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# Secretary’s foreword

The Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) was formed on 1 January 2019 to help grow our state’s economy and ensure it benefits all Victorians.

DJPR brings together talented people with a wide range of expertise and focus — from agriculture to creative industries through to tourism and attracting global investment — all with the shared purpose of creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions, and supporting inclusive communities.

Through our important inclusion work we are also ensuring more Victorians can enjoy the benefits of our state’s strong economy.

Passion, excellence, humility and respect — these are the qualities we cultivate in our workplace. I am proud of the culture of our department.

We are building a culture that values our differences, strives for excellence, fosters connectivity and nurtures talent. The diversity of people is our greatest asset — from our Interns to Executives, each team member holds a wealth of knowledge and diversity of opinion.

We work closely with our stakeholders across community and industry, understanding that consultation is key to getting things right and delivering on real need.

It’s been a privilege to lead this department since it formed and on behalf of our Ministers and the Executive Board, I would like to acknowledge and thank the DJPR team for their contribution to delivering on our purpose. We’ve started strong and I look forward to continuing the journey alongside this great team for the benefit of all Victorians.

## Accountable Officer’s declaration

In accordance with the Financial Management Act 1994, I am pleased to present the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions' Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Simon Phemister  
Secretary

# About the department

### About us

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

Our work supports six ministers, spans 10 portfolios and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. We also oversee various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards.

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

### Our purpose

Here at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, we’re firmly focused on growing our state’s economy and ensuring it benefits all Victorians.

For Victoria, this means:

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

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

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

## Changes to the department during 2018–19

### About the machinery of government changes

On 1 January 2019, the Victorian Government issued an administrative order under Section 10 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*, restructuring its activities via machinery-of-government changes to establish the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR). The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources was renamed the Department of Transport as the on‑going department (transferor) and DJPR (transferee) assumed the responsibilities of the non‑transport portfolios.

In addition, through the machinery-of-government changes, DJPR assumed responsibility for the following:

* Office for Suburban Development from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning;
* Office of Racing and the Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner from the Department of Justice and Regulation (itself renamed to the Department of Justice and Community Safety as part of the machinery-of-government changes);
* Sport and Recreation Victoria from the Department of Health and Human Services; and
* Latrobe Valley Authority, Biomedical Precincts and Cities, Precincts and Govhubs from the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

DJPR supports six ministers, spans 10 portfolios and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. DJPR also oversees various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards.

# Departmental groups

The department consists of eight groups, which work collaboratively to deliver on our purpose.

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

The Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) group builds trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses, from global enterprises to small businesses and start-ups, to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy.

JIBE does this by facilitating and enabling new investments, developing and attracting world-class talent, supporting key industry capabilities and infrastructure, building on the state’s strengths in innovation and advocating for a competitive and fair business environment that creates more jobs.

## Global Victoria

Global Victoria connects Victoria to global opportunities by building the export capability of Victorian businesses, connecting Victorians to trade opportunities through our international network, promoting our world class industry capabilities to international audiences and positioning Victoria as Australia's number one city for student experience. Global Victoria takes a leadership role in global engagement across Government and advocates for the best policy settings for Victoria to be globally competitive.

Global Victoria’s objectives are to grow the value of Victorian exports, grow the number of Victorian exporters, diversify our export market mix, strengthen our digital offering and the digital literacy of Victorian exporters, place inclusion at the heart of all our programs, and position Victoria as a world leader and preferred partner for international trade.

The international network of 22 Victorian Government Trade and Investment offices delivers for the whole of Victoria, using detailed knowledge of market opportunities to grow foreign direct investment (FDI) into Victoria and grow Victoria’s exports.

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

### Creative Victoria

Creative Victoria champions, grows and supports Victoria’s creative industries, investing in the ideas, talent, organisations, events and projects that make Victoria a creative state.

Bringing together diverse but interconnected sectors, Creative Victoria fosters new opportunities for innovation, collaboration, cross‑promotion and economic growth, both across the creative industries and in the broader community. Creative Victoria works to raise the profile, reach and impact of Victoria’s creative industries, supports the career development of Victorian artists and creative professionals, and ensures that all Victorians benefit from creative and cultural opportunities – from school students to diverse communities to businesses.

Creative Victoria also oversees the state’s major creative and cultural organisations, collections and facilities, valued at $7 billion, ensuring that these rich assets can be enjoyed by all Victorian people as well as visitors to the state.

### Sport and Recreation

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) supports Victoria’s sport and recreation sector and inspires Victorians to get active.

SRV is committed to ensuring greater access and opportunities for participation in sport and recreation for all Victorians, maintaining Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s sporting and major events capital, developing and improving the quality of community sport and recreation facilities and investing in major sports facilities to support events and high performance. In addition, SRV works to strengthen the capacity of sport and recreation organisations, continue a robust evidence base for activities in the sport and active recreation system and reinforce the enriching role that sport and recreation plays in people’s lives.

SRV works collaboratively with the not-for-profit, private and government sectors to implement policy and deliver programs and initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians, build stronger and more connected communities, deliver economic growth and jobs and enhance liveability.

#### Office for Women in Sport and Recreation

The Office of Women in Sport and Recreation supports the delivery of gender equality in the Victorian sport and recreation sector via Change Our Game, a suite of initiatives designed to increase leadership and participation in sport and recreation by women and girls, and via the successful implementation of a 40 per cent board quota for all funded sport and recreation organisations.

#### Racing

The Office of Racing administers racing legislation, supports and implements the government’s racing policy objectives and facilitates the ongoing relationship between the government and stakeholders within the racing industry. Key stakeholders include Racing Victoria Limited, Harness Racing Victoria and Greyhound Racing Victoria, the Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner, racing clubs, Racing Analytical Services Laboratory and key racing stakeholder bodies such as those representing owners, trainers, jockeys, drivers and other industry representative bodies.

The Office of Racing also has responsibility for the administration of funding support to the racing industry to deliver on key objectives of the government’s racing program.

The Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner (ORIC) is a statutory office established under the *Racing Act 1958*. ORIC conducts investigations into alleged breaches of the rules of racing and annual audits of internal integrity and animal welfare processes and systems within the racing industry.

### Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy

Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy (TEVE) is responsible for strengthening the profile of tourism and events across government and influencing strategic reforms and economic outcomes for the sector.

TEVE undertakes research and provides policy, strategy and industry development advice to the government and industry on the visitor economy. TEVE also provides governance support and advice to a number of entities that market the state, secure events, and manage large scale tourist attractions, precincts, facilities and entertainment venues in Victoria.

## Precincts and Suburbs

The new Precincts and Suburbs group drives strategic planning for precincts, suburbs and places to create vibrant, distinct and innovative communities. The group works to create more jobs for Victorians, thriving communities and sustainable growth by prioritising, sequencing, designing and delivering precinct and suburban developments.

The Precincts and Suburbs group develops priority precincts and places to attract investment and people, and create the conditions for businesses, education and training institutions to innovate by sharing knowledge, infrastructure and talent. To bring the voice of the people into government decision-making, the group actively engages citizens to shape government policy and support the planning and design of inspirational places and thriving communities.

### Suburban Development

Suburban Development has a lead role in ensuring all Melbourne residents have affordable access to housing and jobs, supported by the infrastructure, services and amenity they need for a liveable, sustainable future.

The Office for Suburban Development coordinates six Metropolitan Partnerships with business, community and local government members. It supports an annual program of engagement activity that forms a basis for the independent advice developed by each partnership. This puts community priorities at the heart of government. Suburban Development coordinates the provision of Metropolitan Partnerships advice to relevant Ministers and works with departments, local governments and regional stakeholders to action the partnerships' priorities.

Suburban Development also leads a Suburban Revitalisation Program that helps coordinate the redevelopment of key suburban centres in partnership with local government, business and residents.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

The new Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV) group is responsible for delivering DJPR’s vision in rural and regional places. RRV creates more jobs for more rural and regional Victorians, builds thriving economies and communities and enables place‑based collective impact.

RRV works across three portfolios – regional development, resources and agriculture (for forestry and game). Through Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA), RRV facilitates investment and promotes job creation in both established and emerging sectors. Both RDV and LVA provide vital support for regional communities during times of need – whether through intensive programs for economies in transition or helping regional Victorians recover from natural disasters such as bushfires and floods. RRV is responsible for sustainably managing natural resources (minerals, extractives, petroleum, forests) to support improved economic, employment and social outcomes.

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

## Agriculture Victoria

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

Agriculture Victoria has around 1100 staff who work at 47 locations throughout Victoria. The group works with the community and industry to enhance productivity and growth, as well as protect and grow market access by addressing trade barriers and managing the risks of pests, diseases and chemical use. Agriculture Victoria actively partners with industry and research institutions to innovate and accelerate adoption of new technologies and practices.

## Inclusion

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

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

## Corporate Services

The Corporate Services group enables DJPR people to focus on growing the state’s economy and ensuring it benefits all Victorians by creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions and supporting inclusive communities. Corporate Services works to build a safe, high-performing organisation where DJPR people are supported to achieve their best.

The group does this by providing strategic and operational support services that enable creativity and innovation.

The department is also supported in its delivery on outcomes by:

### Lead Scientist

The Office of the Lead Scientist aligns and connects Victoria’s innovation ecosystem and works across government — engaging with business, the research sector and the Commonwealth Government — to foster links and identify opportunities for the benefit of the economy and community.

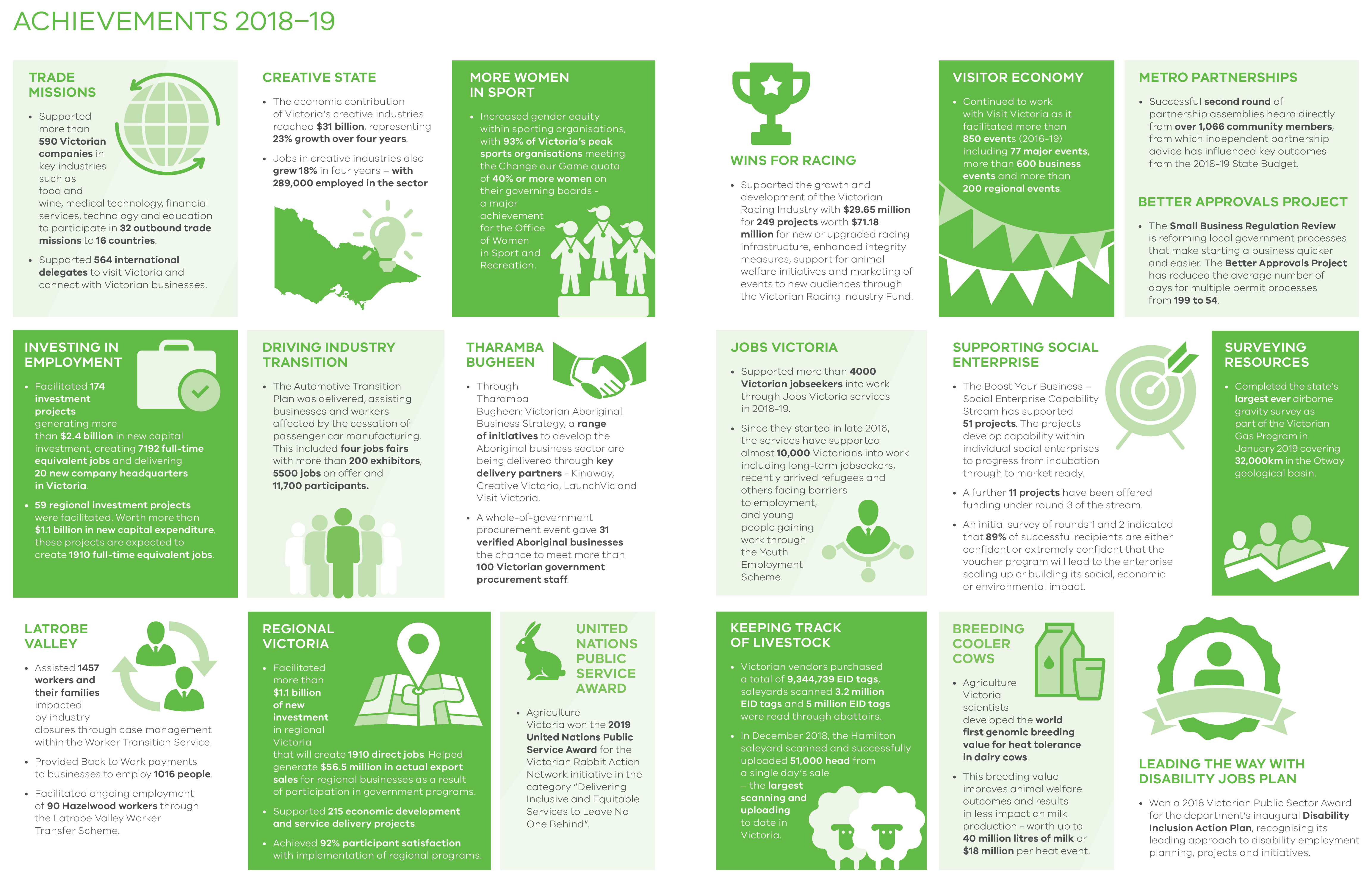
### Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams

Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams provides advice and analysis on economic and industry trends and emerging opportunities and risks. It drives a targeted and integrated government focus on the development of a small number of high‑growth potential and emerging sectors. Key sectors of focus include defence, aerospace, cybersecurity and autonomous vehicles.

The Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams works closely with industry and across government to better understand and capitalise on Victoria’s capabilities and strengths and target future growth opportunities.

### Climate Change in Industry Transition

To help Victorian industries and communities take advantage of Victoria’s shift to a carbon neutral economy and build thriving places and regions well adapted to climate change.



# ACHIEVEMENTS 2018–19

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

### Innovation and Bio Economy

* Supported the establishment of two new industry capabilities for Victoria’s medical technologies and pharmaceuticals sector – Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Advanced Biotechnology Manufacturing Platform and Biobanking Victoria Precision Medicine Services. These initiatives will build value for companies by retaining pre-clinical product development in Victoria, facilitating connections with global companies and supporting research commercialisation and translation.
* Secured the AusBiotech national conference, the Australia Biotech Invest & Partnering 2019 and 2020 conferences and the AusMedtech 2019 conference, supporting Victoria’s biotechnology, medical technology and pharmaceuticals industries.
* Supported Victoria’s start-up community with LaunchVic providing nine rounds of funding and supporting 386 companies and more than 4800 entrepreneurs through investments in skills, capabilities and business development since its inception.
* Provided $4.8 million to deliver accelerator and education programs for Victoria’s health and life sciences start-ups, bolstering Melbourne’s reputation as a leading health technology hub in the Asia Pacific.
* Provided $2.35 million to improve local investor education and help create the next generation of start-up angel and venture capital investors, including funding to the Wade Institute of Entrepreneurship to deliver university-affiliated start-up investor courses.

### Digital

* Attracted several premiere national events that showcase Victoria as a major destination for digital and other technology industries.
* Signed an agreement with the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) to relocate the AIIA headquarters to Melbourne and host Australia’s premier technology awards, AIIA’s national iAwards, from 2019 to 2022.
* Two premiere events showcased Melbourne as a major destination for the financial technology (FinTech) industry. Intersekt, the peak national event for the FinTech industry, supported the FinTech community and positioned Australia and Victoria as global leaders, attracting 700 attendees including 350 from overseas and interstate. The FinTech Awards gave more than 600 FinTech companies the opportunity for official recognition of their innovation and success and was attended by approximately 300 industry representatives.
* Supported more than 400 digital technology events through the 2018 Digital Innovation Festival, which attracted around 15,000 people across the state
* Supported the Australian Computer Society's Reimagination national conference, held in Melbourne for the first time in 2018 which attracted more than 1000 participants.

### Aviation

* Attracted new international airlines and direct international services to the state so that Victoria now has 37 international airlines flying in and out of Melbourne Airport. New airlines to Victoria in 2018–19 were Cebu Airlines and Air Vanuatu. Two new international destinations were added to the network – San Francisco and Port Vila.
* In late 2018, Victoria established its second international airport with the commencement of a double daily AirAsia X service from Kuala Lumpur to Avalon Airport. This new service is expected to be one of many new international services at Avalon, creating up to 200 jobs in Geelong and the surrounding regions over the coming years.
* In 2018–19, additional international airline services to the state are estimated to have added more than $60 million in gross value and more than 600 jobs to Victoria.

### Investment

* Facilitated 174 investment projects, generating more than $2.4 billion in new capital investment, creating 7192 full‑time equivalent jobs and delivering 20 new company headquarters in Victoria.
* Facilitated 59 regional investment projects worth more than $1.1 billion in new capital expenditure and creating an expected 1910 full‑time equivalent jobs.
* Attracted major investments including:
* Securing the establishment of Judo Bank’s headquarters in Melbourne bringing competition to this market segment and creating 100 highly skilled jobs.
* Supporting the re-opening and expansion of tourist theme park Gumbuya World, which is adding dozens of new attractions by 2021, including water slides, adventure rides and other visitor experiences that will grow visitor numbers, creating up to 485 new jobs in Melbourne's outer South East.
* Supporting the relocation of iSelect’s service centre operations from South Africa to Victoria and creation of a new Data Science Centre of Excellence, creating 155 new jobs. The Data Science Centre of Excellence will develop Victoria’s digital technology capabilities in areas such as machine learning, data science and artificial intelligence and will service both Australian and Asian markets.
* Attracting the new national headquarters of Nissan Australia and an electric vehicle technical training centre to Victoria, securing more than 450 local jobs. The facility will be in Mulgrave and includes 60 new jobs. The national technical training centre will be used to train dealers, engineers and technicians from Nissan sites around Australia and New Zealand.
* Awarding a Local Industry Fund for Transition grant to Australian Fresh Leaf Herbs to support the establishment of a new state-of-the-art production facility. This $20.8 million ‘Victorian Cultivation Campus’ investment will increase productivity, expand production capability, promote horticultural excellence, facilitate global market growth and create 108 new jobs.
* Supporting Aspen Pharma to secure the manufacture of Panadol for the state, creating 85 new jobs at its Dandenong facility. As a result of this investment, Aspen will produce more than 1.3 million Panadol tablets a day for Australia, South-East Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and New Zealand.
* Assisting CJ’s Victoria, which has launched US hamburger brand Carl’s Jr in Victoria and expects to build 30 restaurants throughout the state, with its expansion and its Cranbourne and Ballarat restaurants resulting in the creation of 64 jobs and $3.6 million in investment.
* Working with other government agencies to assist Riverlee, a private property developer, with planning and regulatory issues that will lead to the creation of 550 jobs and an investment of more than $450 million in Australia’s first ‘1 Hotel’ at Flinders Wharf. The hotel will have 280 rooms, a wellness centre and a 1000-seat function centre.
* Supporting Decathlon Australia to secure a Box Hill site that will create 60 jobs and result in an investment of $3.3 million. Decathlon Australia is the Australian subsidiary of the world’s largest sporting equipment and goods retailer.
* Supporting Carbon Revolution with expansion of the company’s pre-commercial manufacturing facility at Waurn Ponds that will see the scale-up of manufacturing to become a commercial-scale carbon fibre wheel manufacturing facility.

### Telecommunications

* Improved mobile connectivity across regional Victoria, with an additional 37 new mobile towers constructed. Additional agreements were reached for the Victorian Government to co-fund 58 more towers, with Commonwealth Government and industry co-investment.
* Commenced Public Wi-Fi pilots in Geelong and Shepparton, and Enhanced Broadband pilots in Morwell, Horsham and Geelong, supporting regional communities by enhancing digital connectivity.

### Regulation Reform

* Reviewed regulatory reform opportunities in the construction sector as part of the Small Business Regulation Review program. The reforms identified through the review are expected to save small businesses in the construction sector between $21.3 million and $42.6 million per year when fully implemented.

### Small Business

* Small Business Victoria’s digital channels included 3.8 million sessions in 2018–19 and a comprehensive digital information awareness campaign informed 1.1 million Victorian holders of Australian Business Numbers (ABN) about the new Long Service Leave Act 2018 which took effect 1 November 2018. The email campaign achieved open rates of 30 to 53 per cent and included SMS text ‘nudges’ to encourage recipients to open the emails.
* Transitioned the Small Business Festival program to a new program, Business Victoria Local Events. A once-off concurrence of the 13th Festival and Small Business Victoria’s free or low-cost workshops, business mentoring, Small Business Bus and local events programs resulted in more than 45,000 business participants receiving skills training by local experts, information and mentoring from experienced business mentors, and year-round local business networking events.
* In 2018, Victoria recorded Australia’s highest net growth rate of 4.8 per cent new businesses, above the national growth average of 3.5 per cent[[1]](#footnote-1). Small business programs fostered economic growth by supporting newly arrived migrants, refugees, people with disabilities, Aboriginal business owners, women and new business owners in metropolitan and regional areas.
* Small Business Victoria’s policy and service delivery included managing legislation for public holidays, ANZAC Day, retail leases, shop trading, daylight saving and the Victorian Small Business Commission, with policy and governance support for the VSBC. Secretariat for the Multicultural Business Ministerial Council and the Small Business Ministerial Council, assisting businesses impacted by bush fires in March 2018, and implementation of most reforms of the three Small Business Regulation Reviews of the Retail, Visitor Economy and Construction sectors.

### Advanced Manufacturing

* Delivered initiatives under the Advancing Victorian Manufacturing Statement, including the advanced manufacturing stream of the Boost Your Business Voucher Program, Regional Manufacturing Clusters and the Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 Program, guided by the leadership of the Advanced Manufacturing Advisory Council.
* Established the Additive Manufacturing Hub, the Automotive Innovation Lab, the Australian Graphene Industry Association and the Advanced Fibre Cluster to enhance innovation in product development and manufacturing in Victoria.
* Delivered the 2019 Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame Awards, recognising exemplary companies and individuals in the manufacturing industry, with two new awards introduced in 2019 to recognise business leadership in global supply chain partnerships and innovative product development and commercialisation.
* Supported the growth of the prefabricated construction sector and use of digital construction technologies through industry-led collaborations to connect Victorian industry and government procurers.
* Promoted opportunities for skills and talent needs in manufacturing in partnership with WorldSkills Australia as part of 2019 National Manufacturing Week.
* Hosted four Global Discovery Exchange events, supporting 28 Victorian businesses to visit cutting-edge manufacturers in Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, benchmark their practices against world-leading practice, and experience new technologies from leading global locations.

### Industry Participation

* Supported major investments in new manufacturing capability through initiatives such as the Future Industries Manufacturing Program and the Sector Growth Program.
* Implemented the Local Jobs First Policy in response to the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* becoming law in August 2018. The policy now comprises the Victorian Industry Participation Policy and the Major Projects Skills Guarantee which support Victorian businesses and workers by ensuring that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are given a full and fair opportunity to compete for government contracts.
* Established a Local Jobs First Commissioner. Mr Don Matthews, the inaugural Commissioner, balances advocacy, facilitation and compliance functions and works closely with industry and government departments to create opportunities for SMEs, workers, apprentices, trainees and cadets.
* Set local content requirements under Local Jobs First for 126 strategic projects from December 2014 to June 2019, with a combined total value of more than $64.5 billion and supporting 35,000 local jobs. Since its introduction, the Major Projects Skills Guarantee has been applied to 116 projects worth more than $63 billion, and these have led to more than 4 million contracted hours for 3700 apprentices, trainees and cadets.

### Industry Transition

* Delivered the Automotive Transition Plan, assisting businesses and workers affected by the cessation of passenger car manufacturing, including delivery of four jobs fairs with more than 200 exhibitors, 5500 jobs on offer and 11,700 job seekers in attendance.

### Food and Fibre

* Launched Taste Victoria, the Victorian Government’s roadmap for growing and investing in Victoria’s food and fibre exports. This $15 million initiative supports Victoria’s food and fibre sector through the Growing Food and Fibre Markets Program (Market Access) and Global Table.
* Delivered the inaugural Global Table event for Melbourne through a partnership with Food and Wine Victoria and Seeds & Chips Milan. Global Table was held in Melbourne in September 2019 attracting 3000 delegates.
* Attracted and supported major agri-food events, including Evoke AG at the Royal Exhibition Building, attended by 1200 people from 20 countries and Hort Connections at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre which attracted 3300 delegates.
* Supported Monash University to house the Food Innovation Centre (FIC) at its Clayton Campus. The Monash FIC is a one-stop-shop for food and fibre businesses to access world-class product and packaging design, development services, sensory evaluation, consumer testing, visualisation, and research laboratories.
* Since its move to Monash University in January 2017, the FIC has engaged with 7014 food businesses through speaking engagements, conferences and workshops across Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and China. More than 250 businesses have used FIC services, 4312 people have visited the FIC, and 51 workshops have been delivered on the topics of innovation and market insights.
* Awarded 87 vouchers under the Boost Your Business – Food Innovation Voucher Program to growth-oriented food SMEs for early feasibility testing of innovative business expansion opportunities or implementation of these opportunities.
* Created the Food Innovation Network (FIN) to bring like-minded people together with service providers to solve problems and create opportunities for food businesses in Victoria. A total of 900 registered businesses or individuals and 40 service providers now form the FIN’s community of practice.
* Sprout X is a pre-accelerator and accelerator for AgTech start-ups, equipping business owners with the skills needed to innovate and expand their business. A total of 41 participants have completed the pre-accelerator program, 20 have completed the accelerator program and 11 have graduated from the accelerator program with five from Victoria.
* Supported Ethical Clothing Australia which promotes ethical and transparent working conditions in the Australian textile, clothing and footwear industry. The initiative ensures workers in the clothing industry and supply chains have safe working conditions.
* Provided major investments in food and fibre including:
* A Food Source Victoria grant to Organic Dairy Farmers of Australia to expand and redevelop a $65 million dairy processing facility in North Geelong.
* A Food Source Victoria grant to WF Montague for an export distribution centre in Narre Warren.
* A Future Industries Manufacturing Program grant to Australian International Foods for construction of a new high-care food manufacturing facility in Scoresby.

### Skilled and Business Migration

* The Skilled and Business Migration Program supported the assessment of 1230 overseas qualifications to assist overseas qualified professionals gain employment in the Victorian labour market and fill skill gaps for employers.
* Nominated 4978 skilled, investor and business migrants to live, work and do business in Victoria. Of these 1967 have stated their intention to invest no less than $2.4 billion in total.
* The nominated skilled migrants included 1142 international student graduates, of which 428 had completed a PhD, including 272 international student graduates who recently completed their PhD in Victoria.

## Global Victoria

* Supported Victorian firms to achieve $668 million in export sales through participation in government programs such as the Access Program, the Outbound and Inbound Trade Mission Programs, Asia Gateway and Export Skills Program.
* Connected Victorian companies to international buyers and networks to foster business opportunities, as well as build the skills, knowledge and capability of Victorian businesses to enter and succeed in global markets.
* Supported over 590 Victorian companies in key industries such as food and wine, medical technology, financial services, technology and education, to participate in 32 outbound trade missions in 16 countries.
* Supported 564 international delegates to visit Victoria to connect with Victorian businesses and industry through the inbound trade missions program including the Avalon Airshow, the Virgin Australia Melbourne Fashion Festival, the Australian Formula One Grand Prix and the International Mining and Resources Conference.
* More than 260 Victorian companies participated in these inbound missions. Independent evaluations of trade missions indicate that involvement in programs has a positive and significant impact on participants. Trade mission participation was followed by an increase in export sales of between 92 and 187 per cent and an increase in employment of between 10 and 17 per cent.
* Delivered the Asia Gateway stream of the Boost Your Business Voucher Program, which supported 46 Victorian organisations to grow their business with the state’s top Asian trading partners. Businesses reported $3.2 million in immediate export sales to Asia, arising from their Asia Gateway Voucher projects.
* The Study Melbourne Student Centre (SMSC) relocated to Hardware Lane in Melbourne’s CBD, expanding its service offering to international students. The SMSC provides international students with Australia’s only free 24/7 student support, information and wellbeing service to address a wide range of issues including accommodation, health, employment, crisis management and legal concerns, as well as programs and events to connect international students to Victoria’s community and industry. In 2018–19, there were over 10,000 visits to the SMSC, with staff assisting students with more than 2200 enquiries.
* Since June 2016, the International Student Work Rights Legal Service (ISWRLS), based in the Study Melbourne Student Centre (SMSC) has provided free legal advice to students. In 2018–19, the service (in partnership with three Community Legal Centres), recovered over $53,795 in unpaid wages and entitlements for 124 international student clients. The Service supports student wellbeing by addressing issues such as workplace exploitation, mental health and safety.
* In 2018–19, the International Student Welfare Program partnered with over 70 organisations to deliver 36 projects supporting over 35,000 international students.
* Developed Globally Connected: Victoria’s Southeast Asia Trade and Investment Strategy, designed to strengthen relationships with key partners, to promote Victoria and to identify trade opportunities in education, tourism, agriculture and infrastructure. Its implementation is helping Victorian businesses seize opportunities in a more diverse range of markets.
* Expanded the Lead Intern Volunteer Experience (LIVE) Program to include domestic students alongside international students for the first time. Over 150 industry partners were engaged to deliver 119 events and activities, supporting over 2000 students. As part of the LIVE Program, over 200 business immersion ‘LIVE projects’ were delivered, assisting students to develop soft skills working in multidisciplinary teams on solutions for businesses.
* Delivered the Avalon Airshow, with a record attendance of 38,952 visitors including companies, official industry and governmental delegations and, for the first time, the showcasing of Victorian aerospace education and careers.

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

### Creative Industries

* Launched the First Peoples Action Plan for the Creative Industries 2018–2020, comprising 21 actions including new traineeships, a tailored employment program, cultural exchange opportunities and initiatives to build business capacity.
* Commenced development and consultation for the Victorian Government’s next four-year creative industries strategy, following on from the landmark Creative State Strategy which has entered its final year.
* Continued to implement the first Creative State Strategy, with the majority of the 40 actions now fully delivered and the remaining few well underway.
* Unveiled the re-opening of the Russell Street entrance to the State Library of Victoria, with a new welcome zone and reading rooms, a major new Victoria Gallery exhibition space and the Isabella Fraser Room event space. This is part of the historic $95.1 million refurbishment of the State Library of Victoria.
* In 2018, Melbourne was selected as the International Partner City for Asia’s premier design industry event, Business of Design Week in Hong Kong, with more than 220 representatives from across Victoria’s design industry taking part in a trade mission that showcased Victoria’s design strengths, capability and export potential to a global audience.
* Commenced work on Melbourne’s new winter festival, in collaboration with Visit Victoria and Melbourne International Arts Festival, a drawcard event which will launch in 2020 with a program of creative, cultural and culinary experiences of a scale not yet seen in Victoria.
* Commenced the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project. Melbourne architecture practice HASSELL, in partnership with New York’s SO-IL were appointed to begin the precinct masterplan and design the public space component of the project, comprising 18,000 square metres of new and renewed space.
* Supported the Wimmera-Mallee Silo Art Trail Project which has become Australia’s largest outdoor gallery, and a major tourist attraction for the region, with an art trail stretching 200 kilometres.
* Creative Victoria’s Melbourne International Games Week project continued to grow with more than 77,000 people participating in over 20 events in 2018.
* Appointed the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and the State Library of Victoria to design and deliver a ground-breaking creative business accelerator program, Foundry 658, which helped 10 creative teams turn their big ideas into sustainable businesses.
* The Regional Centre for Culture Program saw the City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Hepburn Shires host ambitious arts and community events that celebrate the rich creative and cultural life of the region.
* Commenced construction on the Australian Centre for the Moving Image’s $40 million redevelopment, which will see a major transformation of the building, a new interactive exhibition to replace the popular Screen Worlds and new event spaces, café, bar and shop. The project is scheduled for completion in mid-2020.
* The largest TV production to film in Victoria in over a decade, Preacher, employed over 740 local cast and crew at Docklands Studios Melbourne and injected $50 million into the state economy.
* Established the Australian Performing Arts Market office in Melbourne, bringing together Australian performing arts companies and programmers from around the world to build market opportunities for Victorian performing arts.

### Sport

#### Sport and Recreation

* Increased gender equity within sporting organisations, with 93 per cent of Victoria’s peak sports organisations meeting the Change our Game quota of 40 per cent or more women on their governing boards – a major achievement for the Office of Women in Sport and Recreation.
* Worked towards making sport and active recreation more inclusive through:
* Proud2Play and state sporting organisations that promote LGBTI inclusive participation.
* Reclink Australia’s delivery of both ‘pop up’ and formal sport and recreation activities targeted at low socio-economic communities, participants at risk of mental illness and drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness or as early intervention for people interacting with the criminal justice system.
* The development of Say No to Racism resources – assisting state associations and clubs to address racism at all levels.
* Conducting six camps for young Aboriginal people to strengthen their connection to Aboriginal culture.
* Supporting 59 clubs and organisations to deliver over 300 projects and initiatives to increase opportunities for people with a disability.
* Supported professional development of Victoria’s elite athletes through the Victorian Institute of Sport and Regional Academies of Sport.
* Increased participation and strengthened the capacity and accessibility of the sport sector through the Sporting Club Grants Program, funding 940 clubs across Victoria.
* Delivered Australia’s first fully accessible alpine accommodation facility at Howmans Gap Alpine Centre (Falls Creek), in partnership with the Victorian YMCA and Disabled Wintersport Australia.
* Our five Sport and Recreation Victoria camps located throughout regional and rural Victoria supported 70,000 Victorians to participate in programs that improve physical literacy and skills to promote greater participation in physical activity, as well as contributing $9.7 million to the local economy through local procurement.
* Hundreds of sporting clubs and communities across Victoria benefited from better local sporting infrastructure and new female friendly facilities through the Community Sports Infrastructure Fund and the Country Football and Netball Program.
* Funded 10 state sporting associations, local governments and regional sports assemblies to assist sporting clubs in a range of settings to promote gender equality, prevent violence against women and make our community safer for women and girls.
* Worked to increase participation in sport and active recreation, build a more sustainable sport and recreation sector, and increase integrity, equity, diversity and inclusiveness of the sector through the $27 million Together More Active Program.
* Invested in 43 community sports infrastructure projects to develop new multi-sport facilities, enabling communities to meet local need and encouraging participation amongst women, juniors, people living in growth areas and those experiencing disadvantage. These projects have produced $286 million investment in community sports infrastructure through leveraging $100 million worth of government-guaranteed and subsidised loans, via the innovative Community Sports Infrastructure Loans Scheme.
* Celebrated the role of women in sport and recreation with 52 local sports club events showcasing how important women and girls are to their success, funded by the Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program.
* Created a strong and growing Victorian sport sector that is skilled, inclusive, exhibits high integrity and practices good governance, by providing training and development opportunities such as:
* training for coaches, officials, administrators and volunteers, through the Supporting Victorian Sport and Recreation Program
* governance training for Board Directors, in partnership with Sport Australia
* delivery of Member Protection Information Officer training to Victorian sport organisations to support safe and equitable opportunities for participating in sport
* awarding 58 scholarships to women working or volunteering in sport and recreation in Victoria to access professional development opportunities in sport leadership and management
* facilitating cross-sector professional networking opportunities for sport development officers to strengthening knowledge sharing and innovation
* facilitating Regional and Metropolitan Sport and Recreation Forums to foster collaboration between Local Government Authorities, State Sporting Associations, Regional Sports Academies and other sport-related organisations.
* Raised Victoria’s reputation as the sporting capital and boosted local economies in regional Victoria via the interstate and international tourism expenditure generated through events supported by the Significant Sporting Events Program.
* Boosted participation, inclusion, safety, and access to sport and recreation facilities by providing over $101 million to 320 community sport and active recreation infrastructure projects across Victoria.
* Contributed to the state’s overall economy through continued work on major infrastructure projects, including the $225 million redevelopment of Marvel Stadium and upgrades to the State Netball Hockey Centre.
* Motivated more than 130,000 people to increase their level of fitness and physical activity during the month of April through the 2019 Premier’s Active April social marketing campaign — its biggest year yet.

### Racing

* Supported the growth and development of the Victorian Racing Industry with $29.65 million for 249 projects worth $71.18 million, for new or upgraded racing infrastructure, enhanced integrity measures, support for animal welfare initiatives and marketing of events to new audiences through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.
* Developed legislation to strengthen the integrity of the Victorian Racing Industry by establishing:
* the Victorian Racing Integrity Board, a new body that will have responsibility for the oversight of integrity functions across Racing Victoria, Greyhound Racing Victoria and Harness Racing Victoria
* a cross-code Victorian Racing Tribunal to hear and determine serious charges under the rules of racing and appeals against decisions of racing stewards.
* Delivered $17.5 million towards a $40.1 million initiative to relocate thoroughbred training from the Caulfield Racecourse Reserve to Cranbourne and Pakenham, unlocking additional public open space in the City of Glen Eira.
* Supported Racing Victoria to introduce Racing for All = Respect for All, an industry program aimed at improving participant wellbeing by addressing a range of workplace issues including anti-social behaviour, occupational health and safety and employment rights.

### Visitor Economy

* Continued to implement the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy.
* Worked with the Visitor Economy Ministerial Advisory Committee to release the Victorian Visitor Economy Strategy Action Plan progress report in July 2018, which showed Victoria is on track to reach the target to increase visitor spending to $36.5 billion by 2025.
* Collaborated with Visit Victoria to facilitate 77 major events, more than 600 business events and more than 200 regional events (2016‑19), including:
* Harry Potter and the Cursed Child
* White Night Geelong 2018 and White Night Bendigo 2018
* WWE Super Show-down
* Tudors to Windsors: British Royal Portraits – Bendigo Art Gallery
* Vidcon
* Wall to Wall in Benalla
* Peninsula Film Festival
* Launched a new website which allows consumers to make direct complaints about ticket scalping incidents and gives consumers up-to-date information on the latest declared events. djpr.vic.gov.au/ticket-scalping
* The expanded Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre was officially opened on 8 July 2018 following the completion of the $205 million expansion, making it possible for Victoria to secure more major world conferences, including the 2023 Rotary International Conference.
* Continued to support the tourism industry, through support to fire affected areas, conducting crisis preparedness workshops across the state and hosting presentations on accessible tourism.
* Led the Victorian Government response to the Victorian Ombudsman’s report: Investigation into child sex offender Robert Whitehead’s involvement with Puffing Billy and other railway bodies.
* Commenced implementing two actions arising from the Small Business Regulation Review (Visitor Economy), including:
* supporting innovative new ventures through regulation
* showing to businesses why road sign content is restricted
* creating an online application form for tourist road signage.
* Commenced a Regional Tourism Review, to examine opportunities to grow regional visitation and boost local businesses.
* Announced a detailed review of Federation Square, with two streams of work underway to identify a sustainable business model, improvements to governance arrangements and a new vision for Federation Square.

## Precincts and Suburbs

### Suburban Development

* Led the 2018 Metropolitan Partnerships Youth Forum.
* Led the successful second round of partnership assemblies, hearing from 1,066 community members.
* Sponsored the Metropolitan Development Advisory Panel to provide quarterly expert advice to the Minister for Suburban Development and Minister for Planning.
* Delivered the first year of the $2 million Metropolitan Partnerships Development Fund, funding 18 Metropolitan Partnership projects designed to develop regional priority advice.
* Finalised the Broadmeadows Revitalisation Board and Frankston Revitalisation Board reports to government.
* Supported delivery of the $33 million Pick My Project initiative to communities.

#### Metropolitan Partnerships

* Eastern Metropolitan Partnership played a key role in advocating for government’s $209 million commitment to build 1,000 new public housing properties across our suburbs, including in Whitehorse.
* Inner Metropolitan Partnership successfully advocated for $50.4 million to continue much needed assistance for the homeless.
* Inner South-east Metropolitan Partnership helped secure $154 million to create more than 6500 hectares of parkland with new walking and bike trails right across our suburbs, including 25 pocket parks in inner suburbs.
* Northern Metropolitan Partnership received support from government’s $1.6 billion to plan, build and expand new local hospitals, including at Craigieburn, Sunbury, Eltham and Whittlesea.
* Southern Metropolitan Partnership initiated invested in development of a regional social isolation profile and community asset mapping as part of the Southern Partnership's Education and youth Engagement priority.
* Western Metropolitan Partnership successfully advocated for $1.4 billion for construction of the 504‑bed Footscray Hospital.

### Priority Precincts

* Established the new Priority Precincts portfolio, including the governance, operating model, funding, prioritisation and sequencing of priority precincts.
* Established the Precincts and Suburbs Group and successfully implemented machinery‑of‑government changes to unite place‑based experts in one collective from multiple departments and agencies, including the Office for Suburban Development, Fishermans Bend Taskforce and Precincts teams.
* Established the Fishermans Bend Development Board and facilitated the 30-year lease of the former GMH site by Leonardo, the world’s ninth largest defence company.
* Completed the Flinders Street Station external restoration works and officially opened the Melbourne Exhibition Centre expansion project.
* Secured Parkville as the headquarters for US biotech Praxis Precision Medicines Asia Pacific and facilitated the University of Melbourne to invest $100 million in a new purpose-built biosciences facility.
* Completed the Arden Strategic Value Creation and Capture Plan.
* Established the Suburban Rail Loop Precincts work stream, partnering across all departments and agencies, and collaborated with Rail Projects Victoria to assess outcomes for key project options.
* Established the Sunshine priority precinct and commenced whole-of-government precinct planning.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

### Forestry and Game

* Commenced plantation establishment, which included the planting or preparation for planting of native blue gum seedlings on 550 hectares of Crown Land near Maryvale in the Latrobe Valley.
* Prepared an updated Allocation Order released by the Minister for Agriculture in April 2019, providing certainty for Victoria’s native timber industry and the jobs it supports. The department played a vital role in formalising amendments to the Allocation Order, enabling VicForests to proceed with a Timber Release Plan, which schedules timber harvesting operations through 2019–20.
* Released the draft Victorian Deer Management Strategy, a key action under the Victorian Government’s Sustainable Hunting Action Plan, for public consultation through Engage Victoria. Considerable community feedback was received during the public consultation process which is informing the final strategy.
* Delivered other key actions under the Sustainable Hunting Action Plan, including new hunting maps that show where game and pest animals can be hunted on public land throughout Victoria and the replacement and upgrade of 360 new signs and information totems at State Game Reserves and Parks that permit deer hunting.

### Resources

* Launched a new Earth Resources website providing communities and industry with improved information.
* Completed the state’s largest airborne gravity survey as part of the Victorian Gas Program in January 2019 covering 32,000 kms in the Otway geological basin.
* Delivered the second progress report for the Victorian Gas Program in February 2019 providing a summary of technical studies undertaken to date.
* Managed the tender process for five acreage release blocks in offshore south‑west Victoria (assessment currently undertaken by the regulator). Offshore gas exploration has the potential to find new sources of gas.
* Developed new Bill for introduction into Parliament to create the Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority, a key action in response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry.
* Released new guidelines setting out the application requirements for the resources industry and explaining the regulation assessment process.
* Released new land access tools to support rural landholders in negotiating with mineral explorers seeking to access their land for exploration activities.
* Renewed regulations covering mineral resources in Victoria due to existing regulations sunsetting on 30 June 2019.
* Oversaw commitment by the state of $5 million in June 2019 to support the $45 million CO2CRC Otway Research Project – Stage 3. This will transform the Otway national research facility into the best CO2 storage testing facility in the world.
* The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority approved the CarbonNet Project environment plan in April 2019 for its offshore appraisal planned for the summer of 2019–20.
* The first exploration licence under the Stavely Ground Release Tender was granted in March 2019.
* Launched a community adviser grants pilot program for the Fingerboards mineral sands mine proposal in East Gippsland in June 2019.

### Latrobe Valley Authority

#### Support for business

* Provided funding to establish or expand 135 businesses in the Latrobe Valley through reimbursements of state and local government fees and charges.
* Improved local and social procurement practices through 57 businesses participating in the GROW (Growing Regional Opportunities for Work) Gippsland Compact.
* Partnered with local industry on four identified sectors for future growth: Food and Fibre, New Energy, Health and Wellbeing and the Visitor Economy.
* Assisted 1457 workers and their families impacted by industry closures through case management within the Worker Transition Service.
* Provided Back to Work payments to businesses to employ 1016 people.
* Facilitated ongoing employment of 90 Hazelwood workers through the Latrobe Valley Worker Transfer Scheme – a negotiated agreement between the Victorian Government, Latrobe Valley unions and Latrobe Valley power operators designed to facilitate the recruitment of Hazelwood workers into jobs created through early retirement at other power generators in the Latrobe Valley.
* Partnered with two local transport companies seeking support to diversify their workforce and encourage more women into driving roles, by delivering three information sessions in Morwell and Sale with 26 women signing up to two courses.

#### Support for community

* Approved 100 grants through the Community and Facility Fund to a total value of $11,333,142.
* Completed construction of the Traralgon Tennis Centre under the Latrobe Valley Sport and Community Infrastructure program.
* Commenced construction of the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, Traralgon Sports Stadium, Latrobe City Sports and Entertainment Stadium, Morwell Recreation Reserve, Ted Summerton Reserve, and Sale Tennis Centre under the Latrobe Valley Sport and Community Infrastructure program.
* Employed 34 young people and re‑engaged 29 in secondary or vocational education through the Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley program.
* 10,000 people attended the World Jousting Championship, with 50 per cent from outside the region, and five per cent travelling from interstate.

#### Support for education

* Commenced construction on an innovation centre as part of the $17 million Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland which will also co‑locate the already established TAFE Gippsland Morwell Campus, the Gippsland Tech School, Latrobe City Council’s Kernot Hall, Lake and Immigration Park.
* Partnered with Department of Education and Training to develop a vision and strategic plan for internationalising schooling and developing the intercultural capabilities of students at Latrobe Valley secondary schools.
* Provided ‘real world’ experiences to local students through the Broadening Horizons industry‑school partnership program, a collaborative effort of industry and education to ensure secondary school students have practical skills for the workforce.

### Regional Development Victoria (RDV)

* Led work in rural and regional Victoria that contributed to regional Victoria having the highest performing economy in rural Australia in 2018–19.
* Facilitated more than $1.1 billion of new investment in regional Victoria that will create 1910 jobs.
* Helped generate $56.5 million in export sales for regional businesses as a result of participation in government programs.
* Supported 215 economic development and service delivery projects.
* Achieved 92 per cent participant satisfaction with implementation of RDV programs.
* Established Victoria’s first Cross Border Commissioner with Luke Wilson commencing on 15 October 2018, with funding from the 2018–19 Victorian Budget.
* Oversaw completion of construction of the $9.25 million Leopold Community Hub (Stage 2) which features a civic space, a library and life‑long learning centre, community kitchen, community and youth meeting space, and circulation space to link services.
* Supported the GROW project, which continued to expand with 110 organisations signed up to the GROW Compact. GROW has created 247 jobs and 39 employment pathways in targeted disadvantaged communities since it started in 2016. GROW has helped deliver a $16.8 million shift to local procurement, achieving a 7.5 per cent decrease in non‑local procurement.
* Worked with more than 60 Latrobe Valley‑based businesses to develop transition plans, equipping them with options and strategies for transition and assistance as part of the Latrobe Valley Supply Chain Transition Program for businesses affected by the closure of the Hazelwood Power Station and the Carter Holt Harvey Timber Mill.
* Completed the $10 million Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund, creating hundreds of new jobs from projects supported.
* Delivered Round 3 of the Wine Growth Fund, with 78 projects funded in regional Victoria that assist with developing tourism and visitation to wineries and wine regions, including supporting new cellar door projects and building on two previous highly successful funding rounds of this program.
* Helped more than 45 projects progress under the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF) as well as the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, realising the delivery of more than $51.81 million in grant payments against a total project value of $435.77 million. RDV also provided oversight that facilitated the approval of five economic infrastructure projects under the RJIF, with a total of $17.25 million in grants towards overall project costs of $44.3 million.
* Continued the Ready When You Aredigital marketing campaign to highlight the benefits of living in regional Victoria to a Melbourne audience.
* Assisted regional manufacturers with initiatives under the Future Industries Manufacturing Program including facilitating the establishment of Regional Manufacturing Clusters.
* Delivered the Food Source Victoria Program, working with Agriculture Victoria to support new and existing agri‑food business alliances with innovative business growth opportunities.
* Assisted new dairy industry investments such as ACM Holdings at Girgarre, Freedom Foods at Shepparton and Organic Dairy Farmers at Geelong, which created new jobs in the dairy industry with a focus on high‑value exports, following the closure of processing plants by Murray Goulburn.

### Regional Partnerships

* Barwon Regional Partnership: played an instrumental role in the signing of the Geelong City Deal by the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments in March 2019. Other major projects include the Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre and securing funds to revitalise central Geelong.
* Great South Coast Regional Partnership: developed a Regional Disability Sector Workforce Needs Analysis and Action Plan. The partnership is leading this initiative with Community Southwest and received $195,000 from the government’s Stronger Regional Communities Plan to progress this work. The partnership also supported Stage 2 of the Shipwreck Coast Master Plan.
* Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership: worked with the Department of Education and Training and Department of Health and Human Services, with support from Murdoch Children’s Research Institute on the By-Five initiative to improve early years provision.
* Central Highlands Regional Partnership: supported a roadmap for zero emissions, with work led by the Grampians New Energy Taskforce that included the 11 Grampians local government areas, RDA Grampians, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, RDV and others.
* Ovens Murray Regional Partnership: developed the Wangaratta Digital Hub and the Wodonga Business Innovation Hub.
* Goulburn Partnership: supported and championed the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Masterplan Project to develop a more resilient and adaptive region.
* Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership: continued to expand its Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative, after it received $5 million in the 2018‑19 Victorian Budget. As part of this, in June 2019 the Healthy Heart of Victoria Active Living Census was sent to local households.
* Gippsland Regional Partnership: established the Food and Fibre Working Group, made up of senior professionals from industry, government, innovation, education and the community to advocate for the industry and drive activity in the region. Food and Fibre Gippsland was launched in May 2019.
* Mallee Regional Partnership: championed the establishment of a Cross Border Commissioner to address regulatory hurdles affecting border communities. The priority originated from the Mallee Regional Partnership Assembly in 2016, and has culminated in the appointment of Victoria’s inaugural Cross Border Commissioner in October 2018. The Mallee Regional Partnership was also a key advocate for the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre in Mildura, which opened in May of 2019.

### Rural and Regional Strategy Branch

* Set up a new Rural and Regional Strategy team to lead, coordinate and deliver cross‑portfolio strategic projects and initiatives to improve the Victorian Government’s approach to rural and regional development and advise on strategies and actions to support jobs, liveability and inclusion.
* Established a priority project to deliver: a new approach to whole-of-government regional collaboration and integration; a contemporary approach to rural and regional development; and to enable operational reforms to Rural and Regional Victoria Group.
* Engaged and consulted with more than 80 key internal and external stakeholders on future directions for rural and regional development.
* Established a new Whole-of-Victorian Government working group to progress future approaches to rural and regional development.

## Agriculture Victoria

* Coordinated the delivery of $45.754 million in targeted support for Victorian farmers and rural communities affected by drought in Central and East Gippsland and dry conditions in Northern and North West Victoria. This included on‑farm drought infrastructure and pasture recovery grants, business assistance, mental health and small business support and community resilience initiatives. Agriculture Victoria also delivered technical support activities for farm businesses and one-on-one consultations and advice specific to Central and East Gippsland.
* Provided relief and recovery services to fire and flood incidents affecting agricultural land, including the Gippsland fires in March 2019. During and following these fires, 68 Agriculture Victoria staff spent 286 days responding, in addition to the 1336 days wider departmental staff contributed to the DELWP fire response.
* Won the 2019 United Nations Public Service Award for the Victorian Rabbit Action Network initiative in the category “Delivering Inclusive and Equitable Services to Leave No One Behind”.
* Led the Planning for Sustainable Animal Industry reforms, making it easier for farmers, investors, local government and regional communities to understand planning requirements for farm infrastructure development projects.
* Delivered the Navigating Farm Development web‑based decision support tool helping dairy farmers navigate regulatory and planning requirements for farm infrastructure development projects. In addition, the new Panel of Animal Industry Experts assisted a range of farmers and local governments to navigate planning and permit requirements for animal industries. To support this project the department ran workshops and provided grants to Victoria’s small-scale pig and poultry producers to support the newly established graduated planning controls, enabling a simplified permit application process for lower‑risk farms. These tools are making it easier for farmers and local government to plan infrastructure investments.
* Responded to a range of emergency animal disease and plant pest and disease detections, including the detection of the bee parasite Varroa mite at the Port of Melbourne, Brown marmorated stink bug, Khapra beetle and bacteria Pseudomonas syringae pv actinidiae.
* Facilitated orders under the Plant Biosecurity Act 2010 to reduce the risk of 26 pest plants and diseases entering Victoria from other jurisdictions, or further spreading within Victoria. These include serious pests that could pose significant biosecurity, environmental and public health risks, such as electric ants from Queensland.
* Continued to implement electronic identification (EID) of sheep and goats. Since 1 January 2019, all sheep and goats introduced from interstate and born after this date are required to have an electronic tag before leaving a Victorian property. Victorian vendors purchased a total of 9,344,739 EID tags, saleyards scanned 3.2 million EID tags and 5 million EID tags were read through abattoirs. In December 2018, the Hamilton saleyard scanned and successfully uploaded 51,000 head from a single day’s sale – the largest scanning and uploading to date in Victoria.
* Delivered support to small‑scale and premium producers through the delivery of the Artisanal Sector Program roadmap and grants program. Over $1.1 million in grants were awarded to almost 250 businesses. This supported businesses to invest in equipment and small‑scale infrastructure, training and development of specialised skills and services to improve their ability to market their products.
* Commenced the roll‑out of the Digital Agriculture Strategy which outlines key actions for the agriculture portfolio to support Victorian farmers to harness the benefits of digital agriculture. The centrepiece of the strategy was a $27 million commitment to digital initiatives, including the $12 million On‑Farm Internet of Things (IoT) trial. Key activities completed included work to determine the IoT technology that will underpin the trial.
* Continued to implement the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan, including opening three new tiers of grants and continuing to provide free on‑farm energy assessments. Agriculture Victoria delivered more than 30 small grants worth almost $1 million, and assessments continue to identify zero and low‑cost options to assist farm businesses to reduce energy costs and run more efficient businesses.
* Delivered key projects and programs under the $200 million Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund (AIJF) to promote the performance and resilience of the agriculture sector. AIJF invested in enabling economic infrastructure along agriculture supply chains, with more than 30 Local Roads to Market projects completed in 2018–19. The $200 million fund closed on 30 June 2019 and is fully committed.
* Our scientists developed the world first genomic breeding value for heat tolerance in dairy cows, improving animal welfare outcomes and resulting in less impact on milk production worth up to 40 million litres of milk or $18 million per heat event.
* Continued to support the Managing Fruit Fly in Victoria: Action Plan 2015–2020. Approximately $2 million in grants was awarded to community members, regions and regional coordinators to support the implementation of the action plan. Its implementation has seen the removal of host wild trees across the three horticultural regions, Greater Sunraysia, Goulburn Murray Valley and the Yarra Valley. The action plan has also supported the transition of the Greater Sunraysia Industry Development Committee to a new governance model and development of extensive communication and engagement programs.
* Developed and deployed fast, accurate and user‑friendly genome‑based field tests to detect plant and animal pathogens. Designed for in‑field surveillance by biosecurity officers, a test for Queensland fruit fly is being used for the first time in the world in the Yarra Valley to support market access of cherries into Japan.
* Our scientists delivered accelerated breeding technologies to the grains industry that contributed to the development of new oilseed, cereal and pulse germplasms (including canola, safflower, wheat, barley, field pea, lentils and chickpea), as well as varieties with improved grain yield, grain quality, disease resistance and heat tolerance.

### Animal Welfare Victoria

* Implemented five new schemes under the ***Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017***. These new schemes further regulate the breeding of dogs, reform pet shops, regulate the sale of animals outside of a pet shop and improve traceability of dogs and cats.
* Launched the Pet Exchange Register (PER) in early June 2019. The PER introduces a level of traceability that makes it difficult for illegal breeders to sell dogs and cats online and through print publications. From 1 July 2019, advertisements for dogs and cats for sale or to give away will need to include a source number generated by the PER.
* Delivered the Victorian Responsible Pet Ownership (RPO) Program to 123,920 children across a total of 3039 schools and preschools. This includes 784 visits to schools with presentations to 62,164 children and 2255 visits to preschools with presentations to 61,756 children. The RPO Program teaches children how to interact safely with dogs and includes a visit to the classroom by a trained Pet Educator and a specially trained dog.
* Delivered state‑wide Animal Management Officer Seminars with more than 200 officers attending. The seminars covered a range of topics including basic biosecurity principles, impounding of livestock and new schemes under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*. Animal Welfare Victoria also delivered specialist auditor training to authorised officers from local councils.

## Inclusion

### Aboriginal Economic Development

* Established the Aboriginal Economic Development Branch, as a result of the core commitment of DJPR to work with the Victorian Aboriginal community to achieve economic prosperity, wealth and independence. Since its establishment the branch has:
* Assumed responsibility for Tharamba Bugheen: Victorian Aboriginal Business Strategy (2017 – 2021), which was transferred from Small Business Victoria.
* Worked with community stakeholders to develop community engagement and partnership protocols in the development of our Aboriginal partnership model and structure.
* Commenced the development of a DJPR Aboriginal Recruitment and Career Development Strategy to ensure the department at a minimum meets its target of 2 per cent Aboriginal employment by 2022.
* Convened workshops focussed on building relationships with the Aboriginal community and a more Koori‑friendly and responsive jobs program to achieve better employment outcomes.

#### Tharamba Bugheen: Victorian Aboriginal Business Strategy

* Delivering the Tharamba Bugheen: Victorian Aboriginal Business Strategy, with strategic priorities of providing accessible support and advice for Aboriginal businesses; improving their visibility and networks; and strengthening their entrepreneurial culture and business experience.
* Delivering a range of initiatives to develop the Aboriginal business sector with the help of key delivery partners – Kinaway, Creative Victoria, LaunchVic and Visit Victoria.
* Delivered the following key achievements through Tharamba Bugheen, including activity undertaken by key delivery partners:
* Grew the Kinaway business directory from 25 members to more than 100 Aboriginal verified business members.
* Held a whole‑of-government procurement event where 31 verified Aboriginal businesses met more than 100 Victorian government procurement staff from across government.
* Delivered targeted events to support and promote Aboriginal businesses, including capability building and networking; opportunities for ‘wholesale ready’ businesses to grow their market and profile; and promoting participation and career pathways into the interactive digital media industry.
* Procured the Digital Content for the Next Generation of Aboriginal Entrepreneurs research paper on how to engage young people in entrepreneurship.
* Supported significant business development of Victorian Aboriginal tourism entities, including the creation of new Aboriginal tourism images and video assets available for use by tourism operators through Visit Victoria as well as profiling them internationally.
* Appointed three Aboriginal business owners to the Small Business Ministerial Council.
* Delivered the ‘Open for Business’ program, in partnership with the Australian Retailers Association which focuses on building the capability of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers.

#### Jobs Victoria

* Supported more than 4000 Victorian jobseekers into work through Jobs Victoria services in 2018–19. Since late 2016, these services have supported more than 10,000 Victorians into work including long‑term jobseekers, people facing barriers to employment such as recently arrived refugees and young people gaining work through the Youth Employment Scheme.
* Allocated funding through Jobs Victoria for 10 projects trialing new approaches to employment services. Key achievements of the projects include the placement of 40 secondary students with disability into School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships in regional Victoria, the development of a new employment pathway program for African Australians into the Victorian Police Force that is supporting 30 people into employment and the development of a pilot program that will assist up to 200 transgender women to gain or maintain employment.
* Allocated $6 million to leverage the Victorian Government’s infrastructure investment to connect jobseekers facing barriers to employment. The Increasing Employment Inclusion on Victoria’s Major Projects program connects young people from Aboriginal and migrant communities as well as women into jobs on Victoria’s major projects.

#### Community Revitalisation program

* The Community Revitalisation program is providing $10.8 million over four years to support local communities across Victoria to develop new pathways to employment for people facing entrenched barriers to meaningful, ongoing work. Community Revitalisation is a place‑based approach that involves the community as active participants in co‑defining issues and co‑designing and delivering solutions.
* Community Revitalisation is currently running in: Dandenong and Doveton in Melbourne’s south‑east; Flemington in Melbourne’s inner north‑west; Broadmeadows, Campbellfield and Meadow Heights in Melbourne’s north; Shepparton in the Goulburn-Murray region; and Werribee and Tarneit in Melbourne’s west.
* This program also funds the Microenterprise Development Program which provides support services to help people develop, finance and launch their own business. Alongside access to microfinance, program participants are assisted with business planning, and ongoing coaching and mentoring. The program is being delivered in the Latrobe Valley, Dandenong and Doveton by Good Shepherd Microfinance, and in Broadmeadows, Campbellfield and Meadow Heights by Many Rivers Microfinance. It will be delivered to 340 participants over three years, across the three locations.

#### Social Procurement Framework

* Established the Victorian Social Procurement Framework which came into effect on 1 September 2018 and applies to all purchases of goods, services and construction by the Victorian Government, which has a total combined value of over $27 billion each year.
* An example of Social Procurement in action is the Knoxbrooke Enterprises’ Yarra View Nursery – a wholesale social enterprise nursery that employs people with disability. It has provided the Bayswater and Heatherdale level crossing removal projects with plants and landscaping services. The Level Crossing Removal Authority has a 3 per cent target of total contract spend to be procured through social enterprises, Aboriginal businesses and direct employment of disadvantaged jobseekers in the supply chain.

#### Social Enterprise support

* Australia’s first Social Enterprise Strategy has a total budget of $10.8 million. In addition to the strategy’s original allocation, funding has been reprioritised to supplement round two of the Boost Your Business – Social Enterprise Capability Stream in 2018 ($80,000) and facilitate an additional Round 3 of vouchers ($225,000).
* Supported 51 projects through the Boost Your Business – Social Enterprise Capability Stream. The projects develop capability within individual social enterprises progressing from ideation, incubation and start‑up, through to procurement‑ready and investment‑ready stages and to access market opportunities presented by the Social Procurement Framework. A further 11 projects have been offered funding under Round 3 of Boost Your Business.
* DJPR is currently supporting the establishment of a state‑wide Social Enterprise Network to support business growth, improve sustainability and build investment readiness. The network will operate across Melbourne and regional Victoria to better connect the social enterprise community and provide access to learning, knowledge exchange and capability development opportunities.

## Corporate Services

* Coordinated the entry of new Ministers into the portfolio and the entry of the new Secretary and other senior staff into the new department.
* Enabled the smooth enactment of the machinery‑of-government changes, including the creation of DJPR and the Department of Transport, and the transition of incoming and outgoing functions. The integration of efforts across Corporate Services ensured people were well supported, able to easily collaborate and positioned to provide a strengthened service offering across the department.
* Won a 2018 Victorian Public Sector Award for the department’s inaugural Disability Inclusion Action Plan, recognising its leading approach to disability employment planning, projects and initiatives.
* More than doubled the intake of students with disability through the Australian Network on Disability’s Stepping Into Program from four in 2018 to nine in 2019, increasing the department’s disability confidence.
* Hosted the 2018 Victorian Public Sector Pride Network Awards and won the Regional Initiative of the Year Award along with DELWP and Parks Victoria for fundraising efforts in Bairnsdale on Wear It Purple Day.
* Established and strengthened the department’s employee‑led networks, including those related to gender, LGBTIQ pride, Aboriginal people, culturally diverse people and people with disability.
* Continued to embed manager capability by providing development opportunities to build our people managers’ skills to lead and support a safe, high‑performing and inclusive workforce. Evaluation of these programs has revealed significant improvements in participants’ capability and effectiveness by an average of 19 per cent, including improvements in personal impact (21 per cent) and the ability to positively influence culture (20 per cent).
* Developed and rolled out the Integrity, Conflict of Interest and associated policies for the new department.
* Implemented the new department’s Child Safe Strategy and Reportable Conduct Scheme, strengthening the capacity of the department to prevent and respond effectively to allegations of child abuse.
* Significantly improved accessibility, personal productivity, and collaboration across the department while reducing the department’s carbon footprint through the delivery of new personal computing tools and training to more than 1800 people.
* Increased our service offering through the establishment of a Tech Shop, which provided face‑to-face and virtual IT support to approximately 500 staff across regional and metropolitan locations.
* Strengthened security of our information while enabling flexible working through the deployment of Multi Factor Authentication.
* Provided legal support to the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Offices across the globe covering a diverse range of issues and challenges including commercial, security, employment and office establishment, having regard to local jurisdictional laws.
* Successfully defended a Supreme Court challenge to the administrative and statutory moratorium on onshore petroleum exploration and production.
* Updated supplier invoice payment processes and systems lifting the department’s supplier payment performance with the proportion of invoices being paid within 30 days increasing from 78 per cent to 92 per cent.
* Delivered the Emergency Management Assurance Report that identified key activities and examples of best practice, ensuring the department is meeting its mandated responsibilities.
* Engaged 10 Aboriginal suppliers and 60 Social Enterprise suppliers in the first six months of DJPR, with a combined spend of $1 million.
* Refreshed the corporate policies to ensure they are succinct and easy to read, connect users easily to someone who can help and are fit for purpose for the new department.

### Office of the Lead Scientist

* Partnered with universities and businesses on priority science, technology and innovation issues of the Victorian Government. This enabled universities and businesses to be responsive to government priorities, such as transport infrastructure.
* Produced Australia’s first STEM ecosystem map, recognising that Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills will enable our next generation to be ready for future jobs. The map provides a resource to align and connect businesses, community and government to STEM initiatives. The map shows the programs and activities across the state to encourage young people to engage with STEM. Increased participation of young people in STEM will ultimately lead to more creative and adaptable employees.

### Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams

* Following establishment in April 2019, capture teams have been formed to focus on identifying and targeting industry development and investment opportunities for the defence sector and the autonomous vehicle sector.
* Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams also looks for emerging opportunities, such as the aerospace and cyber sectors.
* Regular economic and industry intelligence data and analysis is provided to Senior Executives and the department to inform the outlook on the economy and industry performance.

# Entities

As at 30 June 2019

### Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

* LaunchVic
* Local Jobs First
* Victorian Small Business Commission

### Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

#### Creative Industries

* Arts Centre Melbourne (ACM)
* Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI)
* Docklands Studios Melbourne (DSM)
* Film Victoria
* Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC)
* Melbourne Recital Centre
* Museums Board of Victoria
* National Gallery of Victoria (NGV)
* State Library Victoria (SLV)

#### Sport and Recreation Victoria

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

#### Office of Racing

* Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV)
* Harness Racing Victoria (HRV)
* GRV and HRV Racing Appeals and Disciplinary Boards
* Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner

#### Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy

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

### Precincts and Suburbs

* Development Victoria

### Rural and Regional Victoria

* Regional Development Victoria

#### Resources

* Office of the Mining Warden
* Office of the Latrobe Valley Mine Rehabilitation Commissioner

#### Forestry and Game

* Game Management Authority
* VicForests

### Agriculture

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

## Ministers

The department supports six ministers across 10 portfolios.   
As at 30 June 2019, they were:

| Minister | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Martin Foley MP | Minister for Creative Industries |
| Gavin Jennings MLC | Minister for Priority Precincts |
| The Hon. Marlene Kairouz MP | Minister for Suburban Development |
| The Hon. Martin Pakula MP | Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade  Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  Minister for Racing |
| The Hon. Adem Somyurek MP | Minister for Small Business |
| Jaclyn Symes MP | Minister for Regional Development  Minister for Agriculture  Minister for Resources |

The department also provides advice and support to parliamentary secretaries.   
As at 30 June 2019, they were:

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

## Executive Board

The DJPR Executive Board (EB) is the department’s primary governance body. At 30 June 2019, members of EB were:

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Simon Phemister | Secretary |
| Penelope McKay | Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |
| David Latina | Deputy Secretary, Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement |
| Gonul Serbest | Chief Executive Officer, Global Victoria |
| Andrew Abbott | Deputy Secretary, Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy |
| Alex Kamenev | Deputy Secretary, Precincts and Suburbs |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Victoria  Chief Executive, Regional Development Victoria |
| Emily Phillips | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture  Chief Executive, Agriculture Victoria |
| David Clements | Acting Deputy Secretary, Inclusion |
| Matt Lowe | Head, Industry Intelligence and Capture Teams |
| Amanda Caples | Office of the Lead Scientist |

## Audit and Risk Committee

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

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

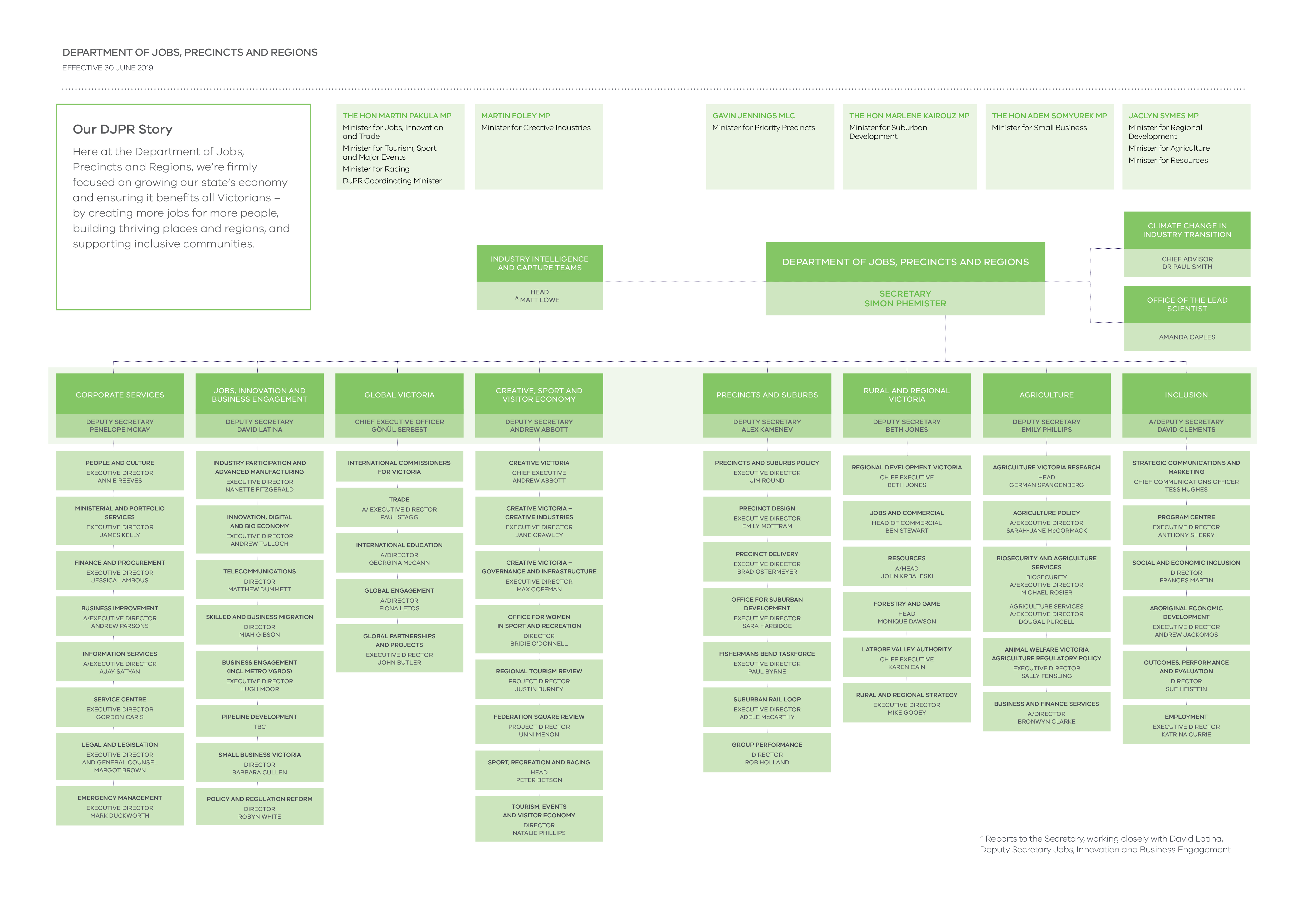
* financial and performance reporting
* risk oversight and management
* internal control systems
* legislative and policy compliance.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Role |
| Michael Perry | Chair and Independent Member |
| Pam Mitchell | Independent Member |
| Patricia Neden | Independent Member |
| David Clements | Acting Deputy Secretary, Inclusion |

## Legislation administered by the department

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



1. ABS Cat. 8165.0 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)