



The Hon Jim Chalmers MP
Treasurer
House of Representatives
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Treasurer,

Indi Budget Submission – January 2024

Since my election in 2019, I have worked closely with the nine Local Governments in Indi in advance of each Federal Budget to prepare a detailed Budget Submission outlining the key funding priorities in our region.

Please see below our submission in advance of the May 2024 Federal Budget.

The projects in this submission were identified in consultation with the nine LGAs across Indi including Alpine, Benalla, Indigo, Mansfield, Murrindindi, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, and Wodonga, as well as the broader Regional Development Australia (Hume Region), Co of Alpine Resorts Victoria and other local stakeholders, including Albury Wodonga Health, TAFEs and Tourism North East.

Other funding opportunities across the electorate are also profiled spanning renewable energy, tourism, health and aged care, housing and roads, mobile and internet coverage and cost of living relief.

The size of the infrastructure asks underscores the importance of funding to grants programs such as the regional Partnerships and Precincts Program and the Growing Regions program. Contributing to this need are:

- Severe weather events and climate change.
- Net population movement into regional areas since the COVID-19 lockdowns.
- Energy transformation and the need to invest in regional Australia.

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

29 January 2024

cc: Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister; Senator Katy Gallagher, Finance Minister

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Portfolio funding opportunities

Climate Change and Energy

Provide support for community energy

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.

In 2023, I worked with Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and Senator David Pocock to secure an independent Community Engagement Review undertaken by the Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner Andrew Dyer (the Community Engagement Review). The Community Engagement Review will provide advice about how to improve community engagement when planning, developing, and operating renewable energy projects, better align project benefits with community interests, and ensure projects engage with communities, landholders and stakeholders.

On 29 September 2023 I made a submission to the Community Engagement Review which made a number of recommendations.¹ I understand that the final report was delivered to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy on 31 December 2023.

I also met with Minister Bowen in November 2023, and understand the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) is currently undertaking a review into government support of community energy in Australia. I have long advocated for government to provide support to empower community energy groups, farmers, local governments and others to develop small and mid-scale energy projects that directly benefit their community. Recommendations about how to do this are included in my Local Power Plan.²

I understand ARENA is to deliver the report the Government in mid-2024, to then be provided to the Climate Change Authority to translate to policy recommendations.

In light of this work I strongly request the Government to:

- 1. Implement and fully fund the Community Engagement Review's recommendations as soon as possible.**
- 2. Implement and fully fund ARENA and the Climate Change Authority's recommendations regarding government support of community energy.**

¹ <https://www.helenhaines.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/231001-Community-Engagement-Review-Helen-Haines-MP-Submission-FINAL-WITH-APPENDICES.pdf>

² <https://www.localpowerplan.com/>.



Incentivise cheaper home batteries to encourage home electrification

Australian households could save thousands in lower energy bills while reducing emissions and ensuring energy security if home batteries were cheaper. Over one-third of Australians have installed rooftop solar on their home, but just one percent have a home battery, because they are simply too expensive. Current market and government expectations and aspirations that the renewable energy share of our national electricity grid will reach 82% by 2030 include an underlying assumption that the cost of household batteries will be subsidised during this decade. Recent power outages in my electorate caused by severe weather events (for example the town of Euroa has experienced 17 power outages since November) demonstrate a clear case for household batteries which would increase energy resilience and take pressure off the grid.

The Government should therefore incentivise cheaper home batteries and should consider adopting my Cheaper Home Batteries Bill, which would incorporate home batteries into the Small-Scale Renewable Energy Scheme, lowering the cost of batteries by \$3,000 and tripling the number of batteries in Australian households within three years.

I request the Government include in the budget incentives to make home batteries cheaper.

Community Batteries for Household Solar Program

I support this \$200 million program to enable Australians to store affordable solar energy for use during peak times, and to share excess power with other households in their area. Many communities in Indi, including Beechworth, Yackandandah, Euroa and Corryong, are leaders in locally owned, regionally located renewable energy.

Regional Australia is particularly in need of community batteries to ensure energy security during emergencies such as bushfires, floods, and storms. Since November 2023 alone, the Strathbogie Shire in my electorate has experienced five unplanned power outages, the most recent outage caused by a major storm. Community batteries would provide significant assistance when these outages occur.

I am pleased that an application from Indi passed the Expressions of Interest stage, for batteries located across the electorate in Mt Beauty, Bright, Corryong, Beechworth, Wodonga, Myrtleford, and Wangaratta. However, other applications from Indi were unsuccessful in the Expressions of Interest stage, partly due to Round 1 receiving an overwhelming number of applications, with requests for funding exceeding the amount available. This demonstrates there is significant need in communities to improve their energy resilience.

The Government must provide additional funding for another round of the Community Batteries for Household Solar Program, to ensure regional communities, including Indi communities, can make future applications.

Communications



Mobile Black Spot and Regional Connectivity Program Funding

Indi has been very successful at securing funding to fix mobile black spots and poor internet connectivity, in great part due to the advocacy of the Indi Telecommunications Advisory Group convened by my office who have identified black spots and areas with patchy service. In 2021, we secured funding for 10 new mobile towers, from Cudgewa to Harrietville. In 2023, we secured almost \$1 million for a macro mobile site at Kennedys Point located on Lake Eildon and more than \$2.36 million to establish Fibre to the Premise NBN in Harrietville. But the job is far from done. There are still many priority black spot locations in Indi, plus many more areas with slow connectivity when demand increases from summer holidaymakers which puts communities at risk during the bushfire season and places a handbrake on local economic opportunities.

The Government must ensure that funding continues under the Mobile Black Spot Program and Regional Connectivity Program and that grant guidelines allow for entrenched black spots and poor internet connectivity to be remedied. This will require government raising the cap on funds from \$500,000 to \$1 million so we can tackle the most complex cases.

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. The impost on local government is not viable. 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 request 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.

Housing

Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund

Indi is facing a housing supply and affordability crisis. Regional and rural councils identify that a challenge to unlocking private investment in new houses is lack of funds to build the basic infrastructure needed for new housing development. This means new or upgraded infrastructure for electricity and gas, transportation and roads, water and sewerage, and telecommunications.

In 2023 the Government did not support my amendments to the Housing Australia Future Fund Bill



and the Housing Australia Investment Mandate Direction. These amendments would have guaranteed that regional, rural and remote Australia receives a portion of the \$10 billion committed to social and affordable housing proportionate to the population living outside metropolitan areas. Again, the Government's \$500 million Housing Support Program, for local and state governments to invest in critical enabling infrastructure, fails to guarantee funding for regional, rural and remote Australia.

The Government continuously fails to guarantee funding for housing in regional, rural and remote Australia. Therefore, I continue to campaign for a dedicated Regional Housing Infrastructure Fund to address this need.

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

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

[Increase local government funding for roads](#)

More than 75 per cent of Australia's road network is owned or maintained by local governments. Following recent natural disasters, including the flooding events over the 2023-2024 Summer and the October 2022 flooding events, local councils have experienced significant damage to their roads they are struggling to repair. This is due to multiple factors facing regional councils in particular, such as small ratepayer bases, inflation impacting the cost of materials and minimal funding opportunities for state and Commonwealth government support. Further, the nine local governments in Indi consistently tell me that current funding arrangements for roads – including Commonwealth funding arrangements - only cover damage caused by natural disasters; they don't allow communities to build back better.

I was pleased to assist in drafting the Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport's final report on their inquiry into the implications of severe weather events on the national regional, rural and remote road network. The Committee's final report included recommendations to review Financial Assistance Grants for roads funding, review funding for road maintenance works under the Infrastructure Investment Program and provide greater flexibility for betterment funding for resilient infrastructure builds through Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements following natural disasters.

I request the Government increase financial assistance for local councils to maintain, repair and improve the resilience of roads following natural disasters. This includes funding under Financial Assistance Grants, the Infrastructure Investment Program and Disaster Recovering Funding Arrangements.



Regional grant funding opportunities

In Indi, many local governments, community and volunteer groups, not for profit organisations, businesses and more rely on federal government grants to fund important projects that have significant positive impact on our regional and rural communities. These programs include the Growing Regions Fund and the regional Precincts and Partnerships Program. I understand the first round of these programs are yet to be determined, however there already remains a likelihood they will be over-subscribed.

I request the Government provide ongoing and increased funding the Growing Regions Fund and regional Precincts and Partnerships Program in the budget.

Health and Aged Care

Bright District Hospital Health Precinct Development

Bright is the only township of its size in Victoria that does not have a high needs residential aged care facility. 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. On 3 May 2022 the Victorian Government pledged \$1.52 million for design and plan for the Bright Health Precinct and redevelopment of Alpine Health's Hawthorn Village, with this process due for completion in March 2023.

I request the Government fund the development and building of the residential aged care component of the Bright District Hospital Health Precinct Development.

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.

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. The designated site is located on Highett Street behind Bindaree, with the plan able to be rolled out in stages. In the October 2022 election the Victorian Government



pledged \$60 million towards redeveloping the aged care facility, but the hospital redevelopment remains unfunded.

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

Attorney-General

Whistleblower Protection Commissioner

A key component of my 2020 and 2021 Australian Federation Integrity Commission Bills was the establishment of a Whistleblower Protection Commissioner. Unfortunately, this was not incorporated into the Government's National Anti-Corruption Commission Bill 2022.

Whistleblower protections laws are complex, therefore a Commissioner is necessary to provide individuals with advice and referral functions, as well as implement and enforce whistleblower protection laws.

I'm pleased the Government is considering establishing an independent Whistleblower Protection Commissioner in their *Public sector whistleblowing reforms Stage 2 – reducing complexity and improving the effectiveness and accessibility of protections for whistleblowers Consultation Paper*.

I call on the Government to include funding for a robust, independent Whistleblower Protection Commissioner in the budget.

Cost of Living Relief

Households and businesses in Indi continue to feel the pressures of high inflation – in their grocery bills, energy bills, at the petrol station, and more aspects of daily life. I support many of the Government measures in the May 2023-2024 Budget and call on the Government to expand on them in the next Budget. This includes:

- **Small businesses relief** – 24 local businesses in Indi were successful in applying for the Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Enterprises. The Government's Small Business Energy Incentive (a bonus tax deduction of 20 percent of the cost of an energy efficiency or electrification improvement) is also very welcome by many Indi businesses as a way to electrify and save on energy bills. However, this is a temporary measure and I understand will expire in June 2024. This makes it difficult for many businesses to access this support, as they may deem it too risky to initiate a project without certainty of the tax offset. ***The Government extend the Small Business Energy Incentive beyond June 2024.***
- **Household energy relief** – when I introduced my Cheaper Home Batteries Bill in 2023, I called on the Government to offer no-interest loans to low-income households and businesses as part of their home and business electrification package. I was pleased the



Government announced the Household Energy Upgrades Fund (HEUF) in the 2023-2024 Budget, for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation and co-financiers to provide households with financing options to upgrade their homes. I'm disappointed that nine months later we are yet to receive details about this. ***I request the Government release details of the HEUF as soon as possible so that households can access finance for electrification soon.***

- **Bulk billing incentives** – I supported the Government's efforts to triple the Medicare bulk billing incentives for GPs, for concession holders and children under the age of 16. Primary healthcare costs continue to rise in Indi, with fewer GPs bulk billing, and ***I urge the Government to include more primary health care relief in the budget.***
- **Income support payments and rental assistance** – I acknowledge the Government increased JobSeeker, Youth Allowance, Austudy, Age Pension and other income support payments, as well as Commonwealth Rent Assistance, in the previous budget. However the increases were not nearly enough – with only \$2.86 a day increase for most income support payments. The Government must implement the recommendations of their own Economic Inclusion Advisory Panel and substantially increase the rates of all income support payments and rent assistance.
- **Fee-free TAFE** – Indi continues to experience worker shortages in early childhood education, construction, nursing and many other areas. Fee-free TAFE offers substantial incentives for people to enrol in these training courses. ***I request the Government to continue fee-free TAFE measures.***

Local Government Priority Projects

Alpine Shire

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 Black Summer Bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,000,000
Portfolio:	Tourism; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Alpine Better Places Tawonga

This project will deliver new and upgraded infrastructure across the Tawonga CBD and Pioneer Memorial park, including vibrant playspaces for the local community and visitors, safer pedestrian connections through the CBD, and upgraded community facilities. This well-supported project will deliver a sense of destination for the Tawonga township, encouraging passing traffic to stop and enjoy a revitalised and connected town. The project will aid social and economic recovery and resilience after the Black Summer Bushfires, subsequent impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the land erosion and slip at Falls Creek.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,500,000
Portfolio:	Tourism; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Kiewa River Trail Extension

Funding is requested to prepare detailed designs and costings for an extension of the shared trail from the existing end point to complete a full sealed loop via the Kiewa River East Branch. This has been long been requested by the local community and will add a significant draw card for visitors to the town. Mount Beauty and Tawonga South are currently poorly served by walking and cycling trails in close proximity to town, and particularly those accessible to the less mobile within our community and visitors to the town.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,300,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,300,000
Portfolio:	Sport; Tourism

McNamara Reserve Stage 3

Funding is requested to prepare detailed designs and costings to upgrade the existing Ablett Pavilion to help it better serve the community's needs as a year-round multi-disciplinary venue. The pavilion also serves as a place of last resort in times of emergency and can act as a Relief Centre for the community if required. The project will support engagement with the community and key stakeholders to understand users' needs - now and into the future - and design inclusive, modern facilities that include a social room, a canteen, kitchen, administrative space and storage, meeting the needs of the town's growing population. This project encourages active recreation and supports community wellbeing with its focus on physical activity, access and inclusion.

Total Project Cost:	\$6,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$6,500,000



Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Mount Beauty Sport and Recreation Precinct

Funding is requested to prepare a feasibility study to plan for much-needed upgrades to these well-used facilities. The feasibility study aims to assess the community and existing users' needs through community and stakeholder engagement, identify infrastructure upgrades or new infrastructure, prepare conceptual designs and costings for this infrastructure, and provide an implementation and staging plan to identify how it can be realised. With a focus on planning for community needs into the future and delivering high-quality and fit-for-purpose upgrades, improvements and infrastructure, this project aims to develop a sporting precinct that will stand the test of time for the Kiewa Valley community and support diversification of sport and active recreation.

Total Project Cost: \$1,200,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$1,200,000
Portfolio: Sport; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Benalla Rural City

Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre

Benalla, as a growing regional city, sees an opportunity to create a sporting hub for the future. This could be built into a community multi-purpose sport precinct that could be utilised 7 days a week to build on the 500-600 participants that currently utilise the facility.

In 2017/18 the Council resolved to allocate \$10,000 towards a review of the 2002 Masterplan for the Benalla Indoor Recreation Centre (BIRC). A committee worked on the revised Masterplan and in October 2019 the Council received and adopted that Plan. The Council has obtained a commitment of \$15,000,000 towards the redevelopment from the Victorian state government. Early estimates indicate that the total project will be in the range of \$25,000,000. We are requesting support from the Federal Government of up to \$6,000,000 towards the project.

Total Project Cost: \$25,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$6,000,000
Other Information: Open to co-fund
Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

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:	\$1,500,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

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:	\$6,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Benalla Art Gallery Redevelopment – Stage 2

This project was drawn from the Benalla Art Gallery, Feasibility and Business Case completed by Urban Enterprises in August 2020. Stage 1 of the project was funded by the State Government of Victoria through the \$3 million Regional Cultural Infrastructure Projects Grant. It is due for completion in 2024 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. Stage 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. It would deliver:

- New additional dedicated collection gallery and contemporary gallery spaces to allow the Gallery to share more works from its prized Collection, and to attract major touring exhibitions for social and economic benefit;
- New additional space for multimedia and artists talks;
- New children's interactive space to provide a free, dedicated space for year-round, hands-on activities for young families.

In 2023, Benalla Art Gallery adopted a new Strategic Plan, with a vision to become “the physical, experiential, and conceptual meeting point in North East Victoria; a place that reflects the diversity of our stories and the contribution of all Australians as creators of culture.” For the second year running,



the Gallery attracted over 75,000 exhibition visitors, despite a local population of just ~14,000. This vision and achievement were recognised in late 2023, with the Gallery granted Four Year Investment in Organisations through Creative Australia. Benalla Art Gallery was the only regional gallery to receive this funding in the nation, and it will allow the appointment of a Curator from 2025.

With the Benalla Art Gallery set to celebrate 50 years in its current building in 2025, it is timely to mark this occasion and enter an exciting new chapter with a much-needed expansion. Stage 2 redevelopment would enable the Gallery to truly achieve its Vision of becoming the “meeting point”; provide scope to present a more progressive, inclusive, and responsive art program for its community and visitors in order to deliver transformational social, cultural, and economic benefit; and to maximise the benefit of the Creative Australia Four Year Investment in Organisations funding.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$8,000,000
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:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Indigo Shire

Beechworth Early Years Hub

This project is to construct a purpose built integrated Early Years Hub to meet unmet demand for childcare and kindergarten in Beechworth. The facility will incorporate the Maternal and Child Health Service. It has been identified by the community as a high priority in recent master planning and Early Years Strategy consultation. The intention is to obtain State Government funding for detailed design and matched federal funding contribution. Service provider funding contribution will also be provided.

Total Project Cost:	\$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,000,000
Portfolio:	Early Childhood Education

Chiltern Land Development Planning

Funding is requested for planning and design for Chiltern's community precinct. The project includes critical planning, feasibility and assessment, and further design development focused on delivery of a shovel ready community precinct plan on 18 hectares of Council owned land. The finalised precinct plan and statutory planning preparation will, in partnership with Ambulance Victoria and CFA, prepare for the delivery of a range of mixed land uses which may include intergenerational accommodation/living, employment land, emergency services and community uses. Significant community engagement has been undertaken to date to determine preferred site vision and land uses.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,390,335
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,390,335
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Emergency Management

Beechworth Historic Precinct Masterplan

The scope of this project includes detailed design, due diligence and place planning; bringing implementation of masterplan recommendations to shovel ready status; optimising opportunity from the pending National Heritage nomination and Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Listing UNESCO bid; and including new build Research & Education Centre, conservation plans, and curatorial implementation (multiple building-based exhibitions, activations and interpretation, dispersal springboard experiences).

Total Project Cost:	\$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Chiltern Destination Playspace Precinct

The scope of this project involves masterplanning for a Chiltern Destination Playspace Precinct. It would involve taking the completed Concept Plan to a shovel ready Destination Playspace Precinct masterplan; including detailed design, comprehensive due diligence and scoping of partner agreements (National Trust, Commercial Leisure) for a destination playground, wellness pools, historic buildings and a Lake Boardwalk.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,500,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Tourism

Mansfield Shire

Emergency Services Precinct - Resilience and Recovery Hub

A Resilience and Recovery Hub would be within an emergency precinct co-locating SES, CFA and Ambulance Victoria services (potentially VicPol later). The Resilience and Recovery Hub will include training facilities, volunteer support facilities and shared meeting spaces to promote efficiency of emergency preparedness, response and recovery in a modern, central location. 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.

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. State funding will be required for the co-location of the individual services within the precinct.

Total Project Cost:	\$6,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,000,000
Status:	Scoping Study Complete
Portfolio:	Emergency Management

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. The paths will link to key tourist destinations including Jamieson township to the Jamieson Brewery and Gough's Bay township to the Maze and Mountain Bay

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:	\$2,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,800,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Tourism

Roundabout Design and Construction

Roundabouts are required in four strategic locations around Mansfield to provide improved traffic movement and road safety due to increased population growth and residential development. The intersections proposed are:

1. Dead Horse Lane and Mansfield-Whitfield Road (Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route)
2. Dead Horse Lane and Midland Highway (Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route)
3. Mt Buller Rd and Greenvale Lane (Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route)
4. Mt Buller Rd and Highton Lane

Total Project Cost:	\$9,600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$7,600,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Lords Reserve Sports Pavilion

A new community sports pavilion at the Lords Reserve oval will provide changing facilities and a community meeting space for this multi-user sports ground. The existing facilities do not have adequate changerooms, particularly for use by women's sport or junior sport. Increased population growth has increased the need to upgrade these facilities as a matter of priority.

Total Project Cost:	\$2,100,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,400,000
Portfolio:	Sport; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Mansfield Station Precinct

This precinct involves two parts – the activities package and the heritage package. Both parts have been applied for through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program:

- Activities Package includes an all abilities playground, pump track, pathways and fenced dog park.
- Heritage Package is for Mansfield Heritage Museum Stage 2 Fitout & Exhibition space. Construction commenced Jan 2024 for museum building and the next stage involves design and fitout of the exhibition space, with support of enthusiastic project and co-contribution partners. It will be community cultural hub in the Mansfield Station Precinct near the Visitor Information Centre and First Nations Gadhaba Gathering Place. The package also includes Goods Shed refurbishment, Mullum wetlands rejuvenation and Railway Infrastructure Stock Loading Yards.

Total Project Cost:	\$13,300,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$13,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Murrindindi Shire

Alexandra-Thornton-Eildon Rail Trail Link – Great Victorian Rail Trail Extension – Stage 2

The Great Victorian Rail Trail Extension (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 ultimately link the premier tourist attractions of the GVRT and Lake Eildon. Eildon is a high-profile water-based activity destination. The Great Victorian Rail Trail use has seen an 18% increase of usage over the past 5 years.

Provision of an off-road trail will add to the list of tourist offerings and encourage visitors to stay. Construction of Stage 1 - Eildon Holiday Park to Eildon is now complete with large numbers of people using the trail in the first few months. Stage 2 covers Back Eildon Rd to Thornton section.

The Outdoor Education Group and local businesses support the project and its ability to drive visitation across the whole year through a safe off road activity. As 80% detailed design is completed, this project is shovel ready.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,000,000
Other Information	Open to co-fund with state government



Portfolio: Tourism; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Tourism Roads and Infrastructure Upgrade Package

The proposed upgrades will deliver important safety and amenity improvements at key tourist locations across Murrindindi Shire. Tourism North East identified that the Shire receives 1 million visitors each year but has the lowest economic yield across the region. Funding this significant infrastructure upgrade package is projected to boost the economic return by increasing the duration of visitor stays.

The road network servicing the Shire represents a significant risk to people traveling for work, holiday or study, with the alarming statistics from the TAC website which underline the gravity of the situation of our roads and safety. Since 1 January 2011, our small rural shire has witnessed 57 fatalities and 689 injuries. Completing this program of works will greatly enhance road safety and contribute to a reduction in road trauma.

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

- Reinstatement of Breakaway Bridge in Acheron as a safe / accessible tourism, emergency access and transport route following the devastating 2022 floods.
- Recreational Vehicle Accreditation Program – A program to upgrade intersections on high use transport and tourist routes to improve road safety and intersections that comply with current road safety standards.
- Kinglake West Streetscape works - Improvements to streetscape and parking at the Kinglake West Activity area to support increased visitation and tourism in the town.
- Castella Rd, Castella - Sealing and upgrade of the road so that the road meets appropriate road safety standards due to the increased traffic volumes.
- Snodgrass St, Yea – Provision of safe long vehicle parking close to Yea activity area and main shopping street providing a safer environment for road users and pedestrians.
- Cheviot Tunnel Rd, Limestone – Sealing and upgrade of the road so that the road meets appropriate road safety standards due to the increased traffic volumes.
- Two Hills Rd, Glenburn – Sealing and upgrade of the road so that road meets appropriate road safety standards due to the increased traffic volumes.
- Yea Wetlands Discovery Centre, Yea – Carpark extension and upgrades. Sealing and upgrades to informal parking area to provide additional parking to support increased visitation and tourism in the town.
- Alexandra Township – Tourism parking precincts. The provision of additional parking to support increased visitation and tourism in the town due to the new Alexandra Rotary Park Precinct upgrades.



Total project cost:	\$16,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$16,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Kinglake Memorial Reserve Master Plan Implementation

The Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve Master Plan has been prepared to optimise the use and benefits of the Reserve for active and informal recreation and seeks to provide quality facilities to meet current and future community needs. The Reserve is a central location for sporting groups in Kinglake Central and the surrounding townships. The infrastructure works will deliver appropriate upgrades and renewal that ensure this valued precinct meets the needs of the community into the future. The delivery of the Kinglake Memorial Recreation Reserve Oval Renewal Project will provide a playable surface for user groups and community, minimising the risk of injury and ensuring sporting codes can continue to train and play through all seasons. This project aims to improve accessibility for everyone, provide gender-inclusive facilities, extend the facility's usage to other user groups, and support an inclusive and engaged community.

Total Project Cost:	\$1,800,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$1,800,000
Portfolio:	Sport; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Road Rehabilitation Program

The Council's 720 km unsealed road network has significantly deteriorated due to the recent years (including in December 2023 -January 2024) of increased rainfall and persistent wet conditions and urgently needs repair. This gradual damage is not covered under Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

This project will involve replacing lost stone material washed away from the rain, rehabilitating the road pavement that has softened due to the extensive wet weather, improve the shape and profile of the road lost from the rain and improve road drainage through the installation of culverts at low areas. The project scope will also include significant resheeting, soil stabilisation and grading so that the roads are brought back to standard. Any future road rehabilitation or upgrade works should also be constructed so that the road is more resilient to the impact from climate change.

Rural roads in the current poor conditions have a high community cost. They are unsafe and contribute to the road toll; they slow down and damage farm and transport vehicles, pushing up the cost of labour and repairs. This is paid for with higher consumer product and food prices at the supermarket and elsewhere.



The last three years of high rainfall have undermined and degraded our road network to an extent that repairing the damage cannot be funded by Council alone. Additional major fund to address these issues is urgently required to deliver this program of works over two financial years (\$5 million per annum). This will bring Council's unsealed roads back to a safer, more durable and serviceable standard.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Mansfield and Murrindindi Shire Joint Project

Activating Eildon

The Activating Eildon Master Plan includes four projects to maximise return on investment, foster private investment and development, increase visitation, increase yield and address environmental issues through collaborations and partnerships:

1. 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 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.
2. The Jerusalem Creek Sewer would unlock the potential of Jerusalem Creek Marina, through the existing lease and private investment. The Sewer addresses existing environmental and health issues impacting water quality in the region. This project is shovel ready.
3. The Master Plan identifies preparation of background studies and planning scheme amendment for residential land in the township, serviced by the new sewer.
4. The final project is feasibility and prospectus development for two iconic accommodation developments on Goulburn Murray Water land identified for development of tourism destinations.

Total Project Cost:	\$48,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$48,000,000
Portfolio:	Tourism; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



Strathbogie Shire

Foundational energy infrastructure upgrades for reliable power supply

The lack of energy security is the most significant barrier to attracting new small to medium businesses to Strathbogie Shire. The tenuous supply situation also creates considerable risk to the community in the event of failure of this supply line during natural disasters such as bushfire.

Frequent power outages, some lasting days, are caused by a single electricity supply line connecting Benalla to Euroa via Violet Town. Since 8 November 2023, there have been 17 power outages in the area, some lasting longer than 24 hours. While these outages have in some cases been caused by extreme weather events, which neither power distributors nor governments can control, these towns are more vulnerable to power outages in the case of such weather events due to the design of the energy infrastructure which serves them.

While a second transmission supply line from Seymour to Euroa would ensure power reliability if the single line failed, AusNet is prohibited from cross-subsidising from other regions to build this infrastructure.

Strathbogie Shire is well placed to accommodate large scale renewable energy generation and distribution. There is no doubt that the contribution of renewable energy to the Victorian grid will increase and with a secure and stable distribution network Strathbogie can contribute and benefit.

Strathbogie Shire has been pursuing funding for a microgrid project through the Australian Renewable Energy Authority's Regional Australia Microgrid Program. The community has had some success in developing small-scale microgrid technology however a large-scale micro-grid for the Euroa township (Stage 2 expanding to Violet Town) will attract businesses to the Shire, supported by a more reliable and secure supply of energy via the grid. Council was unsuccessful in their expression of interest for the 2023 ARENA Community Batteries Project.

Funding is still requested to support sustainable solutions such as microgrids and stand-alone energy systems and provide an initial \$5,000,000 for a microgrid project in Euroa.

Total Project Cost:	\$5,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$5,000,000
Portfolio:	Climate Change and Energy

Provide fibre to the towns of Avenel and Violet Town

A large proportion of Strathbogie Shire's residents and businesses rely on fixed wireless internet connections. Slow speeds, dropouts, congestion at peak usage times and no mobile signal are causing dissatisfaction and disparity, including in areas which are only a short distance from town. Businesses and farms are not served well by fixed wireless internet connections and often face restraints from satellite services.

The need to meet the policy objectives of a universally available NBN in our rural community is urgent. More than 20 per cent of our population works in Agriculture, which heavily relies on



mandated online platforms, such as livestock management system record keeping, auctions to buy and sell stock as well as more innovative practices of remote security monitoring, farm mapping, security cameras, emergency communications and equipment research.

As the result of a collaboration with NBNCO, Strathbogie Shire Council seeks further rollouts of fixed broadband and fibre to the node connections. This would greatly improve services and reduce demand on the wireless towers. In 2022 the Council bid into Round Two of the Regional Connectivity Program for a \$5 million grant to fund the installation of fibre in the town, however this funding was declined. Improving internet connection would ensure the region does not miss out on economic development opportunities or exposed during emergency events.

Total Project Cost:	\$6,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$6,000,000
Portfolio:	Communications

Stage Three of Greening Euroa – Water Security

The Greening Euroa Project is an innovative community-driven project that uses recycled water to irrigate public green spaces during the summer months. This plan taps into the available excess water from the Euroa Wastewater Treatment Plant to irrigate public ovals, sporting grounds and parks and gardens in the summer months. This infrastructure will make our Strathbogie Shire a more climate resilient region, attractive to visitors and keep our open spaces green during years of climate variability and increasing water insecurity.

The preliminary work for Greening Euroa has been completed. Stage 1 and 2 of the project are now complete, with facility site audits, risk analysis and infrastructure design, and Treatment plant and route capital infrastructure design and quantity surveyor analysis and Environmental Management Plan. The Shire is now seeking \$3.8 million in funding for stage three, which involves implementation and construction.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,999,500
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,800,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government; Environment and Water

Road maintenance funding

Strathbogie Shire Council's 2,210kms road network has been significantly damaged by ongoing wet weather and floods. With about 7,500 ratepayers our ability to generate enough revenue to cover the actual costs to construct, maintain and upgrade roads and other assets is impossible without assistance from State and Federal governments.

Recent flooding and ongoing wet weather have deteriorated road surfaces to a point where some sections are difficult to navigate without significant reductions in speed. In some instances the whole road base has been washed away. It is frustrating for our community and it is a safety concern.



There has been a large increase in pavement failures due to the rain penetrating the sealed surface. The current cost of sealed road major patching works in our area can be between \$85 - \$125 per square meter depending on depth of pavement. The unsealed road infrastructure consists of roads which have a 150mm layer of manufactured material, typically a class 3 crush rock, and some instances Non-Descript Crushed Rock (NDCR) which is widely used for sheeting. The current cost to lay and compact the material to the original condition is about \$65 per lineal meter laid at a 4.5m pavement width.

Before the floods, we had 227.678km of roads that had been so badly impacted by ongoing wet weather they required re-sheeting, equating to \$14,799,070 to restore our road infrastructure back to the condition it was three years ago. Post flooding we estimate the damage bill could be three times this amount - reaching as high as \$50 million.

Total Project Cost: \$14,799,070. The full damage bill expected to be up to \$50 million.
Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Implementation Play and Open Space Strategy

Engagement and consultation commenced on the development of the Play and Open Space Strategy in October 2023 following nine months of assessments, audits and data analysis. This Strategy sets out Council's play and open space principles and identifies potential renewal, upgrades and investments for the coming 10 years. This strategy covers playgrounds, exercise stations, skate parks, dog parks and community open spaces. A key project identified is a youth space located in Euroa to incorporate a skate park, pump track, sound shell, informal gathering spaces and other youth lead initiatives. \$1 million is requested support the detailed design and construction of this exciting project.

Total Project Cost: \$1,150,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$1,000,000
Portfolio: Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government



Towong Shire

Bellbridge Boathouse

The unique, architecturally designed Bellbridge Boathouse will become an iconic regional attraction synonymous with Lake Hume. Leveraging the natural surrounds, the building will be the first Café and function centre on the Lake and will provide a desperately needed community and function centre.

In the absence of any other community building or shopfront business, delivery of the project will substantially increase the social and economic opportunities for locals and visitors, diversify the local economy, and provide employment now and into the future. The building will activate high-end public and local events, whilst supporting a diverse range of recreational opportunities that encourage healthy lifestyles for all ages. The Boathouse will also be at the gateway to the Great River Road touring loop which winds its way along the Murray River into the Upper Murray. The Council is contributing \$5 million, and the Hume Boat Club \$5,000.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,995,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

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 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. The trail will benefit all towns that run along the trail including: Tallangatta, Bullioh, Koetong, Shelley, Berrigama, Cudgewa and Corryong. Works include trail construction, bridge construction, trestle bridge restoration, signage, access, carparking, and seating and shelter infrastructure.

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:	\$20,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$20,000,000
Portfolio:	Tourism; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.



Corryong Integrated Community Centre

Establishment of a multipurpose integrated family and community centre in Corryong will deliver integrated community, library, maternal child health, childcare, and kindergarten services. The centre will upgrade disparate aging early years and family infrastructure into an integrated centre that supports all people with social and community connections and support. Council is currently contributing \$1.5 million to the project.

Total Project Cost:	\$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$8,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

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. The project also provides 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:	\$80,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$40,000,000 (Stage 1 only)
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Telecommunications Towers and Last Mile Connectivity Program

Telecommunications towers in various locations including Wymah (covering NSW and Victorian communities across the Murray River) are required to address significant mobile blackspots within the region, ensuring reliable communication and digital connectivity for emergency services, residents, and commercial operations.

Total Project Cost:	\$3,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$3,000,000
Portfolio:	Communications and Emergency Services



Rural City of Wangaratta

Organics Processing Plant

In 2020 Council developed the Wangaratta Organics Processing Plant. The current license for this plant allows for the processing of 12,000 tonnes of organic material per annum. This project would increase that capacity to 25,000 tonnes per annum so that the facility can 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.

With such an expansion the facility would service the Hume region of Northeast Victoria - becoming a true regional facility.

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.

The expansion to 25,000 could be completed within 2 years subject to material lead time and EPA approval.

Total Project Cost:	\$8,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$6,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure; Environment

Prosecco Road Tourism Project

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 project is in partnership with Tourism North East, who in 2021 developed the 'Activating King Valley Prosecco Road Plan' and three supporting business cases which identify key actions and indicative costings for investment.

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. It is expected to increase visitation from 38,000 per annum to 630,000 per annum.



This project focuses on developing the Prosecco Trail, which is a 2.5 meter-wide sealed trail linking wineries in the King Valley. Development includes 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 gridding cycle tracks, accommodation, and nature-based activities. The project would improve safety for locals and visitors by providing a corridor away from the road to walk or cycle.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000 - \$12,000,000
Other Information:	Open to co-fund and private sector investors
Portfolio:	Tourism and Community Infrastructure

Wangaratta Ovens College Site Redevelopment

Wangaratta is a growing regional city experiencing an increase in median house prices and increases in weekly rent. Current figures showing there are over 1000 social housing applicants in the local area with very few social housing options available.

The Wangaratta Ovens College Site is owned by the Rural City of Wangaratta with the intention to redevelop the site for a combination of around 230 social, affordable and key worker dwellings, a community hub, childcare and indoor play centre. It is in a prime location, close to the CBD and shopping precincts with links to public transport, local parks and playgrounds.

In order to deliver the redevelopment, \$5 million is required for precinct planning activities prior to construction, \$3 million is required for site preparation, such as safely demolishing old buildings, \$9 million is required for sewage and water infrastructure and solar and battery infrastructure, and \$20 million is needed to develop the mixed accommodation village.

Total Project Cost:	\$50,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000
Other Information:	Open to co-fund
Portfolio:	Housing; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Infrastructure to unlock housing growth

Critical capacity constraints with the Wangaratta sewerage network are compromising residential growth in Wangaratta and rural townships. This must be addressed. Master planning for the solution has been undertaken by the water authority, North East Water, with Council as a stakeholder partner.

Over the next three financial years, more than \$25 million in funding will drive much-needed water and wastewater infrastructure projects, which will address the changing needs of the community.



The key projects include \$13.5 million to construct two new sewer pump stations and \$4.5 to complete a system upgrade.



Total Project Cost:	\$25,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$15,000,000 - \$20,000,000
Portfolio:	Housing; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Wangaratta Creative Precinct expansion

The Wangaratta Creative Precinct is a vision that sees the co-development of the Art Gallery with the Performing Arts Centre and Visitor Information Centre, to create a holistic and vibrant creative precinct offering a range of inspiring cultural services and programs. These venues currently face barriers in accessibility, synergy and activation for locals and visitors. There is a lack of space for programming expansion and major exhibitions, and a lack of quality conference facilities that could attract large new events.

A precinct expansion would generate almost 110 jobs in its first year of construction, and almost 150 job by the tenth year. Regional tourism and economic benefit income would be over \$8 million in the first year, and \$12 million by the tenth. It could assist in attracting almost 190,000 visitors to the region annually, putting almost \$33 million into the local economy.

Total Project Cost:	\$20,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000
Portfolio:	Arts; Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government



City of Wodonga

Multipurpose community CBD space tender design and plans

Businesses in the Wodonga CBD continue to suffer negative impacts of both COVID-19 and border closures. It is critical development continues to be planned for and delivered to strengthen the southern end of the CBD, to generate north-south foot traffic and activity. There is a strategic parcel of council-owned land with ageing infrastructure housing a senior citizens group. This piece of land, within this creative and cultural civic precinct, provides a new development opportunity. Initial scoping identified a range of potential mixed-use options ranging from a curated historical exhibition space which would conserve, display and provide interpretation of items from existing collections, to draw on and support the visitor economy and enhance visitor experience, a hospitality offering, and commercial space for a mix of diverse businesses stimulating new jobs. Funding is needed for Stage 2 of this project: detailed design.

Total Project Cost:	\$500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$250,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

CBD Transport Network Safety, Reliability & Accessibility Connectivity Renewal

Wodonga's revitalised CBD features a well-established inner and outer ring road network.

The quality and convenience of the transport network connecting to the CBD remains critical to the overall liveability of the rapidly growing and changing city which services surrounding districts.

To further enhance convenience and accessibility, and improve road safety for all users including pedestrians, cyclists, abled and disabled users, improvements to the Water Tower roundabout and at the High Street/Huon Street intersection will facilitate improved traffic movements.

The Water Tower roundabout, which forms a major intersection accommodating a modelled peak of about 3,100 vehicle movements per hour and is likely to grow, requires improvements to increase vehicle efficiency and to facilitate vastly improved cyclist and pedestrian movements. Upgrades would cost in the order of approximately \$2 million.

The High Street/Huon Street intersection is identified as an increasingly congested location due to increased visitation in nearby recreational areas. Design works (approximately \$100,000) to this intersection are currently being undertaken and this will enable works to commence as soon as funding has been approved. Construction and signals installation is estimated to be in the order of approximately \$750,000.

Total Project Cost:	\$2,850,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$2,750,000



Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government

Construction of William Page Drive (Chapple St to the Bandiana Link Road)

The proposed road will link Chapple Street to the Bandiana Link Road and pass through industrial-zoned land parcels which are privately owned but undeveloped and vacant. The estimate for the construction of this roadway is approximately \$5 million, depending upon final configuration and design details. These design works are currently underway via a council-funded project which will see the project become shovel-ready as soon as funding becomes available. William Page Drive will provide a significant economic boost to the city by facilitating access to and developing industrial land, where there is currently a shortage of small industrial lots). It will also provide an additional and important road and freight link between the Bandiana Link Road and the industrial areas of Chapple Street, and to and from residential areas within the city.

Total Project Cost: \$5,100,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$5,000,000
Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, and Tourism

Other local projects

Flying Fruit Fly Circus

Located in Albury/Wodonga, the Flying Fruit Fly Circus is Australia's national youth circus, and the only full-time circus school for young people in Australia. Ongoing funding is required by the Flying Fruit Fly Circus to support annual artistic training and performances, and continue world class training. This funding would be used to increase the school's staff, including by two FTE circus program teachers, converting three current part-time roles to full-time, an IT and Digital Officer, People and Culture Manager and Marketing and Fundraising Officer.

Total Project Cost: \$16 million
Commonwealth Contribution: \$16 million (\$1 million for the first year then \$3 million per year for five years)
Portfolio: Arts

Albury Wodonga Regional Foodshare – Foodshare Precinct

The FoodShare Precinct will be built around a partnership of local community organisations which will connect people in need. This connection will be built around sourcing and distributing food relief services to Southern NSW and North-East Victorian communities.

By bringing together local businesses, agencies, communities, education, food producers and suppliers, the Precinct will bring the vision to life to ensure that everyone in our region has access to



sufficient healthy and culturally appropriate food for good health as well as access to support services and educational programs. The Precinct will also meet the increasing needs of communities in times of disaster and aid in minimising food wastage, promoting sustainability, encouraging good nutrition as well as training a future workforce.

Total Project Cost:	\$15,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$15,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Social Services

Operation Gamechanger – Centre of Excellence Therapeutic Care Farm

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services (MASS) provides a wraparound model of care including in-home, therapeutic term placement, family camp, transition, outreach, crisis, respite and permanent care for families and children across Victoria. Demand for MASS services currently far exceed infrastructure capacity to supply. To address this, MASS recently purchased a 100 acre farm that will become a Centre of Excellence Therapeutic Care Farm. If delivered, MASS's employment will double, respite nights more than quadruple, and they will be able to train around 170 health, disability, and education students and professionals on placement. With state and federal funding already secured, MASS commenced construction of the multi purpose activity centre. Federal funding is required to finalise this world class facility.

Total Project Cost:	\$26,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$26,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; National Disability Insurance Scheme



Key Stakeholder Priority Projects

Regional Development Australia (Hume) Region Wide Priorities

Regional Development Australia, Hume Region (RDA Hume) consults with 12 regional and rural local governments in advocating for investment into the region, as well as developing a single, unified voice and actively working to align government funding with regional priorities. In addition to the worthy support of local government priorities RDA Hume have identified the following projects as additional priorities from a region-wide perspective:

Unlocking the Regional Housing Opportunities:

- \$10m for Tourism North East to establish the NEWMAH worker housing pilot which will provide accommodation options for the visitor economy sector which underpins the North East region.
- Support local councils to undertake detail planning and business case development to bring land to the market for affordable, social and key worker housing developments.
- Work with RDA Committees to identify key Commonwealth government land that is surplus to requirements that could be relinquished for housing projects.
- Develop dedicated funding program to assist local government authorities, alpine resorts and statutory authorities, such as water corporations in Victoria, to co-fund the provision of enabling trunk infrastructure to bring forward housing subdivisions.

Key national significant projects that stimulate the economy:

- Continued growth of the Ride High Country initiative with financial support for marketing (\$4m over four years, private sector activation (\$2m) and infrastructure and enhancement projects (\$5m).
- Continued growth of Prosecco Road in the King Valley (\$5m).
- Support for Alpine Resorts (Mt Buller, Mt Hotham and Falls Creek) to fund productivity infrastructure to retain snow season visitation and grow green season activity (\$10m).
- Infrastructure investment into the Logic precinct in Wodonga to build on the Inland Rail project. The precinct has generated close to 1,000 jobs and over \$250m in capital investment. Investment to grow the capacity of existing infrastructure will ensure the precinct is able to continue to grow investment and employment for the region.

De-Risk Energy Transition to Accelerate the Region's Circular Economy:

- Funding programs to support the Net Zero Authority to engage with and develop transition plans for regional industries to be able to sustainably be able to transition to NetZero.



- Programs to support co-investment with industry to invest in new technology to improve climatic operating efficiencies. This would also help grow supply chain businesses.

Agribusiness Resilience Initiative - \$10m

The Hume region has experienced fluctuating climatic conditions with the 2019/20 bushfires, Spring 2022 floods and recently Sumer 2024 floods. The forecasted El Nino which has now been changed to El Nina has also had a major impact on farmers as they destocked for the forecasted drier conditions. The Hume RDA would welcome funding to support the resilience of our farmers in response to the dramatic climatic events. The funding would be used to working with key industry groups such as Murray Dairy, Fruit Growers Victoria, Wine and Food networks to highlight a select few to undertake business and resilience diagnostics of farmers and local events to strengthen their resilience and adaptative capacity in mitigating the impacts of climate change.



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



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



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

Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) Asset Upgrade and Renewal

ARV is requesting \$10.8m to invest in these State Government assets to effectively halt asset degradation and enable the delivery of high performing operations capable of meeting current and future resort demand. Critical investment is required if these major assets are to remain operational, and the resorts that rely on them continue to open and service mountain communities of visitors, residents and staff. This imperative is driven by the fact that the resorts are major contributors to the state economy, generating \$3.5b in economic output each year, and central to delivering positive financial outcomes to the surrounding regional areas. The proposed investment would support a package of 13 works across the areas of: water and energy supply; water and waste water treatment and geotechnical stability; resurfacing works; and public access and safety that would have wide-spread impact.

Total Project Cost:	\$10,800,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$10,800,000

Priority Projects – Mt Hotham

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: \$20,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$19,000,000

Hotham Heaven Walk and Trails Upgrade

Mt Hotham aspires to be the lead walking tourism destination in Victoria, leveraging its 360-degree vistas of the Australian Alps and stunning natural assets to deliver a world class walk experience. In support of this goal, Mt Hotham is looking to upgrade and expand its existing trail network to better meet market demand, and also develop a new iconic tourism attraction called the 'Hotham Heaven Walk'. Stretching from one end of the resort to the other, the Hotham Heaven Walk will feature cantilevered walkways and architecturally designed features and lookouts that will delight and inspire visitors, ensuring that it acts as major tourism driver for the High Country.

Total Project Cost: \$22,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution: \$21,000,000

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).

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

Falls Creek Alpine Community Sports and Events Hub

The facility will house an undercover portico and indoor multi-use training and events hub, with supporting essential infrastructure that will include accessible change rooms and toilet facilities, a commercial kitchen, storage facilities and incorporate universal design to facilitate activations by a wide range of potential users. The site is situated at the Nordic Bowl precinct and will incorporate minor works to provide a flat sports and playing area to enable a variety of opportunities for use.

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



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

Priority Projects – Mount Buller

Mt Buller Central Village Precinct – the Hub

This precinct would meet the needs of the growing visitor market in Victoria's busiest alpine resort, provide an enhanced visitor experience and improve public safety and amenity. The proposed new village square includes:

- An expanded public building with retail and commercial space to provide additional shelter and enhance visitor experience.
- Improved bus terminal and circulation to improve arrival experience and safety.
- A series of flexible spaces including the main 'event oval' with stage that can be used year-round for events and activities.
- A kids' play space, a proven activator, currently lacking in the resort.

Total Project Cost: \$22,500,000

Commonwealth Contribution: \$22,500,000



Building Mt Buller capacity, accessibility and visitation

This project brings together three critical pieces of community infrastructure that will make Mt Buller more accessible for its increasingly diverse range of visitors, by creating new sustainable snowplay and learner terrain facilities to deal with chronic capacity issues, a safe summit lookout offering stunning views to help increase year-round visitation, and safe drinking water infrastructure enabling resort growth and underpinning broader regional economic development objectives.

Total Project Cost:	\$9,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$6,000,000

Priority Projects – Mount Stirling

Mt Stirling Visitor Arrival Experience

Mt Stirling Alpine Resort is a peaceful, undeveloped, nature-based educational, recreational and tourism destination with very high environmental values. The Resort has strong connections to local, rural and regional communities. The Mt Stirling Arrival Experience project will provide Mt Stirling Alpine Resort visitors with a safe, comfortable and pleasurable experience when arriving at Telephone Box Junction (TBJ). The project includes upgrading and resealing the main and overflow car parks, sealing the section of road between the car parks and expanding the public shelter and available community space at TBJ. Visitor benefits include improved function, amenity, and shelter year-round..

Total Project Cost:	\$2,700,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$2,700,000

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

Potable 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

Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade

An upgrade is needed for the existing water water treatment plant to ensure only the cleanest possible liquid is discharged back into the ecosystem and also so the system can cope with winter daily usage amounts.

Total Project Cost: \$3,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution: Co-fund opportunity

Priority Projects – Mount Baw Baw

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



Albury Wodonga Health

New Single-Site Hospital

Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) is the busiest regional health service in the state outside of Barwon Health. As the population on the border grows, it's only going to get busier. By 2040 we will need a hospital capable of handling 150,000 emergency presentations, 40,000 surgeries and 1,900 births every year.

The AWH Clinical Services Plan (2021) recommends that AWH increase the range and complexity of services it provides so that members of the local community can access the care that they need, close to home. It further recommends that all acute and sub-acute bed-based services be located on a single campus to improve patient safety, to increase the ability to provide higher acuity care and to create efficiencies for workforce and support services.

In October 2022 the NSW and Victorian Governments announced a partnership to deliver a \$558 million redevelopment of Albury Base Hospital. They each pledged \$225 million in addition to the \$108 million already invested by NSW and Commonwealth Governments. This initial tranche will support consolidation of the majority (but not all) of acute clinical services to one site. However, the funding does not achieve the recommendations detailed in the 2021 AWH Clinical Service Plan to deliver a single site world-class hospital for the region.

There is a strong case for the Government to make a significant contribution towards funding the new, single site world-class hospital on the border.

Albury Wodonga Health Centre for Excellence for Rural and Regional Healthcare (CERRE)

Rural health workforce is a Commonwealth responsibility, and the CERRE is an opportunity for the Commonwealth to contribute to the new hospital. Albury Wodonga Health (AWH) Centre for Excellence for Rural and Regional Healthcare will be a purpose-built facility which brings together clinical practice, education, training and research, enabling AWH to educate and retain the healthcare workers the region needs. AWH is the largest regional public health service between Sydney and Melbourne with a catchment of 300,000 people and is undergoing a significant redevelopment which will see the Albury Hospital site transition to the health precinct the region needs. CERRE will be co-located on AWH's Albury Campus, and will provide a collaborative home for education, training and research onsite that leverages the expertise and resources of the CERRE partners. AWH is leading the project on behalf of its partners – Australian Defence Force, TAFE, Law Trobe University, Charles Sturt University and NSW Rural Clinical School. Funding of \$640,000 is needed to develop the model and analyse the strategic and economic benefits which would accrue to the region and the community.

Commonwealth Contribution: \$640,000



Health Care Worker Accommodation

This project seeks investment into state of the art accommodation facilities to accommodate key health workers to meet the ever growing demand of the Albury Wodonga and broader geographical locations. This new ask is in addition to the \$15M requested in the recent proposal for Key Health Worker accommodation from the Regional Funding Deal from 2022 to fully fund the project at an estimated total cost of \$63M.

Commonwealth Contribution - \$48 million

Eating Disorders Treatment and Coordination

This project aims to improve outcomes for those with an eating disorder and their loved ones by developing an improved system of care for a regional cross border health system, to meet the ideal of the National Eating Disorders Coordination (NEDC) Stepped System of Care. The model will require a joint initiative with publicly funded programs, non-government organisations and private health funds to increase the capacity of the service with benchmarking against established models that could be modified to suit the local region. The long-term goal will be a service that has a team of experienced clinicians who would support the stepped system of care. Model components have been devised so they can be implemented concurrently or as funding is available to support component parts.

Commonwealth Contribution - \$2.6 million (operational expenditure required over a 3 year horizon)

Brain and Mind Centre Albury expansion

This expansion is for a purpose-built fit out for an existing leased property to support integrated mental health, drug and alcohol clinical service delivery activities. The facility would accommodate key training activity programs for health care workers and create a shared space for social support services where the public can access a 'one-stop-shop' for clinical and support services

Commonwealth Contribution: \$2 million



Tourism North East

Delivering Key Worker Housing

Tourism North East in collaboration with eight Local Government and three Alpine Resort partners, have developed a solution to bring together planning, finance and construction to deliver much needed key worker housing.

Backed by a well-known financial institution, the NEWMAH (North East Workforce Management and Appropriate Housing) concept is aimed at activating the private sector, by enabling use of modular housing on privately owned land. To progress the initiative, Tourism North East is seeking \$6.6M in government investment to establish a dedicated entity/special purpose vehicle to develop and deliver this innovative solution.

Supported by a comprehensive business case, the initiative is expected to deliver a benefit cost ratio of 2.5.

Total project cost:	\$6,600,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,000,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Tourism; Housing

Ride High Country

The High Country is regarded as Australia's Premier Cycling destination; however, consumer awareness of the offering has and continues to be a significant barrier in attracting high yield visitation.

In 2017, the State Government invested \$4 million over 4 years into a dedicated communications program – Ride High Country (executed by Tourism North East) to profile the High Country's cycling tourism offering. The activity's primary objectives were to double cycling visitation from 103,000 to 206,000 visitors per year and increase total yield from cycling visitors from \$49 million to \$86 million.

By the end of the 2020/21 financial year (the end of year 3), the Ride High Country activity was responsible for attracting 225,000 cycling visitors, who spent an estimated \$130 million in the same year, exceeding expectations.

Due to the demonstrated success of the program, Tourism North East is seeking renewed funding to support the program for a further 4 years, with the aim to increase visitation to 390,000 cycling visitors per annum by 2027 and \$212 million in direct visitor expenditure.

Total Project Cost:	\$4,400,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$4,000,000



Portfolio: Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Tourism

Murray to Mountains Rail Trail Enhancing Project – Rutherglen Silo Community Arts Precinct

In partnership with Indigo Shire Council, the Rutherglen Silo Art Community Precinct is a community led initiative that forms part of the Murray to Mountains Rail Trail Enhancements Project. The concept plan and community engagement and business case are completed.

The project seamlessly integrates significant community social and welfare benefits, economic output and tourism outcomes - all critical to long-term sustainability.

This project will include critically needed infrastructure, landscaping work to ensure the site is pedestrian friendly, accessible and inclusive, as well as the transformation of the site into an arts precinct, including high end projection displays. Importantly, the precinct delivers a much-needed emergency recovery centre. Other features of the precinct include silo art, rail trailhead, commercial activation (bike sales and hire, servicing), and play spaces.

The Rutherglen Silo Art Community Precinct will deliver an additional 21,590 visitors annually to the region, \$5.3 million in total output and create 24 jobs.

Total Project Cost:	\$21,00,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$11,500,000
Portfolio:	Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; Tourism; Arts



Wodonga TAFE

Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence

The Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence (AMCoE) will be a state-of-the-art facility located within the Logical Innovation Precinct (LIP) in Barnawartha North. The AMCoE will provide an accessible environment that will be equally available to industry, individuals, schools, academia, Emergency Services and Defence to work collaboratively and build the required skills to enable creativity, research, innovation and learnings that will propel the future of manufacturing within the Albury Wodonga region.

The AMCoE at LIP supports the Federal Governments priorities of a "Future Made in Australia" and will allow the region to develop and retain skills in Advanced Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 through access to industry expertise and mentor programs alongside skills development and re-skilling via micro-credentials. These programs will be delivered within a purpose-built facility that shall provide access to high end industrial facilities and equipment that will both enable local enterprises to confidently invest in and adopt Advanced Manufacturing technologies, concepts and skills within their organisations.

The AMCoE will provide opportunities for training, research and development and as well as experimentation with emerging technologies that support advanced manufacturing principles. Available technologies shall include, but are not limited to those, such as heavy robotics, additive manufacturing, automation and precision engineering as well as digital design, data analytics, machine programming and cyber capabilities.

Total Project Cost:	\$20,500,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$18,500,000
Portfolio:	Skills and Training

Integrated Health Technologies and Innovation Hub

The Integrated Health Technologies Hub will be an exemplar of technology and innovation in regional Victoria that offers state of the art vocational education and training in nursing, allied health, aged care, disability and health service assistants to deliver the high-quality health care professionals of the future.

The IHTIH will be designed ensuring that there is a clear collaborative opportunity between the IHTIH and the Collaborative Health Education and Research Centre (CHERC). There will be clear pathways linking the IHTIH to the CHERC. This will create a collaborative cross border synergy, spanning from Vocational Education and Training to higher education, and bring together applied research and pure research.

Total Project Cost:	\$21,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$21,000,000



Portfolio: Skills and Training; Health

GOTAFE Wangaratta

[Expand Health in Wangaratta \(Docker Street\)](#)

The detailed design for the refurbishment of Building E (Health Precinct) within the Docker Street Wangaratta Campus has been completed, with an estimated cost of approximately \$12 million. Enhancing our health facilities is crucial to improved student attraction and experience via access to fit for purpose learning spaces.

Total Project Cost:	\$12,000,000
Commonwealth Contribution:	\$12,000,000
Portfolio:	Skills and Training; Health