portfolio:	Arts and Tourism

Benalla Urban Growth Strategy – West Drainage

An outcome of the development of the Benalla Urban Growth Strategy conducted by the Victorian Planning Authority has indicated that the growth of Benalla will be constrained if critical drainage work is not completed in the area to the west and northwest of Benalla. The Hume Regional Growth Plan provides strategic justification for the project and highlights the enduring benefits for the north-east region from the project. Over the past four years new industry has come to town and this combined with expansion of current businesses has led to an increased demand for residential development.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000
Portfolio:	Local Infrastructure

Indigo Shire

Beechworth Swimming Pool

Construction of new swimming pool to address structural safety concerns of existing infrastructure. (Designs and costings known). Construction of 8 lane 25m outdoor pool, Toddlers/Learners pool, Change rooms, staff room, administration/kiosk, store, first aid room, pool plant and sunshade. This facility will meet community demand for a new facility to improve health, wellbeing, and social connection needs across the town.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Community Infrastructure



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Implementation of Pools Development Plan

The Pools Development Plan relates to the five Indigo pools which all require upgrades and improvements to basic amenities and infrastructure. The project would build on the importance of local swimming pools to local communities.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,000,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Community Infrastructure

Implementation of Playground Development Plan

Council is only able to undertake basic maintenance on its community playgrounds. This project would provide an opportunity to rejuvenate the playgrounds of highest use to maximise their amenity and opportunities for community connections.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,000,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Community Infrastructure

Beechworth Water Play Park

The project would install at Water Play Park in Beechworth to supplement the aquatic experience for children and families. The project is being supported by the Beechworth branch of Bendigo Bank which would provide a \$200,000 contribution.

Total Project Cost:	\$750,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$500,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Community Infrastructure

Kiewa Community Park Development

The project will support the development of the newly acquired Kiewa Community Park which has a Master Plan incorporating a range of community facilities and spaces including access to the Kiewa River, community market space, Men's Shed, playgrounds and other amenities.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,000,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Community Infrastructure



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Mansfield Shire

Lords Reserve Community Hub

The Lords Reserve Community Hub project intends to provide critical infrastructure, create jobs, and increase the liveability of Mansfield. This project will deliver an inclusive multi-use community hub incorporating function room, commercial kitchen, and canteen facilities in the Mansfield Township.

In addition to creating jobs and stimulating the economy during construction, the Community Hub intends to have the following long-term lasting social and community benefits:

- Attracting new residents to the district and supporting changing demographics
- Catering to all demographics including youth, migrants, families, and ageing residents
- Allowing for improved access and amenities for all abilities and across generational participation
- Reducing youth loneliness and isolation through the increase in participation and capacity
- Supporting a vibrant and safe community, where people have strong connection to ‘place’ and work together to achieve well-being across all ages, abilities, and circumstances
- Combining cultural change into the facility development to provide a strong foundation for increased female participation in sport.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,200,000
Commonwealth Contribution	\$2,700,000
Council Contribution:	\$500,000
Status:	Shovel Ready
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure

Resilience and Recovery Hub

Construct a Resilience and Recovery Hub within an emergency precinct co-locating SES, CFA and Ambulance Victoria services (potentially VicPol later) and include Mansfield Community Radio, a licensed emergency broadcaster, including shared training and support facilities. Fit for purpose infrastructure will reduce the vulnerability of the Mansfield community, and increase its capacity to respond to and recover from emergencies and support the growing resident and visitor populations.

Mansfield Shire’s natural assets, including the Alpine National Park, Lake Eildon, and vast tracts of land referred to as the ‘High Country’, provide challenges for visitors and the local community because of the topography, in some parts isolation, and the frequency of natural disasters events such as bushfires, storms or floods. Co-location of central infrastructure will promote efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response and recovery in Mansfield. Further, modern central facilities will attract volunteers and greater community effort.



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Response data from Ambulance Victoria shows the Mansfield Station is one of the lowest performing stations in the state with travel distances, local geography, and patient transfers to Wangaratta and Melbourne all having an impact. Co-location and integration of emergency services is consistent with State Government emergency services policies and plans and is repeated in the strategic plans for all Victorian emergency services agencies.

Total Project Cost:	\$7,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,000,000
Status:	Scoping Study Complete
Portfolio:	Emergency Services and Disaster Preparedness

Gough's Bay Cycling Trails

This project will build more cycling/tourism product on and around Lake Eildon by constructing a network of cycling paths in and around Jamieson and Goughs Bay with a longer-term vision of cycling paths in these destinations joining up with the Great Victoria Rail Trail from Mansfield to Tallarook.

Currently over 160,000 annual tourism visitors to North East Victoria who cycle contribute approximately \$131 million in direct expenditure to the region. There is a need to develop product in the southern part of the Tourism North East region following solid investment by Government to the northern part of the region. This project is consistent with the Ride High Country Strategy for North East Tourism and the Lake Eildon Master Plan.

Total Project Cost:	\$TBC
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$TBC
Status:	State Government funding sought for design and feasibility
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation

Mansfield and Murrindindi Shire Joint Project

Skyline Road Touring Route

The construction and sealing of the last remaining section of Skyline Road will remove a missing link to complete an iconic continuous touring route around Lake Eildon, Victoria's largest inland water storage and popular visitor destination. The touring route also connects the two communities of Bonnie Doon (Mansfield) and Eildon (Murrindindi) whose economies are reliant on tourism.

The project to seal this section of road and create a touring route, is one of four catalyst projects identified in the recently adopted Lake Eildon Master Plan to activate the region, create jobs and increase visitation and yield.



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The unsealed section of road is identified in the Lake Eildon Master Plan as a major barrier to mobilising private ‘investment ready’ opportunities in much needed contemporary tourism related infrastructure, including higher standard accommodation, restaurant and attractions, to improve visitor attraction, dispersal around the region, and visitor spend. The Skyline Road Tourism Precinct Business Case identifies that such investment would contribute to economic growth through the creation of 148 jobs with an annual increase in economic output of \$54 million across the Hume region in the short term. The design for the road is underway.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$15,500,000
Portfolio:	Tourism and Roads

Murrindindi Shire

Eildon Reserve Redevelopment – Splash and Skate Park

The splash and skate park within an existing Council-owned park will draw tourists into the centre of the town and act as an important community asset in an area of very low socio-economic status. A temporary skate park was created following the 2009 bushfires; however, this was only ever an interim solution and has recently been removed as it was beyond repair and unsafe. Community consultation has concluded. Final designs and project commencement on standby.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,600,000
Status:	Shovel Ready. State Government funding application pending.
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation

Alexandra-Thornton-Eildon Rail Trail Link – Great Victorian Rail Trail (GVRT) Extension

The GVRT currently terminates at Alexandra and there is no rail trail or similar linkage between the towns of Alexandra, Thornton, and Eildon. Any cycle traffic between these towns at present is along the main road with other road users. This project will link the premier tourist attractions of the GVRT and Lake Eildon. Eildon is a high-profile water-based activity destination, notably fishing and boating. Provision of an off-road trail will add to the list of tourist offerings and encourage visitors to stay.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$15,500,000
Other Information	Open to co-fund
Status:	Shovel Ready
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation



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Tourism Roads and Infrastructure Upgrade Package

This proposal includes a range of local tourism, road and infrastructure projects:

- Recreational Vehicle Accreditation Program – infrastructure delivery
- Wilhelmina Falls Rd, Murrindindi – upgrade
- Castella Rd, Castella - upgrade
- Snodgrass St, Yea – long vehicle parking
- Cheviot Rd, Limestone – sealing
- Two Hills Rd, Glenburn – sealing
- Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, Yea – carpark extension and upgrade
- Alexandra Township – tourism parking precincts

The fast-tracking of these infrastructure projects will allow Murrindindi Shire to capitalise on the fluctuations experienced in the tourism sector through the COVID19 pandemic. While the sector has been crippled during Victoria’s lockdowns, visitation has increased exponentially as restrictions have eased and Victorians are limited to or have chosen to holiday within Victoria. This has impacted some of our more popular destinations and the need to upgrade or renew infrastructure accordingly is increasing

Total Project Cost:	\$7,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,500,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure

Kinglake Memorial Reserve Master Plan Implementation

The Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve Master Plan has been prepared to optimise the use and benefits of the Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve for active and informal recreation and seeks to provide quality facilities to meet current and future community needs. The infrastructure works will deliver appropriate upgrades and renewal that ensure this valued precinct meets the needs of the community into the future.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,000,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure



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Strathbogrie Shire

Euroa Railway Precinct Structure Plan

Development of the Euroa Railway Precinct Structure Plan to inform a coordinated and staged development to enhance, activate and beautify this area and ensure maximum participation, connectivity, and community benefits.

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$100,000
Portfolio:	Rail and Community Infrastructure

Streetscape Renewal Project – Euroa, Violet Town, and Strathbogrie

Council's streetscape renewal plans provide a visual guide for future streetscape development, which can be implemented progressively. The plans aim to improve the commercial vitality of our main streets by delivering infrastructure improvements that create a distinctive sense of place for local residents, visitors and businesses, provide a high quality, attractive public space where people want to visit and shop, and improve the attractiveness, comfort, accessibility, connectivity and safety each of our main streets or main commercial areas.

Total Project Cost:	\$500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$500,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure

Balmattum Hill – Mountain Bike Track

Development of a detailed plan for a Mountain Bike Track on Balmattum Hill. This is a project that being developed in partnership with the community. Design of the trails would include support facilities that value-add to the visitor experience. It will generate overnight, or longer stays, and significant tourism and economic outcomes.

Total Project Cost:	\$250,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$250,000
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation

Greening Euroa – Water Security

Extending existing infrastructure from the Wastewater Treatment Plant to provide recycled water to service several school ovals, parks and recreation reserves in Euroa. This innovative and replicable drought resilient system will extend Euroa's water security and reduce the demand and dependence on potable water supplies and the bore fields.



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Total Project Cost:	\$3,800,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,800,000
Portfolio:	Water and Community Infrastructure

Splash Park – Euroa Sevens Creek

Installation of an intergenerational splash park that enhances the natural aspects of the Sevens Creek. This project will offer a rich sensory experience for people of all ages to remain active during the warmer months and engage with the natural creek environment. The splash park forms the water play element of the proposed destination nature-based play space for Euroa.

Total Project Cost:	\$950,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$950,000
Portfolio:	Tourism and Recreation

Sales Yard Truck Wash

The truck wash is a key priority project for the Euroa Sales Yard Committee. The plan will ensure small to large (B-double) trucks are accommodated. This facility will be available 24/7 to support the agriculture business activity within the Shire and surrounds.

Total Project Cost:	\$450,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$450,000
Portfolio:	Agriculture

Friendlylies Sporting Precinct

Installation of a fully accessible toilet facility – shared between Euroa Cricket Club and Euroa Tennis Club to support existing and increased female participation. The toilet will be unisex and support nappy change facilities.

Total Project Cost:	\$250,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$250,000
Portfolio:	Sports and Recreation

Strathbogie Tablelands Accessible Toilet

Installation of a fully accessible public toilet facility in the main street area to support visitation and economic generation to the area (café users, walkers etc).

Total Project Cost:	\$250,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$250,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure



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Towong Shire

Telecommunications Towers and Last Mile Connectivity Program

Telecommunications towers at Burrowye and Shelley are required to address significant mobile blackspots within the region, ensuring reliable communication and digital connectivity for emergency services, residents, and commercial operations. A last mile connectivity program will complement the towers, targeted at the remote valleys across Towong Shire which have no or limited access to mobile telephone reception.

The project will establish sub-networks at the edge of the existing telecommunications network providing connection to householders in remote valleys. It will have a major impact on the resilience and safety of some of the Victoria's most bushfire prone areas. Successful delivery of the program would provide a full-scale pilot that could be translated across Australia for remote areas.

Total Project Cost:	\$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,000,000
Portfolio:	Telecommunications and Disaster Preparedness

Our Bellbridge Our Future

Building the capacity of services in the Berringa Peninsula area is key to supporting regional growth. The development of an integrated community, childcare and kindergarten centre and commercial services precinct including a café, brewery, and boat club facilities will see the Peninsula's infrastructure is ready to support its growing population, and position Bellbridge as the key service centre. A new integrated community centre will support the delivery of community services to the growing town of Bellbridge, increase social opportunities for existing and new residents and position the town for the future. A unique, architecturally designed Bellbridge Boathouse will become an iconic regional epicurean attraction synonymous with Lake Hume, broadening the region's current offering, and encouraging dispersal of visitors into regional areas from nearby Albury Wodonga.

Total Project Cost:	\$12,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$12,000,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure

Corryong Integrated Community Centre

Establishment of a multipurpose integrated family and community centre in Corryong to deliver integrated community, library, maternal child health, childcare, and kindergarten services. This centre will improve support for the regional cross border community, build community connections, and provide additional capacity to local community service organisations to expand their operations.



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Total Project Cost:	\$7,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$7,000,000
Portfolio:	Community Infrastructure

[Benambra Corryong Road Upgrade](#)

The Benambra – Corryong Road (C545) is 137 km long and links the Towong Shire, Upper Murray town of Corryong, through Nariel Valley into the Australian Alps to Benambra in East Gippsland. 70km requires upgrade and sealing to establish a reliable and safe link between East Gippsland, North-East Victoria, and Southern New South Wales; as well as providing alternate access to Canberra. The three alternative routes available in linking these two destinations are longer and often inadequate and unsafe due to adverse weather conditions.

The project aims to achieve reduced travel times, save on fuel usage and general wear and tear of vehicles for users, improved public safety and access for emergency services. Increased employment opportunities and economic benefits to communities through tourism and development and long-term financial benefits for governments by minimising maintenance and repair costs to the unsealed section and distributing heavy vehicle traffic across the arterial road network.

Total Project Cost:	\$40,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$40,000,000
Portfolio:	Transport and Tourism

[High Country Rail Trail Extension](#)

Development of Victoria's longest rail trail creating an iconic cycle path linking the Victorian High Country between Wodonga and Corryong this project will build the region's economic development opportunities through increasing tourism visitation and multiday cycle experiences. This project will see 46 km of trail upgraded to link Corryong to the existing 80km of High-Country Rail Trail which traverses from Wodonga, through Tallangatta, and onto Shelley.

Traversing through diverse and offering breathtaking scenery the completion of the High-Country Rail Trail will provide a hero tourism product for the region. The high yielding cycle tourism market will greatly assist in the economic recovery of the region.

Total Project Cost:	\$12,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$12,000,000
Portfolio:	Recreation and Tourism



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Rural City of Wangaratta

Grit and Resilience Program – Mental Health

The Grit and Resilience Program has had extraordinary success since the Federal Government funded a trial program in 2019 in Wangaratta in response to high suicide rates and community-based activism. The program brings together a range of partner agencies across the community who support it. The recent Royal Commission into the Mental Health System of Victoria highlighted the impact the program has had, and will continue to have, in Wangaratta. The Commission recommended the establishment and recurrent funding of ‘community collectives’ to support community-led activity that promotes social connection and inclusion in each of the state’s 79 local government areas.

The Rural City of Wangaratta is seeking \$300,000 per year through the federal and state governments to support a sustainable model for the Grit and Resilience Program in Wangaratta. The mental health and community services sector within the municipality consists of active and engaged partner agencies – including Northeast Health, Gateway Health, Victoria Police, Headspace, Albury Wodonga Health and Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service.

Total Project Cost:	\$300,000 per year, ongoing
Other Information:	Open to co-fund
Portfolio:	Mental Health

Organics Processing Plant

In 2020, Council developed the Wangaratta Organics Processing Plant, now in operation for almost two years. This project would increase the capacity of the existing plant and provide a local processing facility that will enable the acceleration of other councils to commence a full food and garden organics service, or to operate their existing service more efficiently, and with better environmental outcomes.

A full and comprehensive business case for the facility has been developed detailing both the physical and fiscal requirements of an expansion of the facility to 25,000 tonnes and beyond. The current license for this plant allows for the processing of 5,200 tonnes of organic material per annum however, the current set up has a capacity of 12,000 tonnes per annum.

This project would increase that capacity even further to 25,000 tonnes per annum so that the facility can service the Hume region of Northeast Victoria - becoming a true regional facility. The State Infrastructure Plan and the Regional Waste Management Plan identifies Wangaratta as a potential regional facility being ideally and centrally located in the region and right on the Hume Freeway.



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It is estimated 10 full time jobs would be created during construction with direct value-add and indirect consumption adding a further \$3 million to the local economy. With the increased processing capacity of the facility, it is expected that a further 5 full-time jobs will be created with a supply chain and value-add impact of \$3.3 million to the local economy. Victorian organic waste is estimated to account for 35% of household waste with recovery rate of only 43% in 2018. Removing organics from landfill saves 400kg CO₂e (Carbon dioxide equivalent) per tonne of organic waste. With the plant at full capacity, it will reduce CO₂ emissions by 10,000t per year or 30,000,000km in a medium sized car.

Based on an additional 20,000 tonnes, an analysis of the cost of transport and processing at facilities further afield, versus bringing it to Wangaratta, would result in annual savings of up to 33% per year to other Councils. The expansion to 25,000 could be completed within 2 years subject to material lead time and EPA approval.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$8,000,000
Portfolio:	Waste Management

[Benalla-Whitfield Road Upgrade](#)

The Benalla – Whitfield Road is a key link for rural communities in the upper reaches of the King Valley (Whitfield, Whitlands, and Myrree). It is increasingly being used as a key road for visitor movement throughout the valley. The road is narrow, and winding, with steep drop offs, and many hazards. The subbase pavement is poor, and the increasing impact of climate change on gravel roads makes this road a consistent issue for maintenance in both dry and wet conditions. Locally there is a significant crash history over several years. This project will see the last remaining 6km of gravel upgraded and sealed. This section of road is the last unsealed designated collector road within the municipality. The project construction will create 18 full-time jobs during construction phase. The estimated combined total output of direct, supply-chain and consumption effects of these additional jobs and construction activity will equate to up to \$5.75 million towards the local economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$5,000,000
Other Information:	Open to co-fund
Portfolio:	Road and Transport

[Wangaratta-Whitfield Road Upgrade](#)

The Wangaratta-Whitfield Road Upgrade will improve a 22km stretch of road running from Moyhu to Whitfield with works including widening and shoulders, improvements to blind spots and resealing the road in several sections to bring it up to the required quality. As a major arterial road that services almost half of the municipality, the road is of inadequate quality and too narrow to service the thousands of local, agricultural and tourism vehicles that pass along it every day. The quality and width of the road is also a significant concern for cyclists.



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The region is fast becoming known as a cycling destination; therefore, the issue of safety and shared use is of paramount concern. Further upgrades required include barriers, tactile indicators, and signage. From a direct increase in economic output of \$15 million it is expected that 26 jobs will be created during construction and the corresponding increase in direct value-added, flow on supply-chain effects in terms of local purchases of goods and services, and the indirect impacts would result in an increase to value-added of \$7.8 million to the local economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,000,000
Other Information:	Open to co-fund
Portfolio:	Road and Transport

Prosecco Road Tourism Project

The King Valley to Milawa region is incredibly picturesque - surrounded by mountains, rivers and rolling vineyards. The area is a flourishing food, wine and cycling destination. The objective of the King Valley is to achieve sector ownership of the Australian Prosecco market. The 'Prosecco Road' project will build global acknowledgment of the brand and position the King Valley as Australia's premier Prosecco region. To achieve the King Valley's visitor economy potential as a premium destination, a range of enhancements and enabling infrastructure investment is required. This includes much needed improvements to public amenity, infrastructure, trail connectivity and accommodation.

In 2021 Tourism North East developed the 'Activating King Valley Prosecco Road Plan' and three supporting business cases which identify key actions and indicative costings for investment.



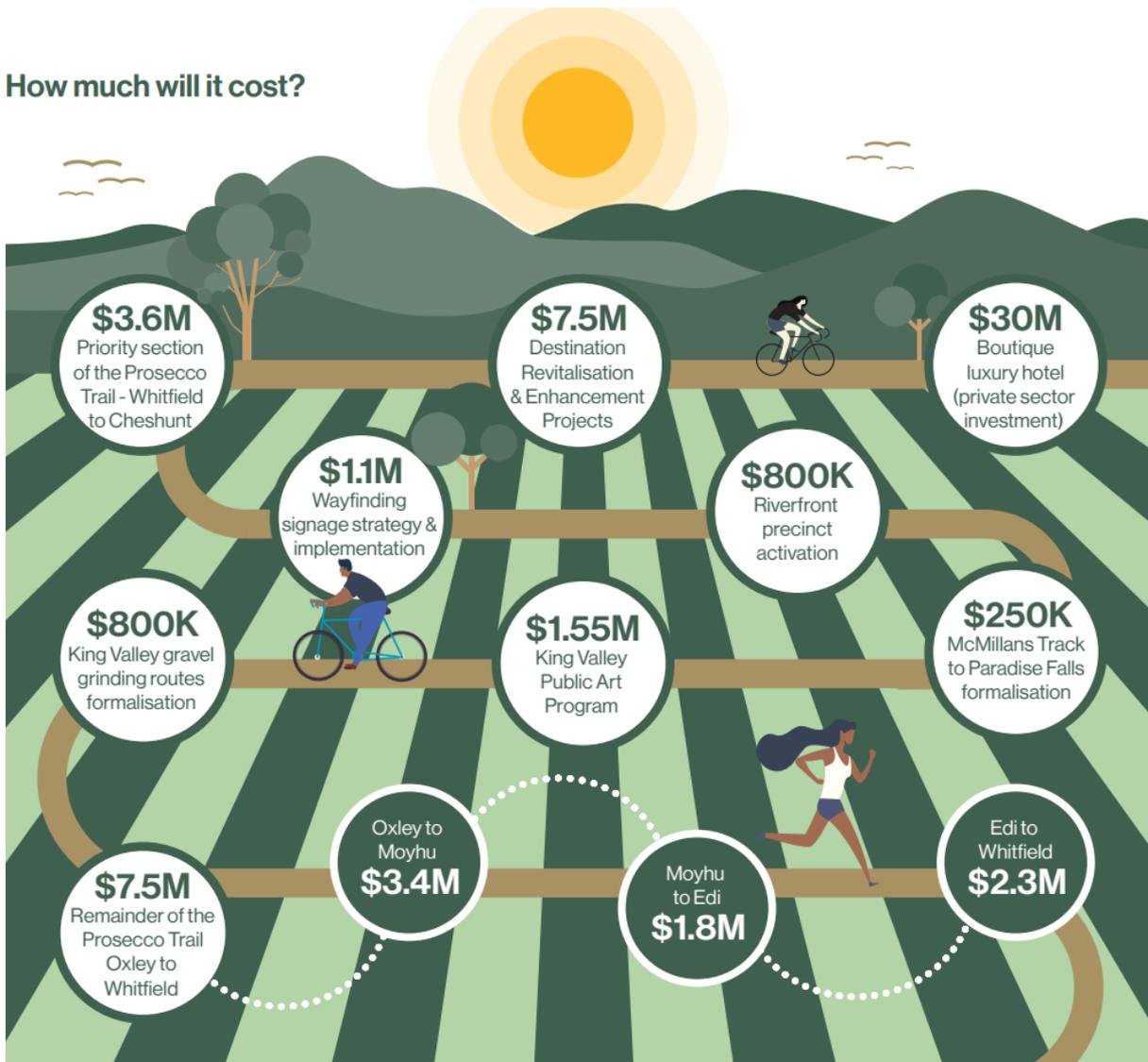


MARCH 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES – ELECTORATE OF INDI

Investment in the three key project areas is expected to drive the King Valley visitor economy from an existing \$268m in output and 1,267 in jobs to \$369m in output and 1,734 jobs once projects are completed and operational. With ‘The Prosecco Road’ brand proposition, additional experiences that broaden and diversify the offering of tourism drivers to the valley are also required, with specific focus on the cycle/walking, family, outdoor and arts visitation markets.

This project focuses on developing the Prosecco Trail and will include key township enhancements in the form of streetscaping and upgrades to amenities, road infrastructure, support to the agricultural sector, development of tourism products such as farmgate sales, cellar door connections, gravel grinding cycle tracks, accommodation, and nature-based activities.

How much will it cost?





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Total Project Cost:	\$53,100,000
Private Investment (Hotel):	\$30,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$22,100,000
Other Information:	Open to co-fund and private sector investors
Portfolio:	Tourism and Community Infrastructure

Wangaratta Aerodrome and Industrial Precinct

The Wangaratta Aerodrome currently plays a key role in supporting a range of businesses, services and activities including emergency and charter services, recreational aviation, pilot training, heritage conservation and tourism. The strategic revitalisation and activation of the aerodrome will ensure its longevity and economic viability in addition to supporting business and community needs.

With connections directly onto the Hume Freeway and significant land availability, the precinct presents a unique opportunity to support a regional freight and logistics facility. The area is also suitable for a variety of industrial and warehouse uses, such as agricultural value adding manufacturing to storage. Enhanced infrastructure upgrades, taxiway extensions, and tourism activation will ensure the Wangaratta Aerodrome will be recognised as one of the best recreational airports in regional Victoria. The redevelopment will also better accommodate an increase in the number of emergency service uses either by air ambulance, police, and air firefighting.

Existing local businesses within the Aerodrome precinct will have the capacity to generate increased regional income and create further employment opportunities. Larger hanger facilities will meet market demand for aeronautical services including fabrication and mechanics which will generate significant economic activation and employment. Additional infrastructure to the airside in the form of new recreational hangars and upgrades to taxiways will encourage increased aviation activities, tour operators and aviation enthusiasts to the precinct and support the growing need to cater for air emergency response services within our region.

The **Airport Precinct** part of the project will cost **\$20.52 million** and includes:

Runway and Taxiway Pavement Strengthening Upgrades - \$8.2 million

To facilitate ongoing use of the aerodrome and support code C aircraft, emergency services, business, and tourism operators.

Wangaratta Terminal Upgrades - \$320,000

Refurbish and repurpose the Wangaratta Terminal into useable business space for commercial use such as boardroom/office space to facilitate meetings, coworking spaces and area to support on ground operations in times of need for emergency services.

Stages 2, 3, 4 and 5 - \$11.5 million

Extension of aprons and taxiways, building of new commercial hangars & hobby hanger infrastructure, road & infrastructure upgrades.



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Council has allocated a contribution of **\$4.97 million** towards airport precinct infrastructure within its long-term financial plan.

The **Industrial Precinct** part of the project will cost **\$7.7 million** and includes:

Infrastructure Services - \$3.2 million

Infrastructure Design and Development Plan (\$250K), Infrastructure services upgrades - Drainage, Sewage, Power, Gas from Wangaratta to the aerodrome precinct (\$3m). Will provide the precinct with required services and allow for future development of the area by developers. (Costs are indicative as detailed infrastructure design plans still to be undertaken).

Industrial Precinct Subdivision - \$4.5 million

Detailed design and Subdivision Development Plans (\$500k), Infrastructure services (Drainage, Sewage, Power, Gas) and subdivision road infrastructure. (Costs are indicative as detailed design subdivision plans still to be undertaken – Council will advocate for private development of site).

This call for funding follows \$413,500 from the Commonwealth Government in 2021, to fully realise the potential of the precinct.

Total Project Cost:	\$28,220,000
Council Contribution:	\$4,970,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$23,250,000
Other Information:	Open to State co-fund and private sector investors as well
Portfolio:	Aviation Infrastructure

[Wangaratta Creative Precinct Expansion Project](#)

The Wangaratta Creative Precinct is a vision that sees the co-development of the Wangaratta Art Gallery with the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre and the Wangaratta Visitor Information Centre, creating a holistic and vibrant creative precinct. The current site holds two successful, yet independent cultural services offering diverse and inspiring programming. The two venues both face major barriers of accessibility, synergy and activation for local visitors and tourists. The constraints within the existing facilities include a lack of space for expansion for programming and major exhibitions, and a lack of quality conference facilities that could attract large new events.

This project will continue to activate the CBD precinct area of Wangaratta and directly link the existing cultural infrastructure to the successful Railway Precinct Project completed in May 2021. Connecting the Creative Precinct to the Railway Precinct through Docker and Norton Streets will bring many opportunities to expand and enhance creative offerings in Wangaratta. It will also incorporate a modernised Visitor Information Centre, promoting a contemporary visitor and tourist experience to our dynamic regional city.



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Amplifying and unlocking cultural economy offerings will attract new residents and improve the region's growth. This will be a tourism driver to the city and will tap into the cultural tourism growth market of the current desire for arts and cultural experiences, day trips and overnight stays. The project will allow for future regional tours of arts festivals, exhibitions, and performances.

The project will generate up to 148 jobs over ten years through construction and regional tourism, with over 109 of those jobs generated within the first year. Regional tourism and economic benefit income is also projected to be \$8.69 million in the first year, growing to \$12 million by year ten. An annual visitor spend of \$32.9 million and over 189,000 annual visitors is also anticipated by year ten.

Total Project Cost:	\$18,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$18,500,000
Other Information	Open to co-fund and private philanthropic suppliers
Portfolio:	Arts, Culture, Tourism and Community Infrastructure

City of Wodonga

Baranduda Fields

Baranduda Fields is a precinct of major regional significance offering unique and inclusive spaces for a variety of social interactions and recreation activities. Located at the heart of the Wodonga's growth centre, it will be the largest multifunctional sports and community precinct between Melbourne and Sydney. It will play an important role in servicing local residents as well as North East Victoria.

Wodonga Council is seeking \$24.8 m to complete Stage 2 works that will expand functionality of the regional sporting precinct and complement the initial works that commenced in 2021. Proposed works include installation of a third synthetic soccer field, second AFL football and cricket oval with large pavilion and grandstand. Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects will increase by up to \$49.5 million. 36 direct jobs and 67 indirect jobs also expected to be created, with direct and indirect wages and salaries will increase by \$9 million and an additional \$17.5 million in direct and indirect value added to the economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$24,800,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$24,800,000
Portfolio:	Sports, Recreation and Community Infrastructure



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Gateway Island

Gateway Island has the potential to develop into a major drawcard, attracting travellers off the Hume Freeway to enjoy a recreational and cultural revival during long journeys. It also has the potential to deliver on the long-held community desire to open up the waterfront and provide access to the river.

The island features a mix of natural environs, economic and tourism opportunities in and around Gateway Village and the Gateway Lakes event precinct. The majority of the land is Crown and council owned with several parcels of private land.

The area has been master planned and broken into several key precincts offering new places, experiences and event opportunities. One of the private sites on the market has been acquired by a private investor so there is an opportunity to leverage this private investment to further activate this precinct. Discussions are under way with the Federal Government on a proposal to transfer land holdings - consisting mainly of the quarry as well as some farmland and a homestead - to council.

Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects will increase by up to \$20 million. 15 direct jobs and 27 indirect jobs are also expected to be created, with direct and indirect wages and salaries increasing by \$3.5 million and an additional \$7 million in direct and indirect value added to the economy.

Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$10,000,000
Portfolio: Tourism and Community Infrastructure

Hothouse Theatre Redevelopment

This project will assist to kick start Wodonga's creative industry by giving new life to one of the region's key cultural tourism assets – the Hothouse Theatre. HotHouse Theatre is the only regionally located producing theatre company in Australia, with a rich and celebrated history in commissioning, producing, nurturing and presenting new, contemporary Australian theatre. The company offers professional creative development opportunities and education through theatre training and drama programs and engages the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD communities as well as focusing on young artists.

Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects will increase by up to \$10 million. 7 direct jobs and 13 indirect jobs are also expected to be created, with direct and indirect wages and salaries increasing by \$2.1 million and an addition \$3.5 million in direct and indirect value added to the economy.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$5,000,000
Portfolio: Arts, Culture and Community Infrastructure



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Wodonga Creek Activation

Improved access to and activation of Wodonga Creek provides the opportunity to promote an active and healthy lifestyle for residents and visitors, by encouraging greater use of the city's natural assets and recreational facilities and through enhancing the attraction of Wodonga Creek as a recreational and tourist destination. Infrastructure will include providing water access, paddling and swimming areas, seating and viewing locations, picnic tables, toilets, barbecue areas and play areas including a splash park. Two distinct precincts will be activated including Diamond Park and Wright Road Precincts. The project includes access and path linkages, wayfinding signage and public art installation.

Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects will increase by up to \$11 million. 8 direct jobs and 15 indirect jobs are expected to be created, with direct and indirect wages and salaries increasing by \$2 million and an addition \$3.9 million in direct and indirect value added to the economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$5,560,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,560,000
Portfolio:	Environment, Tourism and Community Infrastructure

Community and Commercial Space

The construction of a modern multipurpose commercial and community complex in the southern end of Wodonga's Central Business Area (CBA) will serve as an important contributor to the social, cultural and economic activity of the precinct through the development of infrastructure which supports existing and diverse new community and commercial functions. Businesses in the CBA have been negatively impacted by Covid and border closures, so it is critical that development continues to be planned for and delivered to continue to strengthen the southern end of the CBA.

Initial scoping for this site identified a range of potential mixed-use options ranging from a curated historical exhibition space to complement the library-gallery and to draw on and support the visitor economy and enhance visitor experience, hospitality offering, and commercial space for a mix of diverse businesses stimulating new jobs for Wodonga.

Stage One will cost \$440,000 and will include a concept and feasibility study to assess the potential of a repurposing the Senior Citizens' facility into a multipurpose site. Stage Two, which involves detailed design and construction, would cost \$6 million. Total output, including all direct, supply-chain and consumption effects will increase by up to \$12.4 million. 13 direct jobs and 7 indirect jobs are expected to be created, with direct and indirect wages and salaries increasing by \$2.5 million and an addition \$4.7 million in direct and indirect value added to the economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$6,440,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,560,000
Portfolio:	Environment, Tourism and Community Infrastructure



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Hume Region Local Government Network

The Hume Regional Local Government Network (HRLGN) is a long-standing alliance of 12 regional and rural local governments. HRLGN advocates for policies, projects and initiatives that will support the regional economy, and have a positive impact on communities across the Hume Region. HRLGN have identified the following projects as additional priorities from a region-wide perspective:

- **Wodonga Logic Logistics Hub**

The Hub needs enabling infrastructure for it to provide maximum benefit to the regional economy. \$5 million to support sewer and storm water system installation and \$15.2 million to improve road infrastructure would create jobs in Wodonga while positioning it to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the development of inland rail. The upgrades have been designed and are tender-ready.

- **Accelerated Implementation of the Ovens Murray Plan and Goulburn Regional Digital Plan**

- **Development of the Northern Rail Plan, including fast rail between Melbourne and Albury**

- **Establish a Renewable Energy Zone for the Central Northern and Ovens Murray region**

- **Hume Region Affordable Housing Review**

Recent affordable housing announcements are welcomed however there is more to do and this is a region wide issue. A full review of the Hume region ask for affordable housing will allow existing funding to be efficiently placed and future funding targeted to real solutions.

- **Support the development of an Electric Vehicle Network**

The state-wide feasibility study 'Charging the Regions' shows that EV access in the regions could generate \$25 million in tourism spend over 10 years as EV use increases. The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances are advocating for a state-wide network.

- **Activating Lake Eildon Master Plan**

Lake Eildon is Victoria's largest inland water storage and plays a key role in both irrigation and recreation. It has suffered from a lack of investment over the past two decades and exacerbated by long-term drought; and its role as a tourism asset suffers from a lack of supporting infrastructure to facilitate investment. Stage 2 of Lake Eildon Masterplan includes game-changer projects for which business cases have been completed, including:

Mt Pinniger and Eildon Premier Nature-Based Precinct

The total project cost is \$16.2 million. Seeking \$5.2 million for a walking trail and iconic lookout structure. The project will create 96 jobs in construction and 119 ongoing jobs.

Fry Bay and Gough's Bay Premier Nature-Based Precinct

The total cost of this project is \$23.9 million. Seeking \$1.9 million for mountain bike and walking trails, and a lookout. It will create 114 construction jobs, and 73 ongoing jobs.



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Alpine Resorts

Ten Year Visitor Economy Development Plan

The Victorian Alpine Resorts are iconic tourism attractions and a key economic driver in the region.

Five of the six resorts – Falls Creek, Lake Mountain, Mt Buller, Mt Hotham, Mt Stirling – are within the electorate of Indi, with Mt Baw Baw being the one exception.

The resorts contribute \$2.5 billion in economic output, employing over 10,100 people and attracting over 1.3 million visitors in 2019. Visitation generates 9 per cent of all regional visitor economy jobs and visitor spend in Victoria, and 28 per cent of all tourist visitors to the High Country.

There is strong latent demand for Alpine experiences in Victoria. The resorts have the potential to increase the number of annual visitors from 1.1 million to 1.9 million during the snow season, and from 0.2 million to 0.9 million during the green season.

However, low public sector investment has limited the ability of the resorts to realise this potential and achieve the vision of a year-round visitor economy.

There are over 100 projects across the six resorts available for public sector investment which will deliver record levels of future growth.

The resorts require a total of \$439 million in public and \$298 million in private funding over 10 years to implement this game-changing investment.

10 Year Investment	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
Victorian Alpine Resorts	\$439M	\$298M	\$737M
Mt Buller/Stirling	\$140M	\$67M	\$207M
Falls Creek	\$112M	\$119M	\$231M
Mt Hotham	\$82M	\$95M	\$177M
Mt Baw Baw	\$78M	\$19M	\$97M
Lake Mountain	\$26M	-	\$26M



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The strategic projects span **four key investment areas**:

Investment	Public	Private	Total
<p>Vibrant, accessible, and diverse alpine villages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amenity, beautification and placemaking projects including landscaping, lookouts, public art and placemaking, village lighting, village squares, and outdoor break out spaces to increase visitor satisfaction and stay length. • Village community and visitor amenity buildings to provide indoor spaces for breakout, rest and protection from the weather. These buildings will centralise public amenity and improve the visitor experience, particularly for the daytrip and snow play market. • Projects to diversify accommodation stock and provide experiential accommodation to meet visitor demand. • Commercial development including diversification of retail, food and beverage offerings, night life and other commercial activities, and to encourage additional visitor spend and year-round village activation. 	\$112m	\$184m	\$296m
<p>Infrastructure to enable sustainable growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport projects to address a range of mountain access, parking capacity and road quality issues as well as pedestrian and access issues. • Critical services and infrastructure projects to remove barriers to growth in winter and to create demand in green season including water, sewer telecommunications and renewable power projects • Affordable staff accommodation projects, to avoid reducing the amount of available visitor accommodation and help make commercial operators within the resorts employers of choice. 	\$179m	\$45m	\$224m
<p>Compelling and quality winter experiences for all visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in snowmaking, expansion of snow play zones, night-time snow play projects, and other diversification of the traditional snow experience will help to secure the future of the winter experience. 	\$76m	\$55m	\$131m
<p>Motivating green season products and experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of iconic walking experiences to motivate visitors in green season. This will include low intensity and view oriented short walks with architecturally designed experiences such as the Hotham Heaven Walk. • Investment in mountain biking across all resorts, including trail upgrades and extensions within the Mt Buller mountain bike park and continued investment in Falls Creek mountain biking experiences. • A range of low intensity activities such as alpine coasters and ziplines, playgrounds, and pump tracks. 	\$71m	\$15m	\$86m
Total	\$439m	\$298m	\$737m



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The impact of this investment, combined with the current economic contribution of the resorts as of 2019, will double the economic contribution of the Resorts to Victoria by 2031. A total of 2.7 million visitors across the Resorts will generate \$4.8 billion in direct and indirect expenditure, 20,400 ongoing annual jobs and \$2.1 billion GSP.

	Visitors	Output	Jobs	GSP
Current (2019)	1.3 M	\$2.5 B	10,133	\$1.1 B
Additional (2031)	1.4 M	\$2.3 B	10,300	\$1 B
Total	2.7 M	\$4.8 B	20,400	\$2.1 B

Priority Projects – Mt Hotham

Mt Hotham Snow Play and Activity Hub

The Mt Hotham Snow Play and Activity Hub will deliver a new nature-based tourism attraction for Victoria. The project will create a new purpose-built facility with a day centre, toilets, food and beverage offering and retail offering. This will be complemented by a new snow play experience in winter (tobogganing and snow tubing) and provide a natural launch point for a suite of summer products and events. This Hub will enable Hotham to appeal to the low intensity market identified as the most significant growth opportunity for the alpine resorts. When operational, the Hub will attract an additional 23k visitor pa and deliver a benefit to cost ratio of 2.6:1.

Total Project Cost: \$7,500,000

Commonwealth Contribution: \$5,000,000

Mt Hotham Business, Visitor and Community Centre

Mt Hotham is looking to develop a new commercial and administrative precinct that will provide the resort with a much-needed village hub. A key feature of this precinct will be the Mt Hotham Business, Visitor and Community Centre, which will centralise public amenity and range of new services and experiences in one facility. This includes a visitor centre and transport interchange, retail offering, commercial gym and office/operational space for a range of public, private and not-for-profit entities. This has been prioritised for funding due to the multifaceted nature of the facility and its ability to deliver triple bottom line outcomes for the resort in one icon development.

Total Project Cost: \$16,000,000

Commonwealth Contribution: \$15,000,000



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Public Safety, Access and Amenity Upgrade

While Mt Hotham features striking natural assets, its urban amenity is old and tired, lacking visual appeal and intuitive form. This project will lift the entire resort offering, including placemaking initiatives (landscaping, lighting, walkways etc), verge and carpark sealing, and the upgrade of resort bus stop and transit areas. Collectively, the program will improve public access and safety; enhance the visitor experience; and improve operational efficiencies and environmental outcomes.

Total Project Cost:	\$11,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000

Mt Hotham Alpine Arts Installation Series

Hotham is looking to diversify its year-round tourism offering through the installation of a series of artistic installations that provide people with reasons to visit and spend time in-resort, generating yield opportunities for mountain businesses. This project involves the installation of large, high-impact, permanent sculptural pieces across the resort's five key resort precincts, which draw from the natural environment, traditional owner heritage and ski field history.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,500,000

Mt Hotham Water Storage Capacity Expansion

Mt Hotham is the highest alpine resort in Victoria. The Hotham Village is based at the very top of the mountain, with water supply pumped into the resort from catchments in the valley. If that supply is restricted or interrupted, the resort's ability to provide water to the village is limited to the capacity of its on-mountain reserves. Within this context, the RMB is looking to increase Hotham's water storage capacity through the implementation of a new 2.8 megalitre tank that will double current volumes at the Mt Higginbotham site. This will significantly increase the resort's firefighting capacity in summer when natural water flows are low, and enable increased snow making and resort growth in winter in support of visitor economy uplift.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,600,000

Priority Projects – Falls Creek

Falls Creek Emergency Response Village Road Connections

To facilitate further growth and in order to ensure safe travel around the village precinct, the village road network needs to resolve a series of dead ends, which make navigation for large vehicles difficult (particularly CFA vehicles and medium sized heavy duty transport).



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This impacts safe access for fire response appliances and means constrained single direction egress for lodges. This project proposes to connect dead end roads to create a simple loop based system allowing larger vehicles to easily navigate the road network in both summer and winter. The project will also consider future adaptation infrastructure needed for ski-to-the-node integration with the ski field to facilitate ski-in ski-out challenges posed by climate change.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,100,000

Critical Enabling Infrastructure - Lakeside Precinct

The Falls Creek Masterplan 2016 identifies development priorities extending from the Village to the south towards Rocky Valley Lake. In order to facilitate development, both public and private, key enabling infrastructure is required: safe, all seasons road access; provision of power, water, and sewer connections to existing reticulated resort networks; and provision of high-speed internet and a robust communications backbone. Delivery of this infrastructure will facilitate existing resort projects at the Lakeside Precinct and ensure other key projects, such as the Recreation & Events Centre, are provided with contemporary, supported critical utilities and safe access over summer and winter.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,200,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$2,900,000

Falls Creek Recreation & Events Centre

The construction of the multi-purpose event, recreation and training centre will provide much needed facilities to a wide range of sporting groups and clubs, from the local primary school, and regional sporting clubs to elite athletes seeking the benefits of altitude training. The proposal incorporates a training field/oval alongside the universally designed venue facility that will expand the resorts reputation as an altitude training and event destination. The event centre will be a hub for the local community, providing much needed community space whilst also facilitating the hosting of local and regional community sports and training opportunities. In addition, the centre will be the base of the Australian Cross Country Ski team and enable the promotion of world class snow sports events.

At present, Falls Creek hosts the largest snow sports event in the southern hemisphere, the Kangaroo Hoppet. This 42 kilometre race attracts over 1000 competitors from 30 countries. The International Ski Federation have endorsed the event being made a World Cup event, with the completion of the venue and facilities. The Hoppet would then be Australia's only internationally recognised and accredited snow sport event. Applying universal design principles, the centre will offer Disabled Winter Sports and other groups catering to people with disabilities, a base for its members to utilise in both skiing and adaptive mountain biking camps and training. As a venue the centre will also host large scale indoor and outdoor events, from conferences, concerts, seminars, weddings etc.



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This project is a critical part of the resorts green season adaptation planning and is shovel ready with all required permits in place for construction start.

Total Project Cost: \$10,700,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$9,900,000

Falls Creek MTB Park Network Expansion

Falls Creek Alpine Resort, along with Regional Development Victoria, has invested in 55kms of dedicated single track mountain bike trail. Staged over 5 development cycles, the existing network contributes to the North East Victorian cycling optimisation plan and the recognition of the region as a biking destination. The purpose built professionally designed trail has resulted in double digit visitation growth in the formal green season, attracting state and national mountain bike events, together with festivals and bespoke activations. The challenge for riders and resort stakeholders is providing a riding experience that facilitates both a longer stay opportunity for both whilst providing a progression perfect product to cater to a broader market. The resort tracks and trails expansion strategy identifies the need for the network to be expanded by a further 25kms of dedicated single track to deliver:

- Provision of a UCI accredited downhill course within resort - providing unique opportunity for global and national event hosting
- Increasing resort access to dedicated MTB single track
- Ensuring the network is focused on skills transition riding
- Increasing opportunities to host MTB events, including large international events
- Achieving the right mix of gravity and cross country trails to respond to user needs
- Activating Cloud 9 area at the top of the mountain and lifting riders/sightseers from Slalom Plaza.
- Developing adaptive and accessible descent trails for disabled riders
- Undertaking trail planning, development and maintenance in a sensitive manner that responds to the social, environmental and cultural values of the resort and surrounding landscape.

Total Project Cost: \$2,300,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$2,000,000

Round The Lake Multi-use Trail

This iconic project involves the completion of an 'around the lake' multi-use trail, circumnavigating Rocky Valley Lake and integrating with the existing trail network at Falls Creek. This trail will be flat gradient, designed as universal access and provide an unrivalled high plains nature based experience.



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A section of the trail would include a pontoon across the highest body of water in Australia, providing a truly unique experience, like no other in Australia, supplementing the Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing walking route at this location. The trail will be constructed in a manner which minimises ecological impact footprint, with a unique construction solution along the high water mark of the lake. The project will be executed in partnership with AGL and Parks Victoria.

Total Project Cost: \$6,200,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$5,800,000

Priority Projects – Mount Buller

Releasing land and rebuilding the village square as a vibrant heart of the resort

A public/private partnership to construct an undercover transport hub on top of a multi-storey carpark skinned with apartments. This, and replacing an existing road with a tunnel releases valuable real estate in the middle of the village to expand the range of visitor services and create a vibrant village heart. It also includes a public / private partnership to construct a new multi-storey, multi-purpose public shelter and toilets to deal with chronic shortages by more than doubling capacity, while adding retail spaces and capping the building with apartments. It then involves resurfacing the outdoor areas of the expanded village square including paving, seating, lighting, playground, and other visitor activations. This will in-turn unlock private investment in additional visitor activities which will be popular despite snow levels and increase year-round visitation.

Total Project Cost: \$40,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Staff accommodation to address critical shortages impacting delivery of visitor services

A public/private partnership to construct 2 buildings accommodating 240 staff on blocks within the Mt Buller village which are zoned for this purpose. It also involves the installation of 8x2-bedroom cabins at Mirmbah to accommodate 40 staff during the snow season on a fee to use basis and be hired out as riverside family holiday units during summer. Lack of staff accommodation is making it increasingly difficult to attract staff to provide visitor services and impacting business viability.

Total Project Cost: \$9,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity



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Priority Projects – Mount Stirling

Additional visitor attractions and improved amenities to increase visitation

A new visitor centre to increase capacity and provide an educational base for an increased number of students who would be accommodated in three additional eco-camps. It also includes an iconic 15km extension to the existing horse trail network to connect Craigs Hut with Mt Stirling, and a 3-day Buller / Stirling cattlemans hut walk and camp grounds. This would increase visitation by 50% (4,000 p.a.) in the snow season and increase the number of commercial operators and visitors in summer.

Total Project Cost: \$9,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Road and carpark sealing to improve visitor safety

This project is to improve safety by sealing the 9km gravel road between Mirimbah and Mt Stirling (reducing geotech risk by routing water through culverts, removing the need to undertake season grading, and allowing it to be cleared of snow during winter) and excavating and rebuilding the TBJ carpark (which was initially constructed on fallen tree trunks that are progressively rotting and resulting in sink holes and increased geotech risk).

Total Project Cost: \$11,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Priority Projects – Lake Mountain

Integrated Power Solution

Since the resort has been operating, Lake Mountain Alpine Resort has relied on diesel-generated power. The integrated power solution is designed to provide a continuous supply of three-phase power from solar and battery to any one of three diesel generators. A programmable logic device will monitor and select power sources according to load and stored energy conditions. The system will automatically select the most efficient energy source. A reduction of energy costs is accomplished with this solution and moving towards a more sustainable energy power option.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Accommodation Project

A complete fit-out of upper-level Bistro would provide accommodation and conference space to generate a new revenue stream for Lake Mountain Alpine Resort. This will provide a new level of experience to guests during the day and throughout the evening.



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Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Portable Water Supply

Lake Mountain Alpine Resort currently has no potable water, relying on bottled water for staff and guests. This project will provide drinking water to our guests and our staff. In addition, the project will significantly reduce single-use plastic bottle use and contribute to a more sustainable solution and expectation of Lake Mountain Alpine Resort.

Total Project Cost: \$1,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Visitor Experience Building Project

In order to provide a greater visitor amenity, retail and guest services space, there is a requirement for the delivery of a new multi-level building that provides a link between the existing amenity buildings. Creating a welcoming visitor entry point, education spaces, repositioning & redesign of rental area, address resort accessibility issues.

Total Project Cost: \$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Mountain Bike Park Enhancements

The Lake Mountain Biking product has seen extensive development over the past 10 years and has been an instrumental driver of green season visitation. Continued enhancements are required to maintain interest levels, support all abilities of rider and continue our competitive position.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Priority Projects – Mount Baw Baw

Staff Accommodation

It is proposed to construct affordable on-resort staff accommodation facilities to support 120 winter seasonal staff within the Baw Baw Village. Adaptive family style cabins are proposed that can be hired to visitors during summer. Lack of staff accommodation is impacting business sustainability and reducing valuable higher yield public access accommodation capacity.

Total Project Cost: \$4,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity



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Visitor Welcome Hub, Indoor Recreation and Conference Facility

The development of a visitor centre ‘welcome hub’ will establish the resort as a gateway to the Mount Baw Baw National Park. This facility will act as an entry hub for resort services, for the Alpine walking trail, guided experiences, and deliver interpretive and educational outcomes for schools and families. To be constructed adjacent to the main day visitor car park, the facility includes multi-purpose indoor recreation facilities (emergency relief space, climbing and abseiling wall, multi-purpose sports court, all-weather outdoor education spaces) and meeting, conference, and event facilities.

Total Project Cost: \$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Carpark, Roadway and Pedestrian Pathway Upgrades

Existing unsealed car parks require sealing to improve capacities, amenity and snow clearing efficiencies. New car parking spaces are needed to meet growing day visitor demand. Shared internal village roadways are in urgent need of re-sealing and addition of curbing and channelling to improve drainage and pedestrian safety. A protected pedestrian pathway connecting car parks to the Village is needed to get pedestrians off the main access roadway. Realignment of the Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road is needed at Chairlift Corner to support improved vehicle safety at a dangerous hairpin bend. Redesign of the entry precinct, including access lanes and chain bay, is urgently needed as well.

Total Project Cost: \$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Renewable Energy Power Solution

The Baw Baw Village is remote to the national grid. The resort MicroGrid energy power solution will be transformative for the resort. The resort plans to transition from high cost, inefficient and unreliable high emission carbon-based fuels to renewable energy. Options under consideration include solar PV, wind, micro-hydro, geothermal, short and long term storage, including hydrogen. This project will remove a significant barrier to sustainability and private investment at the resort.

Total Project Cost: \$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity



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Thematic Funding Opportunities

Youth Employment

The Wodonga Project

Despite a highly skilled and dedicated workforce committed to addressing local challenges; the number of young people reaching a point of crisis in Wodonga continues to exceed the resources available, placing stress on the system and perpetuating disadvantage.

Early identification of risk factors that contribute to a young person's living, mental wellbeing or educational situation will enable workers to address challenges prior to crises, preventing young people from entering the homelessness system or disengaging from educational or employment pathways. The local service sector is in agreement that the COSS Model is the response that best fits Wodonga's local context. The collective impact model seeks to intervene early, particularly in areas of homelessness, mental health and school disengagement. COSS utilises collective impact and place-based solutions to stem the tide of young people seeking crisis supports and entering into already overwhelmed service systems. This project would support delivery of the COSS model over a three-year pilot period delivered to targeted schools.

Total Project Ask: \$2,256,000

Wodonga Youth Foyer

Wodonga Education First Youth Foyer project will provide accommodation and access to support services for Wodonga's vulnerable youth to ensure they remain engaged and can realise educational opportunities. This project involves the construction of a 40-room facility to be accessed by youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness who will also receive wraparound support through access to government-funded training as well as other educational, wellbeing and mental health assistance.

The project, a partnership with Wodonga TAFE, would see a 40 per cent reduction in adolescent homelessness and a 20 per cent reduction in disengagement of at-risk students from education. While the model requires a greater initial investment than transitional housing, this additional investment is offset by improvements in educational attainment, housing, health and levels of future offending behaviour. It is apparent from analysis that most of the benefit is derived from the avoided costs in government support for employment and housing for this cohort of young people. This funding would go to the construction of the foyer and funding to establish and support operations and delivery of services for a three-year period.

Total Project Ask: \$21,000,000



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Wodonga TAFE LOGIC Campus Extension

The Driver Education Centre Australia, housed in the Wodonga TAFE LOGIC campus, is the largest heavy vehicle training organisation in Australia dedicated to teaching students, including Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel, how to drive heavy rigid and articulated vehicles.

Wodonga TAFE is seeking capital funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments to leverage its current partnership with the ADF to expand the campus through a Heavy Vehicle Technology Program into a 100-hectare mega-facility. The expansion would include a robotic and mechatronics facility, a cyber facility, a crash and explosive testing area, obstacle, and gradient courses, sealed and unsealed tracks, a skid and rollover training area, simulators and more. It would also include new trade qualifications to build the technical skills required to operate and service future technologies, and a Schools to Industry STEM Pathway Program, which aims to attract high school students into TAFE education and onwards into placements in defence industry. The innovative project would employ 90 new employees, with 35 additional instructors.

Wodonga TAFE is working with the Victorian Government to develop a detailed business case, and I call on the Commonwealth Government to join in those discussions and commit funding.

Tourism

TNE Marketing

To support a meaningful recovery of the visitor economy after the devastation of 2020, there is a need for demand driving activity of scale over a sustained period to raise awareness, drive consideration, and preference of Victoria's High Country as a destination.

This project aims to activate not only the latent demand within Tourism North East's (TNE) existing and potential target markets, but also new markets of visitors that the dual crisis of the bushfires and COVID-19 have presented as an opportunity to the region.

TNE will take a lead role in coordinating the regional tourism recovery efforts within the High Country, in conjunction with LGA and RMB partners, in order to generate positive outcomes for the region and sustain domestic tourism potential. TNE is seeking \$3.3 million over three years (2022–25) in funding to execute a multichannel, integrated marketing program targeting high-value consumers within the 'Lifestyle Leader' market, driving visitation, yield and dispersal across the region. This will dovetail into other projects including the launch of Victoria's High Country master brand, reimagining the High Country's visitor experience and industry and product development activity.



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TNE has a proven track record of delivering successful domestic campaigns, most recently leveraging \$1.1 million in marketing spend into \$30 million in return to the visitor economy in 2019.

Total Project Ask: \$3,300,000

TNE Digital Skills Program

The High Country aspires to achieve digital excellence, setting industry best practice for the use of digital technologies in all aspects of the region's tourism offering.

In 2019, Tourism North East secured \$243K from the Regional Skills Fund to deliver a digital upskilling program for the region's tourism operators. Launched in December 2019, the program provides industry partners with personalised training focused on developing the skills required to optimise online opportunities for both their business and the broader region.

The program is unaccredited, however the tourism industry is not looking to acquire formal qualifications, or embark on new digitally focused career pathways. They simply want to build the skills required to improve the digital capacity of their businesses. It is because of the low-commitment, practical and tactical nature of the program, it has been incredibly well received by industry operators.

Since launching in December 2019, the Digital Skills Program has delivered over 1,000 business engagements (as of June 2021) and is scheduled to conclude in December 2023. Tourism North East is seeking a further \$150K to extend the delivery of the program to December 2025.

Total Project Ask: \$150,000

Regional Digital Signage Network

To reflect both the changing needs and behaviours of consumers, Tourism North East seeks to develop and implement an industry leading digital path to market that will revolutionise the visitor experience and make it easier for visitors to dream, plan and explore Victoria's High Country.

Delivered via a smartphone enabled platform, the application will act as a central hub of information for visitors, enabling them to maximise their stay when in Victoria's High Country and maintain a relationship with the area when out of region. In September 2020, Tourism North East was successful in obtaining \$750K of funding from the Victorian State Government to undertake this unique and exciting project. The project commenced in November 2020 and is due to be completed in May 2022.



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Benefits of the initiative include:

- Strategic engagement with consumers
- Visitor centred experience with the ability to curate itineraries based on individual preferences. Increasing capacity to increase visitor yield
- Improved regional experience navigation (geo-mapping, including walking and cycling trails)
- Ability to communicate with visitors in real-time, such as push notifications

Digitally enabled signage is one of the core three initiatives identified in the Victoria's High Country future state vision for visitor servicing. Tourism North East is seeking a further \$500K to implement digitally enabled signage across the region.

Total Project Ask: \$500,000

[Mountains to Murray Rail Trail Enhancements](#)

Victoria's High Country holds a true leadership position in the cycling space, and not only because of the range of cycling trails and routes available. The cycling offering in the High Country is in the enviable position of being supported by a range of industry operators who recognise the value of this product, a dedicated group of cycle tourism industry operators, a natural landscape that cannot be replicated by any other region plus complimentary food, wine, walking and cultural experiences.

Supporting Victoria's High Country Destination Management Plan 2013-2023 and subsequently cycling as a core tourism pillar for the region, the North East Victoria Cycling Optimisation Plan (NEVCO Dec 2017) developed in collaboration with Regional Development Victoria serves as the overarching blueprint, guiding investment in world class infrastructure and experiences to increase visitation and yield. While significant investment has been made to date, it is continued investment in priority projects as identified within the NEVCO master plan that will enable Victoria's High Country to retain its position as the premier cycling destination in Australia.

The Rail Trail Enhancements project has been developed to assist the High Country in realising this vision. The project includes the creation and development of a range of artistic, interpretive and architectural installations that will differentiate the regional offering from its competitors, and act as a key tourism driver for the region. The Enhancement project aims to make the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail the pre-eminent rail trail in the Southern Hemisphere; drive repeat visitation and advocacy for the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail through enhancing the visitor experience; and inspire, delight, encourage talk-ability and social media shareability so as to position the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail as a 'must do' accessible cycling experience to Australian and international audiences.



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The Project, which includes public art, landscaping, improved amenity options and new commercial opportunities, looks to effectively establish the region’s rail trail network as a true iconic tourism product that is central to delivering strong outcomes for the local visitor economy. The Murray to Mountains Rail Trail has been prioritised for these installations because it is the most established trail with the highest market awareness levels. It has a strong point of difference as it travels through many towns and villages and enjoys the amenity of cafes, accommodation, parks and facilities en-route. Seven sections of the Murray to Mountains Trail have been identified for activation:

1. Wandiligong to Bright
2. Bright to Porepunkah
3. Porepunkah to Myrtleford
4. Beechworth to Yackandandah
5. Rutherglen to Wahgunyah
6. Beechworth to Everton Station
7. Wangaratta to Milawa

The estimated project cost is \$11.6 million across the three local government areas of Alpine Shire, Indigo Shire and the Rural City of Wangaratta. Additional visitation of 17,750 per annum and additional annual direct visitor spend of \$7.1 million per annum is expected from the project.

Total Project Cost: \$11,600,000

Health

[Albury Wodonga Hospital](#)

Albury Wodonga Health is already one of the busiest regional health services in the state. As the population on the border grows, it’s only going to get busier. People from all over Indi use Albury Wodonga Health services. We need a new hospital on the border before it is over capacity. Albury Wodonga Health runs one of the busiest regional health services in the state. Within 15 years, the population on the border will grow by a third. By 2040 we will need a hospital capable of handling 150,000 emergency presentations, 40,000 surgeries and 1,900 births every year.

Albury Wodonga Health is finalising a masterplan that will clearly set out the details of the health service our community will need for decades to come, and a proposed greenfield site. The Commonwealth, Victorian and New South Wales governments must step up and commit funding, similar to other co-funded hospitals across regional Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

I am calling on the Commonwealth to commit at least \$300 million to the final masterplan to fund a new, single site world-class hospital on the border.



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Rural Hospitals Infrastructure Fund

There are several smaller towns in the south of the electorate which may not see the immediate advantages of a new hospital on the border in Albury Wodonga, particularly Euroa, Mansfield, Alexandria, Yea and Bright. These towns also require funding to enhancing existing local health facilities through capital funding. The current Government abolished the previous National Rural and Remote Health Infrastructure Program (NRRHIP) which funded essential health infrastructure (capital works and equipment), and strategic service planning for small rural private hospitals. Less than 2 per cent of the Building Better Regions mega fund has gone towards hospital infrastructure. This is unacceptable at a time when rural health services are bearing the brunt of the ongoing COVID pandemic without dedicated support from the Commonwealth government.

I am calling on the Commonwealth to establish a \$1 billion Rural Hospital Infrastructure Fund for essential health infrastructure (capital works and equipment) in regional areas, with an initial focus on funding for future COVID outbreaks and pandemics.

Albury Wodonga Health Projects

There are opportunities for the Commonwealth Government to co-fund, with state and local counterparts, up to \$337 million in priority service and infrastructure upgrade projects at Albury Wodonga Health ranging from proof of concept through to shovel ready.

Women and Children's Wing

A new, purpose-built women's and children's unit will be constructed on the site of the Albury campus. The unit will provide the full range of services to support childbirth including antenatal clinics, outpatient services, birthing suites, dedicated theatre suite, inpatient wards, special care nursery and postnatal care clinics. Paediatric services will be co-located allowing specialist staff to support children who require hospital care or outpatient services including oncology and therapy services.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$120,000,000, open to co-fund.

Acute Upgrade – Phase 2

AWH is proposing that Acute upgrade phase 2 will be made up of 3 key components.

1. Critical and Cardiac Care

Provision and expansion of an additional 30 overnight cardiac care beds to improve access to specialist medical care. This will be made up of 25 general/telemetry beds and 5 High acuity Coronary Care Beds. Provision would also be made for a new 25-bed Intensive Care Unit.



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2. Dialysis

Relocate existing dialysis chairs and build a total of 27 chairs to support a comprehensive dialysis unit with provision for acute and community patients at Albury campus.

3. Specialist Clinics

The co-location of acute services at Albury campus including specialist clinics is advantageous for both consumers and clinicians through improving access to appointments and reducing the need for travel.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$100,000,000, open to co-fund.

Car Parking

AWH is proposing expansion of the hospital's emergency department, acute care and women's & children's services. A review of existing conditions in the vicinity of the Albury Campus has determined provision for a minimum of an additional 93 off-street parking spaces is needed to cater for the impact of proposed developments.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$30,000,000, open to -co-fund.

Critical Assessment Unit

The AWH Clinical Services Plan confirms the intent to consolidate all bed-based services on one site, and the requirement for expansion of current services including Emergency Department and Short stay support. The proposed Crisis Assessment Unit is a 6-bed unit that will be built adjacent to, but integrated, with the new ED at Albury campus to allow coordinated care between the Emergency Department and Mental Health teams.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$3,000,000, open to -co-fund.

Community Services Hub

The project will provide easy access for community members to a range of Community services provided by AWH and its partners. It will deliver purpose built infrastructure with improved ICT for the following programs: Community mental health; Dental health; Child and family health; Hospital avoidance programs; Hospital in the home, post-acute care and community nursing; Community Rehabilitation, Violence and abuse prevention and support services; Pain management program. Potential partners including Aboriginal health services, General Practice, Day surgery, and government social services.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$40,000,000, open to -co-fund.



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Research and Education Hub

A new, purpose-built research and education centre will be developed on the site of, or adjacent to the Albury campus of Albury Wodonga Health, consistent with the Albury City Council's plans to develop a health precinct in the area. The centre will provide under-graduate and post-graduate student facilities including a simulation centre to support clinical training. AWH will work in partnership with the university sector to establish a strong translational research program including consideration of development of the Australian Rural and Regional Natural Disaster Health Research Institute to focus on the health impacts of natural disasters including drought, bushfire and pandemic and to develop new strategies in response.

Commonwealth Contribution: 40,000,000, open to -co-fund.

Brain and Mind Centre Albury – Phase 2

The new Brain and Mind centre opened in early 2020 and is providing community mental health and drug and alcohol services from a modern, purpose-built facility. Phase 2 would see the development of the second floor of the building to accommodate 38 additional workspaces, training facilities, student work areas, meeting rooms, storage and bathroom facilities to support the colocation of AWH's mental health access and immediate response teams and NSW TAFE to provide on-site training for the mental health workforce. This will create a one-stop shop for consumers and integrated care opportunities. Planning for Phase 2 is well progressed.

Commonwealth Contribution: 1,000,000, open to -co-fund.

Mechanical Services Upgrade

Foundation works need to occur across Wodonga campus to allow its mechanical services including air-conditioning, heating, electrical, fire and hydraulics to support new facilities including the \$5 million community hub and specialist clinics building and the proposed \$12million mental health rehabilitation unit.

Commonwealth Contribution: 3,000,000, open to -co-fund.

Mansfield District Hospital

The Mansfield District Hospital Master Plan involves the construction of a new hospital, including community health and high needs facilities, on new land in Mansfield. The plan was submitted to the Victorian Building Authority over two years ago in November 2019 and has yet to see further action.

Average local population growth more than tripled during the pandemic in Mansfield, heightening the need for upgraded facilities – particularly the Urgent Care Unit which is often at capacity during peak tourism seasons. The hospital also suffered approximately \$50,000 worth of damage during the recent earthquake in September 2021.



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The designated site is located on Highett Street behind Bindaree, with the plan able to be rolled out in stages depending on funding allocation and respective State and Commonwealth contributions.

I call on the Commonwealth Government to engage with the State Government to commit funding to invest in the implementation of the Mansfield District Hospital Master Plan.

Mental Health

Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership Projects

Goulburn Mental Health and Wellbeing Telehealth Project – \$100,000 p.a. for each health service
Telehealth is an acceptable and useful way of providing health interventions that can reduce the need for clients to travel to major regional and metropolitan areas for mental health support. Goulburn Valley Health work with smaller health services to provide access to clients for mental health support. There is a need to increase the workforce capability and capacity at the smaller services to enable credentialed and available staff to support a telehealth appointment. Health services for inclusion are:

1. Alexandra District Health
2. Yea & District Memorial Hospital
3. Seymour Health
4. Kilmore District Health
5. NEXUS Primary Health

Mental Health and Police (MHaP) Unit in Mitchell and Murrindindi – \$400,000 p.a.

As part of Goulburn Valley Health, Mental Health Area Service, deploy a 2 shift MHaP unit based in Seymour to support the Lower Hume Local Government Areas of Mitchell and Murrindindi. A local MHaP unit will improve outcomes for mental health clients who would otherwise be transported by police or ambulance to emergency departments at either Goulburn Valley Health or the Northern Hospital. The MHaP model is successful across Victoria and this request is simply to provide the same access to this model of care for people living in Murrindindi and Mitchell. Goulburn Valley Health can support the MHaP Unit if funding can be secured.

Murrindindi Youth Mental Health Workforce - \$200,000 over 24 months

Aligned to the Goulburn Mental Health and Well-Being project, is to have a person working in Murrindindi 3 days a week to provide allied health support such as case coordination, emotional regulation support and treatment readiness to young people with mental health issues, and to evaluate the effectiveness and use of this place-based service.



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Climate Change

Local Power Fund

The renewable energy transition taking place in regional Australia is witnessing billions of dollars of investment in large-scale renewable energy projects. The benefits of this transformation – in terms of jobs, income, lower power prices, lower emissions, and greater power reliability – are clear and overwhelming. However, everyday regional communities do not always capture the full benefits.

Community energy, whereby everyday people come together to develop their own locally-owned and driven energy projects, is a compelling model for the next phase of the renewable energy transition in the regions. If communities themselves are empowered with the technical capabilities and the financial resources, they can develop their own energy projects, delivering more local jobs, more local buy-in, and more local opportunities for income diversification, than purely commercial operations.

In order to accelerate the deployment of community energy in Australia, I am proposing that the Government establish a dedicated fund to invest in locally-owned renewable energy projects in regional Australia. This proposal follows the tabling of my Australian Local Power Agency Bill in 2021 and the publication of my Local Power Plan in 2020. It is my clear view that regional Australia would be best served with a dedicated agency with sole focus on regional renewables, however in the absence of a standalone agency, an earmarked regional community energy fund within ARENA is an appropriate next-best policy mechanism.

The proposed Local Power Fund would sit within ARENA and provide \$300 million of grants over four years, or \$75 million each year, starting 1 July 2022.

Mobile and Internet

Mobile Black Spot Funding

Indi has been incredibly successful at securing funding to fix mobile black spots, in great part due to the advocacy of the Indi Telecommunications Advisory group convened by my office. Indi is the most successful electorate in Victoria when it comes to securing funding, and the second most successful in the nation. In 2021 alone, we secured funding for 10 new mobile towers, from Cudgewa to Harrietville. There are still 46 priority black spot locations across the electorate that I am committed to fixing.

The Government must increase funding in the next round of the Mobile Black Spot Program so that Indi can fund as many black spots as possible, as soon as possible. I also call on the Government to increase the cap on funds from \$500,000 to \$1 million so we can tackle the most complex cases.



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[Finish the NBN Build in Regional Australia](#)

In September 2020, NBN Co established a \$300 million Regional Co-Investment Fund (RCIF) to finance local NBN infrastructure projects to deliver high speeds to households, businesses, and communities primarily in regional and remote areas currently served by NBNs Fixed Wireless and Satellite footprint. The RCIF calls on local governments to propose commercially viable projects for joint funding.

This proposal is unacceptable. It shows that the Commonwealth Government has failed to deliver on its commitment to complete the NBN build to a high quality in regional Australia and is attempting to pass the buck to capacity-constrained local governments instead of finishing the job.

I call on the Government to remove the LGA co-fund component of the RCIF and instead provide \$300 million in direct capital funding to regional communities to ensure the NBN build is complete and accessible to all without forcing local government to foot the bill.

Economic Recovery

[Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund](#)

Indi is facing a housing supply and affordability crisis. In 2018 the Government set up the National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF) – a \$1 billion fund that offers concessional loans, grants, and equity to help critical housing-enabling infrastructure. This means new or upgraded infrastructure for electricity and gas, transportation and roads, water and sewerage, and telecommunications. It makes funding available to community housing providers, LGAs, and state government owned entities.

The NHIF is not effective and has only spent very little money. Its mandate is very restrictive, it cannot fund social infrastructure, and it cannot fund the types of infrastructure holding back developments, like childcare centres and schools. In 2020-21, the NHIF made just four funding commitments worth \$111m, far below its spending target. Overall, the NHIF has spent just \$206 million out of its full \$1 billion allocation. That funding has supported just under 4000 dwellings across Australia, none of which are within the electorate, and none of which had a regions-specific focus.

I am calling on the Government to establish a \$2 billion Regional Housing Fund (RHF) to be deployed over four years in regional Australia to unlock private investment in new houses by building the basic infrastructure needed for new housing development, including social infrastructure.



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Regional Tourism Recovery Fund

The North East tourism industry, including the Alpine Shire and Victorian High Country, was heavily impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires, with widespread closures, evacuations and direct fire damage. The subsequent COVID-19 pandemic and recurrent lockdowns have resulted in an extended period of economic change and uncertainty for business operating across Victoria's High Country.

The visitor economy is critical to the economic recovery of the region, accounting for over 20% of gross regional product and 25% of employment. Visitor, expenditure, and employment losses have continued to increase since January. In the six months to June 2020, the region lost up to 1.6 million visitors – approximately 95% of the business-as-usual market. Visitor expenditure also fell by between \$400 and \$639 million in the same period and up to 6,390 jobs were disrupted or lost. The \$250 million package for regional tourism announced in the special budget in October 2020 was welcome but falls far short of activating the potential of shovel-ready regional tourism projects.

I am calling on the Government to establish a permanent Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund – similar to the now retired Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure program – to provide ongoing support for projects in regions with strong domestic tourism potential like Indi.

Aged Care

Rural Aged Care Facility Fund

Recommendation 46 of the Aged Care Royal Commission called on the Government to introduce, from 1 January 2022, a capital grants program for building or upgrading residential aged care facilities to provide small-scale congregate living. Commissioner Briggs recommended that the amount be \$300 million in 2021-22, \$600 million in 2022-23, \$1 billion in 2023-24, and indexed to inflation thereafter. However, in its 2021-22 Budget it allocated \$396.9 million over five years to enable aged care providers to make needed improvements to their buildings and build new services. This is less than \$80 million a year. Over the next four years, the Government is investing less than 10% into residential aged care than what the Royal Commission recommended.

I am proposing the Government substantially increases funding for residential aged care capital grants by establishing a Rural Aged Care Facility Fund to fund new and upgraded residential aged care facilities in rural and regional Australia.

My proposed fund would distribute \$1 billion over 4 years, or \$250 million in grants each year.



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Bright Aged Care

Bright is the only township of its size in Victoria that does not have a high needs residential aged care facility after a provider handed back an 80-bed operating licence in 2021.

The Bright District Hospital Health Precinct Development will co-locate hospital, aged care, medical and allied health services, and health education services in Bright and surrounds. It will include a new 35 bed high care aged care facility with the potential for additional units leading to 49 beds. It will also include refurbishment of the existing hospital bed-based services and nursing facilities with new extensions for a production kitchen (servicing the new aged care facility as well) and community and allied health services to ensure the provision of an expanded range of allied and specialist services.

The existing Hawthorn Village will be adapted for re-use as Alpine Institute's health education facility, and accommodation centre to support the provision of international nurse education and health worker accommodation. The co-location of medical services under a land lease or private capital investment model is also possible.

In December 2021, I hosted a roundtable with the federal Minister for Regional Health David Gillespie for the purpose of securing funding for the project. There are many examples where the Government has deployed large sums towards individual aged care centres, including \$15.4 million in Queensland and \$12.4 million in South Australia.

I call on the Government to deliver \$26 million to develop the residential aged care component of the Bright District Hospital Health Precinct Development to ensure the communities of Bright have the high needs aged care facilities it needs.

Integrity

Australian Federal Integrity Commission

I have drafted and costed a gold-standard model federal integrity commission model which would restore public trust in government and establish a body with the powers and resources to do its job. The Parliamentary Budget Office estimates that AFIC would cost \$187 million over 4 years to operate. The Government has removed funding allocated to their Commonwealth Integrity Commission proposal in previous budgets because it was unable to pass enabling legislation.

I call on the Government to support my AFIC bill as a matter of urgency and allocate full funding for an AFIC quality integrity commission in the budget.