Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Annual Report 2020-2021

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# Secretary’s Foreword

Since our formation in 2019, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR) has played a vital role in guiding Victoria’s economic progress through COVID-19, bushfires, drought, severe weather, avian influenza and more.

In reflecting on 2020–21, I want to begin by acknowledging the efforts of the DJPR team in responding to the pandemic – from supporting businesses and industries to adapt to the restrictions that have helped keep Victorians safe, to delivering initiatives to protect and grow jobs, and partnering with stakeholders to shape COVIDSafe plans. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in equipping businesses and industries to navigate this exceptionally difficult landscape.

I also want to briefly highlight some of our progress in 2020–21 that positions Victoria for the future. Over the past year, we’ve worked to attract business investment to the state and build the export capability of Victorian businesses. We’ve also delivered programs to help businesses implement digital solutions to improve productivity, drive growth and create jobs.

Continuing to cement Victoria’s position as Australia’s leading destination for culture, sport, tourism and events remained a priority, demonstrated by the delivery of the 2021 Australian Open amidst the uncertainty of COVID-19.

We’ve also worked to further secure a strong future for Victoria’s agriculture industries and our forest and game resources. And delivered a range of initiatives to make our suburban, regional and rural communities even better places to live, work and do business.

Our Corporate Services team has done a terrific job too in supporting DJPR people do all this, and more, to benefit all Victorians.

It is a privilege to lead such a dedicated team as we respond to the evolving challenges of COVID-19 and position Victoria for economic recovery and growth. We remain firmly focused on creating more jobs for more people, building thriving places and regions, and supporting inclusive communities.

Thank you to everyone here at DJPR; it’s been a significant team effort.

## Accountable Officer’s Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Simon Phemister  
Secretary

# About the Department

## About us

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

Our work supports seven ministers, spans 15 portfolios (as at 30 June 2021) and operates across metropolitan, regional and international offices. We also oversee various public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards and work with many government, industry and community stakeholders.

## Our purpose

Here at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, we’re firmly focused on Victoria’s economic recovery and growth and ensuring it benefits all Victorians.

For Victoria, this means:

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

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

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

# Changes to the department during 2020–21

## About the machinery of government changes

On 22 June 2020, the Premier announced the appointment of new Ministers and changes to Ministerial portfolios. On 1 July 2020, the following machinery of government changes came into effect:

* Local Government Victoria from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning joined DJPR and became part of the new Local Government and Suburban Development group.
* The Place Based Reform team from the Department of Premier and Cabinet joined DJPR.
* The Medical Research team from the Department of Health and Human Services joined DJPR.
* Priority Precincts team in DJPR has been split between the new Business Precincts team in DJPR and the Department of Transport.

These changes reflect the realignment of portfolios across the VPS.

As part of these changes, Martin Pakula MP, has taken responsibility for the new Business Precincts portfolio and DJPR supports two new ministers:

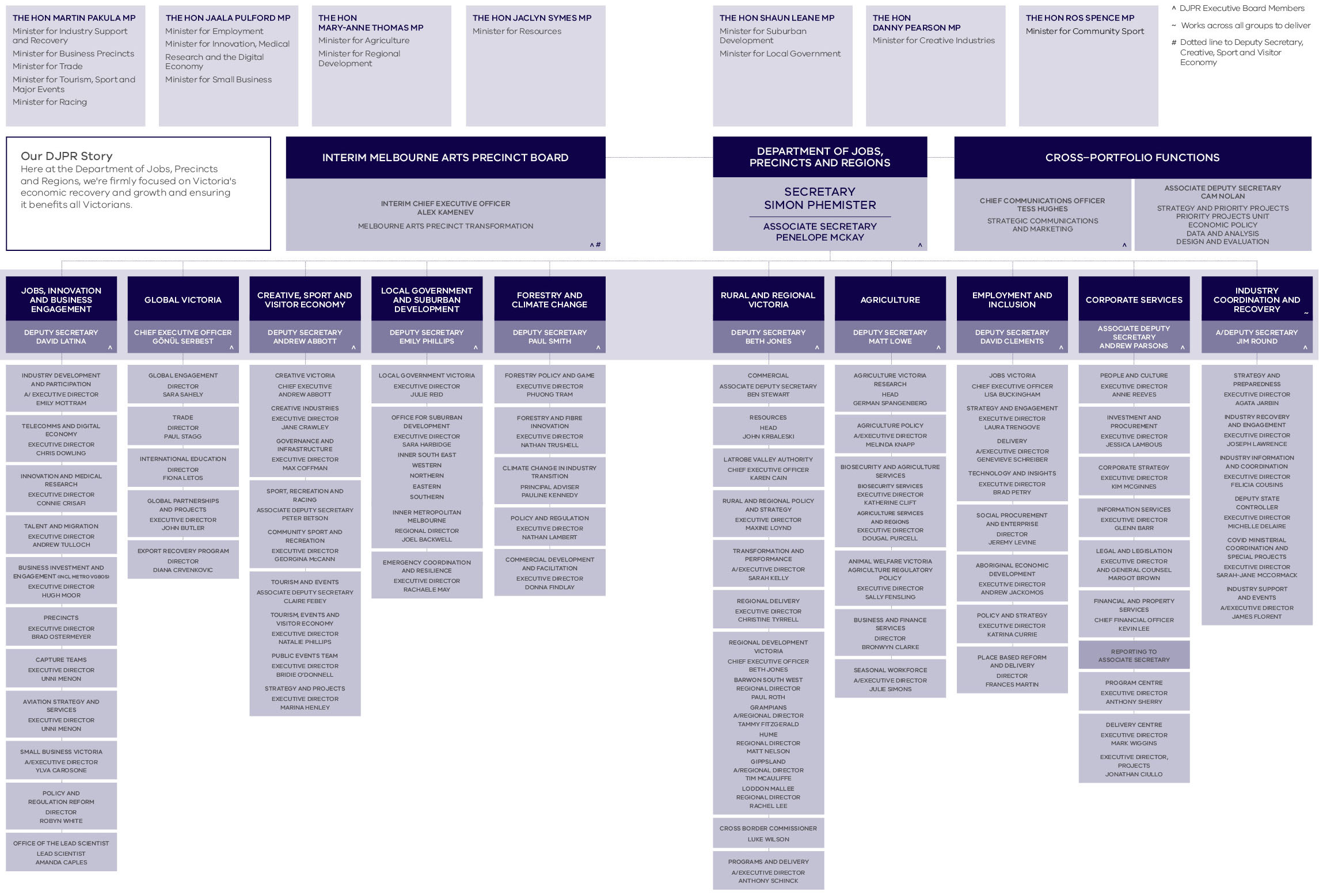
* Jaala Pulford, Minister for Employment; Small Business; Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy since 22 June 2020.
* Shaun Leane, Minister for Local Government and Minister for Suburban Development was sworn in 25 June 2020.

Further changes to portfolios resulted in two additional Ministers being supported by DJPR:

* Danny Pearson was sworn in as Victoria's Minister for Creative Industries on 29 September 2020.
* Mary-Anne Thomas was sworn in as the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Agriculture on 22 December 2020.

## Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions organisation chart

Effective 30 June 2021



### Our DJPR Story

Here at the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, we're firmly focused on Victoria's economic recovery and growth and ensuring it benefits all Victorians.

## Ministers

The department supports seven ministers across 15 portfolios. As at 30 June 2021, they were:

| Minister | Role |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon. Martin Pakula MP | Minister for Industry Support and Recovery  Minister for Business Precincts  Minister for Trade  Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  Minister for Racing |
| The Hon. Jaala Pulford MP | Minister for Employment  Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy  Minister for Small Business |
| The Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas MP | Minister for Agriculture  Minister for Regional Development |
| The Hon. Jaclyn Symes MP | Minister for Resources |
| The Hon. Shaun Leane MP | Minister for Suburban Development  Minister for Local Government |
| The Hon. Danny Pearson MP | Minister for Creative Industries |
| The Hon. Ros Spence MP | Minister for Community Sport |

The department also provides advice and support to parliamentary secretaries. As at 30 June 2020, they were:

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

## Executive Board

The DJPR Executive Board (EB) is the department’s primary governance body. At 30 June 2021, members of EB were:

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Simon Phemister | Secretary |
| Penelope McKay | Associate Secretary |
| David Latina | Deputy Secretary, Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement |
| Gönül Serbest | Chief Executive Officer, Global Victoria |
| Andrew Abbott | Deputy Secretary, Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy |
| Emily Phillips | Deputy Secretary, Local Government and Suburban Development |
| Paul Smith | Deputy Secretary, Forestry and Climate Change |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Victoria;  Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Victoria |
| Matt Lowe | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Employment and Inclusion |
| Jim Round | Acting Deputy Secretary, Industry Coordination and Recovery |
| Andrew Parsons | Associate Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |
| Tess Hughes | Chief Communications Officer |
| Alex Kamenev | Interim Chief Executive Officer, Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation |

## Audit and Risk Committee

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

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

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

### In 2020–21, the ARC members were:

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Michael Perry | Chair and Independent Member |
| Pam Mitchell | Independent Member |
| Patricia Neden | Independent Member |
| Nanette Fitzgerald | Executive Director, Industry Development and Participation (until May 2021) |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Employment and Inclusion |

## Legislation Administered by the Department

[djpr.vic.gov.au](https://djpr.vic.gov.au/) details DJPR administered legislation between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

# Entities

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

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

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

### Creative Industries

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

### Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy

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

### Sport and Recreation Victoria

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

### Office of Racing

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

## Rural and Regional Victoria

### Resources

* Office of the Mining Warden
* Mine Land Rehabilitation Authority

### Regional Development

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

## Agriculture

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

## Forestry and Climate Change

* VicForests
* Game Management Authority

## Local Government and Suburban Development

### Local Government Victoria

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

# Departmental groups

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

The Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) group works to build trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses – from global enterprises to small businesses, universities and start-ups – to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy. The group does this by facilitating and enabling new investments, developing and attracting world-class talent, supporting key industry capabilities, planning and delivering precincts with significant economic and renewal potential, building on the state’s reputation for innovation and medical research, and advocating for a competitive and fair business environment that creates more and fairer jobs.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| David Latina | Deputy Secretary, Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement |
| Emily Mottram | A/ Executive Director, Industry Development and Participation |
| Chris Dowling | Executive Director, Telecomms and Digital Economy |
| Connie Crisafi | Executive Director, Innovation and Medical Research |
| Andrew Tulloch | Executive Director, Talent and Migration |
| Hugh Moor | Executive Director, Business Investment and Engagement (Incl Metro Vgbos) |
| Brad Ostermeyer | Executive Director, Precincts |
| Unni Menon | Executive Director, Capture Teams;  Executive Director, Aviation Strategy and Services |
| Ylva Carosone | A/ Executive Director, Small Business Victoria |
| Robyn White | Director, Policy and Regulation Reform |

### Office of the Lead Scientist

The Office of the Lead Scientist works across the Victorian Government to foster linkages and identify opportunities for economic outcomes by engaging with business, the research sector and the Australian Government. The Office identifies emerging economic opportunities (e.g. space industries and quantum technologies), advocates for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) skills and raises community awareness of science and innovation.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Amanda Caples | Lead Scientist, Office of the Lead Scientist |

## Global Victoria

The Global Victoria group connects Victoria to global opportunities by building the export capability of Victorian businesses and connecting them to global trade opportunities through its international network of 23 offices.

The Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) network delivers a strong and effective on-the-ground presence in key global markets. This international network is a critical conduit for Victorian companies to commence their export ambition or widen their export footprint. This network is the largest and strongest of any state or territory in Australia.

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

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Gönül Serbest | Chief Executive Officer, Global Victoria |
| Sara Sahely | Director, Global Engagement |
| Paul Stagg | Director, Trade |
| Fiona Letos | Director, International Education |
| John Butler | Executive Director, Global Partnerships and Projects |
| Diana Crvenkovic | Director, Export Recovery Program |

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

The Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy (CSVE) group works to strengthen Victoria’s status as Australia’s leading cultural, sport, racing, recreational, tourism and events destination. The group also works to ensure the best cultural and sporting experiences are accessible to everyone. It does this by building the resilience of the experience economy to adapt to change and to provide more secure jobs and diverse experiences for Victorians and visitors.

Creative Victoria works to raise the profile, reach and impact of Victoria’s creative industries. It does this by supporting the career development of local artists and creative professionals, and overseeing the state’s major creative and cultural institutions, collections and facilities.

Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy works to strengthen Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s leading tourism and events destination. This includes supporting the development of new and innovative tourism products, destinations, and visitor experiences, administering major events legislation, as well as supporting key visitor economy entities such as Visit Victoria, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust, Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy Railway) and the Australian Grand Prix Corporation.

To support the return of COVIDSafe public events in Victoria, the Public Events Team engages directly with event organisers and stakeholders to help develop and implement COVIDSafe event plans for arts and cultural, live performance, community festival, sporting and business events.

Sport, Recreation and Racing (SRR) works to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians, build stronger and more connected communities and maintain Victoria’s reputation as Australia’s leading state for sporting and major events. It does this by delivering economic growth and jobs, enhancing Victoria’s liveability and ensuring Victorians are supported to achieve – at local parks and on the world stage.

Two offices work within the group:

* The Office for Women in Sport and Recreation works to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation, from grassroots through to senior leadership.
* The Office of Racing provides policy and legislative support to the Minister for Racing, delivers the government’s racing agenda, administers the Victorian Racing Industry Fund, and supports organisations that are central to the racing industry’s integrity framework.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Andrew Abbott | Deputy Secretary, Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy;  Chief Executive, Creative Victoria |
| Jane Crawley | Executive Director, Creative Industries, Creative Victoria |
| Max Coffman | Executive Director, Governance and Infrastructure, Creative Victoria |
| Peter Betson | Associate Deputy Secretary, Sport, Recreation and Racing |
| Georgina McCann | Executive Director, Community Sport and Recreation |
| Claire Febey | Associate Deputy Secretary, Tourism and Events |
| Natalie Phillips | Executive Director, Tourism, Events and Visitor Economy |
| Bridie O’Donnell | Executive Director, Public Events Team |
| Marina Henley | Executive Director, Strategy and Projects |

## Local Government and Suburban Development

The Local Government and Suburban Development (LGSD) group helps Victoria’s local communities to connect and thrive, and works to ensure Melbourne’s suburbs have the infrastructure and services they need for a liveable and sustainable future. It works across government to bring a place-based approach to respond to the needs and priorities of communities at a local, regional and city-wide level. This includes a focus on revitalising the inner city, which has been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working with councils to ensure Victorians enjoy a responsive, accountable, efficient, and contemporary system of local government, it also delivers grant programs for community infrastructure and recurrent funding for services such as public libraries. The group leads the coordination and implementation of DJPR’s emergency management and disaster resilience to support the capability of individuals, communities, councils, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and grow.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Emily Phillips | Deputy Secretary, Local Government and Suburban Development |
| Julie Reid | Executive Director, Local Government Victoria |
| Sara Harbidge | Executive Director, Inner South East, Western, Northern, Eastern, Southern, Office for Suburban Development |
| Joel Backwell | Regional Director, Inner Metropolitan Melbourne, Office for Suburban Development |
| Rachaele May | Executive Director, Emergency Coordination and Resilience |

## Forestry and Climate Change

The Forestry and Climate Change group leads the implementation and delivery of the Victorian Forestry Plan and provides technical and policy advice for the sustainable management and use of forest and game resources. This includes working with businesses, local government and communities in industry transition, and collaborating with Victoria’s Traditional Owner communities to support their aspirations.

The group works to deliver the government’s obligations under the *Climate Change Act 2017* and supports whole-of-government work on climate change and energy reform across DJPR portfolios. The group is focused on helping Victoria’s industries, businesses and communities take advantage of the shift to a carbon-neutral economy and build thriving places and regions that are well adapted to a changing climate.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Paul Smith | Deputy Secretary, Forestry and Climate Change |
| Phuong Tram | Executive Director, Forestry Policy and Game |
| Nathan Trushell | Executive Director, Forestry and Fibre Innovation |
| Pauline Kennedy | Principal Adviser, Climate Change in Industry Transition |
| Nathan Lambert | Executive Director, Policy and Regulation |
| Donna Findlay | Executive Director, Commercial Development and Facilitation |

## Rural and Regional Victoria

The Rural and Regional Victoria group works to support rural and regional communities and economies to be vibrant, thriving and inclusive. The group does this by working with communities and businesses to develop policies and programs that target job creation, infrastructure, regional planning, population and investment attraction, and balanced supply and demand of natural resources. It also performs a regulatory function across the earth resources sector to provide industry with confidence to invest, to meet community expectations and minimise impacts to the environment.

The group aims to build on rural and regional Victoria’s existing strengths as its communities and economies continually change. It works with partners and across government to improve the social and economic wellbeing of rural and regional Victorians for the benefit of the entire state. Enabling economic resilience and recovery including the development of new infrastructure and initiatives that will act as a stimulus for our regions to grow and thrive, is a key emphasis of the group given the impacts of COVID-19 and other recent challenges such as drought, bushfires, floods and storms.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Rural and Regional Victoria;  Chief Executive Officer, Regional Development Victoria |
| Ben Stewart | Associate Deputy Secretary, Commercial |
| John Krbaleski | Head, Resources |
| Karen Cain | Chief Executive Officer, Latrobe Valley Authority |
| Maxine Loynd | Executive Director, Rural and Regional Policy and Strategy |
| Sarah Kelly | A/ Executive Director, Transformation and Performance |
| Christine Tyrrell | Executive Director, Regional Delivery |
| Paul Roth | Regional Director, Barwon South West, Regional Development Victoria |
| Tammy Fitzgerald | A/ Regional Director, Grampians, Regional Development Victoria |
| Matt Nelson | Regional Director, Hume, Regional Development Victoria |
| Tim McAuliffe | A/ Regional Director, Gippsland, Regional Development Victoria |
| Rachel Lee | Regional Director, Loddon Mallee, Regional Development Victoria |
| Luke Wilson | Cross Border Commissioner |
| Anthony Schinck | A/ Executive Director, Programs and Delivery |

## Agriculture

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

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

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Matt Lowe | Deputy Secretary, Agriculture |
| German Spangenberg | Head, Agriculture Victoria Research |
| Melinda Knapp | A/ Executive Director, Agriculture Policy |
| Katherine Clift | Executive Director, Biosecurity Services, Biosecurity and Agriculture Services |
| Dougal Purcell | Executive Director, Agriculture Services and Regions, Biosecurity and Agriculture Services |
| Sally Fensling | Executive Director, Animal Welfare Victoria Agriculture Regulatory Policy |
| Bronwyn Clarke | Director, Business and Finance Services |
| Julie Simons | A/ Executive Director, Seasonal Workforce |

## Employment and Inclusion

The Employment and Inclusion group supports people into employment, boosts labour supply and helps to build a more economically and socially-inclusive Victoria. Through Jobs Victoria, the group supports people looking for work and helps employers find the staff they need to grow their businesses.

The group partners with Aboriginal communities to support self-determination and economic prosperity, works across government and industry to maximise the social and economic impact of government procurement and to support growth of Victoria’s social economy, and supports place-based approaches that are strengthening communities, by facilitating local community participation, leadership and ownership of actions.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| David Clements | Deputy Secretary, Employment and Inclusion |
| Lisa Buckingham | Chief Executive Officer, Jobs Victoria |
| Laura Trengove | Executive Director, Strategy and Engagement, Jobs Victoria |
| Genevieve Schreiber | A/ Executive Director, Delivery, Jobs Victoria |
| Brad Petry | Executive Director, Technology and Insights, Jobs Victoria |
| Jeremy Levine | Director, Social Procurement and Enterprise |
| Andrew Jackomos | Executive Director, Aboriginal Economic Development |
| Katrina Currie | Executive Director, Policy and Strategy |
| Frances Martin | Director, Place Based Reform and Delivery |

## Industry Coordination and Recovery

The Industry Coordination and Recovery group leads work that enables Victorian industries and businesses to adapt and recover during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. It serves as a bridge between government and industry, helping businesses and industry to comply with public health requirements and to resolve key industry concerns as we respond to immediate COVID-19 challenges. The group also collaborates across government and industry to help shape Victoria’s economic recovery agenda and related initiatives.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Jim Round | A/ Deputy Secretary, Industry Coordination and Recovery |
| Agata Jarbin | Executive Director, Strategy and Preparedness |
| Joseph Lawrence | Executive Director, Industry Recovery and Engagement |
| Felicia Cousins | Executive Director, Industry Information and Coordination |
| Michelle Delaire | Executive Director, Deputy State Controller |
| Sarah-Jane McCormack | Executive Director, Covid Ministerial Coordination and Special Projects |
| James Florent | A/ Executive Director, Industry Support and Events |

## Corporate Services

The Corporate Services group works to build a safe, high-performing organisation where DJPR people are supported to perform at their best. The group does this by providing strategic, operational and program delivery support services in creative and innovative ways.

| Name | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Andrew Parsons | Associate Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |
| Annie Reeves | Executive Director, People and Culture |
| Jessica Lambous | Executive Director, Investment and Procurement |
| Kim McGinnes | Executive Director, Corporate Strategy |
| Glenn Barr | Executive Director, Information Services |
| Margot Brown | Executive Director and General Counsel, Legal and Legislation |
| Kevin Lee | Chief Financial Officer, Financial and Property Services |
| Reporting To Associate Secretary | |
| Anthony Sherry | Executive Director, Program Centre |
| Mark Wiggins | Executive Director, Delivery Centre |
| Jonathan Ciullo | Executive Director, Projects |

# Achievements 2020–21

## Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement

### Small Business Victoria

* Partnered with the remainder of the 79 local councils to reduce approval times as part of the Small Business Regulation Review Better Approvals project. This project makes it easier to do business in Victoria, by streamlining and creating a more customer-friendly approach to permit applications, reducing approval times on average by 72 per cent for multiple permits.
* Delivered the new Fair Payment Policy, which commits all Victorian Government departments and applicable agencies to pay invoices under $3 million from small businesses within 10 business days. This is the fastest government payment time in Australia for small business invoices.
* Delivered support to small businesses impacted by the Victorian bushfires through the Business Recovery Advisory Service, which provided initial responses and administrative support, business recovery planning and resilience mentoring. The Service engaged with 6090 businesses and supported 554 businesses via Local Business Recovery Advisers, with dedicated advisers providing targeted support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.
* Administered the $50,000 Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grant with the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, awarding over $1.9 million to 60 successful applicants.
* Small Business Victoria provided a consultative role for the $10,000 Small Business Bushfire Support Grant program which delivered 872 grants totalling $8.7 million.
* Introduced nearly 200,000 new ABN holders to Business Victoria’s support services and related channels. Increased subscriptions to the Business Victoria Update newsletter by more than 230 per cent, to over 120,000.
* Delivered the Upskill My Business website, connecting businesses with short courses, online events and resources from the state's top education providers and industry experts. In 2020–21, the initiative assisted nearly 8400 small businesses through 147 online short courses, micro-credentials and events.
* Partnered with Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to deliver over 3000 mentoring sessions to 1300 Victorian small businesses from August 2020 to 30 June 2021. More than 97 per cent of participants were ‘satisfied’ to ‘very satisfied’ with the mentoring received.
* Continued to deliver small business workshops, mentoring services and the Small Business Bus online during COVID-19 restrictions; 1560 mentoring sessions, and 270 small business workshops were attended by 2555 participants across Victoria.
* Delivered the $20 million Small Business Digital Adaptation Program, offering off-the-shelf programs and workshops to help businesses adapt to online operations. The Program received 8579 applications from 1 December 2020 to 30 June 2021.
* Ensured the Business Victoria website continued to be an important and trusted source of information for Victorian businesses. In 2020–21, the site attracted 6.3 million users – up 80 per cent year on year – and 11.9 million visits, up 125 per cent.
* Provided COVID-19 support information to over one million ABN holders between August and December 2020.
* Partnered with the Department of Health to deliver the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline, which provided 1496 wellbeing coaching sessions, 2964 financial counselling sessions and 480 business advisory sessions to Victorian business operators. Embedded mental health clinicians in 10 industry peak bodies and chambers of commerce.
* Partnered with St John Ambulance to deliver mental health and crisis support training to 149 participants from councils, business associations, business networks and chambers of commerce across Victoria.

### JIBE COVID-19 Business Support Programs

* Delivered $274 million of COVID-19 support to hospitality businesses through dedicated programs, including:
  + $9.6 million in additional grant support to 1600 small and medium hospitality businesses in Melbourne’s Central Business District (CBD) through the CBD Small Hospitality Grant.
  + Nearly $5 million in grants of up to $65,000 through the Hospitality Business Grant Program to support the continued operations of 144 larger businesses operating Victoria’s hardest-hit hospitality businesses.
  + $44 million in Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package Business Grants, which provided funding of $5000 each to over 8800 eligible hospitality businesses to help them facilitate outdoor dining experiences.
  + $215 million in grants through the Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund and Circuit Breaker Action Payment to assist over 8200 hospitality venues that serve food and alcohol during COVID-19 public health requirements in September – November 2020 and February 2021.
* Delivered the Night-time Economy Business Support Initiative to assist licenced pubs, clubs and restaurants experiencing rental stress.
* Delivered $277 million in grants through the Business Cost Assistance program for 69,000 small to medium businesses to assist with implementing COVID-19 public health requirements in February 2021 and May–June 2021.
* Supported 5800 non-employing Victorian sole traders operating out of commercial premises or locations with $17.5 million in grants via the Sole Trader Support Fund to help support their transition to COVIDSafe settings.
* Led the development and implementation of two of the three rounds of the Business Support Fund, providing a total of $1.79 billion through over 184,000 grants to eligible Victorian businesses with operations impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.
* Developed and implemented regulations under the Commercial Tenancy Relief Scheme to support small and medium commercial tenants and landlords to engage in good faith negotiations on rent relief, assisting business survival through the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Delivered grants through the Commercial Landlord Hardship Fund (rounds one and two) of up to $3000 to 1780 small Victorian commercial landlords who otherwise may not have been able to reduce commercial rent for their tenants.
* Delivered more than 400,000, $450 Test Isolation Payments to Victorian workers while they self-isolated pending results of COVID-19 tests, totalling $179 million.
* Provided policy support to facilitate the Commonwealth Government’s $1500 Pandemic Leave Disaster payment which supports workers unable to earn an income due to self-isolating, quarantine or caring for someone with COVID-19 by providing up to 17,763 payments, totalling $26.64 million.

### Business Investment and Engagement

* Assisted 35 firms to invest in Victoria, stimulating creation of nearly 2500 jobs and more than $1.6 billion in capital expenditure over the life of the projects ($766 million in 2020–21).
  + This includes 919 jobs and $261 million in new investment directly supported through DJPR managed streams of the Victorian Jobs and Investment Fund, with the balance supported by leveraging other Victorian government funding sources and providing non-financial investment facilitation services.
* Attracted major investments to Victoria:
  + Seqirus, a subsidiary of Victoria-based global biopharmaceutical leader CSL, will invest more than $800 million to build a state-of-the-art, cell-based vaccine facility in Melbourne. This will secure more than 1000 local jobs and is anticipated to generate significant innovation and export outcomes.
  + Alinta Energy will onshore a customer service centre to the Morwell Innovation Centre in the Latrobe Valley. The project will deliver hundreds of new jobs, including more than 230 for the Latrobe Valley.
  + Moog Australia will invest $2.7 million to expand its Heatherton headquarters and develop a new multi-use facility to attract defence sector manufacturing partners to the site. The project will deliver up to 70 highly skilled local jobs.
  + Four Pillars Distillery will expand its gin production capacity and develop a new customer experience area at its existing Healesville site, delivering 30 new jobs and $6 million in capital expenditure.
  + NewCold is investing $147 million to expand its Asia Pacific headquarters in Melbourne’s west and bolster Victoria’s food storage capacity, creating up to 50 new jobs.
  + Applied EV will expand its robotic electric vehicles research and development and production activities. It will develop a world-first autonomous vehicle at a new $2 million facility in Bayswater North, creating at least 20 highly skilled jobs.
* Provided rapid responses to industry regarding COVID-19, in partnership with key departments and agencies. Engaged with over 860 businesses to support decision makers with key industry insights including business conditions, supply chain disruptions, personal protective equipment supply and COVID-19 recovery.

### Business Precincts

#### Footscray

* Construction of the new Footscray Hospital commenced, providing the opportunity for strategic precinct planning on the old Footscray Hospital site.
* Engaged key stakeholders on precinct planning to leverage the Victorian Government’s investment in education, health, sporting facilities and transport infrastructure in Footscray and Melbourne’s inner west.

#### Parkville

* Secured funding through the 2020–21 State Budget to deliver the Australian Institute of Infectious Disease in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Doherty Institute and the Burnet Institute, enhancing Parkville as the leading biomedical cluster in the Asia Pacific region.

#### Docklands

* Released the Docklands Media Precinct Expression of Interest to attract innovative commercial proposals for Docklands Studios. This aims to enhance Melbourne’s capacity to secure and service high-value local and international screen productions that will position Melbourne as a globally recognised media destination.
* Continued to deliver the state’s $225 million commitment to redevelop Marvel Stadium, with project designs revealed and construction due to commence in the second half of 2021. The project will better position Melbourne to host domestic and world-class sporting and entertainment events.

#### Fishermans Bend

* Secured $179.4 million for the first stage of development of the Fishermans Bend Innovation Precinct. The innovation precinct is at the heart of the largest urban renewal precinct in Australia, expected to accommodate 80,000 jobs and 80,000 residents by 2050.

### Talent and Migration

* Established the $63.8 million Digital Jobs program to re-skill 5000 mid-career Victorians, with key actions in this program including:
  + Completed industry consultation phase, including an industry roundtable, one-on-one interviews, and survey of Victorian businesses with over 300 respondents.
  + Launched the Digital Jobs program website and selected 450 candidates for the first intake.
  + Commenced training of first cohort, across 33 industry-backed digital skills short courses, delivered by universities, TAFEs and private providers.
  + Partnered with major Victorian companies in round one to secure internship placements, including ANZ, Carsales, Zendesk, MYOB, Amazon Web Services, Salesforce, Siemens, Swisse, and SYPAQ.
  + Commenced significant business engagement and recruitment effort, including through industry briefings, direct engagement with major employers, and through partner industry associations.
* Supported the assessment of over 1200 overseas qualifications. This assists overseas-qualified professionals to gain employment in the Victorian labour market and fill skills gaps for employers via the Skilled and Business Migration Program.
* Nominated over 1600 skilled migrants to live and work in Victoria, through the Skilled and Business Migration Program. Nearly 1300 are medical professionals and many are working in COVID-19 critical care and on the vaccine rollout.
* Nominated 600 business and investor migrants, of which 308 are business migrants and 292 are investor migrants committed to investing $56 million in Victoria's start-up and scale-up ecosystem.

### Aviation Strategy and Services

* Secured the retention of the Jetstar headquarters in Victoria, retaining 750 jobs in the state.
* Secured the establishment of Qantas Group’s largest line maintenance engineering facility in Melbourne as well as Jetstar Airways heavy engineering maintenance facility at Melbourne Airport, creating over 300 new jobs in Victoria.

### Telecommunications and Digital Economy

* Launched Connecting Victoria, a $550 million program to improve mobile connectivity and broadband infrastructure across the state. Opened community consultation on connectivity issues via the Engage Victoria platform.
* Supported emergency management activities related to the June 2021 severe storm event, including supporting the State Control Centre with briefings on the status of service outages and supporting the telecommunications industry with their service restoration.
* Supported applications to the Commonwealth Government’s Regional Connectivity Program, including successful projects with NBN and Telstra that will provide telecommunications upgrades in nearly 50 locations.
* Delivered 27 new mobile base stations – with more than 200 of the 243 being rolled out across the state now completed, in the program that commenced in 2014–15.
* Launched the free public Wi-Fi network in Shepparton, in partnership with the City of Greater Shepparton and Telstra.
* Launched the Morwell Enhanced Broadband Network, in partnership with Spirit Telecom, to provide gigabit broadband services to businesses across the greater Morwell region.
* Delivered the $3.5 million Regional Digital Fund program, providing grants for 28 small-scale digital projects across nine Regional Partnerships.
* Delivered the Digital Innovation Festival (DIF) 2020 and established the DIF Online Event Hub (DIFVic) as a year-round portal for tech and innovation events.
* Launched the Cremorne Place Implementation Plan in cooperation with the Victorian Planning Authority.
* Concluded delivery of the Tech Ready digital literacy pilot program which provided digital literacy and job-ready skills to 34 disengaged regional students and young adults.
* Stimulated the broader digital tech ecosystem through support for initiatives including the Connecting Up Conference, Digital Creators pilot program, Australian Technologies Competition, AFR Innovation Summit, ACS Industry Development and engagement events, RoboCup, Municipal Association of Victoria Technology National Conference, the inaugural Women in AI Awards and the GirledWorld WOW Summit.

### Industry Development and Participation

* Delivered a robust business case to demonstrate the unique value the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre (AMMC) offers to the sector and the state, reflecting extensive analysis and consultation with 38 stakeholder organisations including manufacturers, industry bodies, universities, research institutes and government.
* Established the AMMC Health Procurement Partnership Committee, a monthly meeting of senior leaders from DJPR, the Department of Health and HealthShare Victoria, to progress shared strategic objectives.
* Undertook consultation on the proposed Victorian Fair Jobs Code with key industry stakeholders. The Fair Jobs Code will enable the Victorian Government to engage suppliers of goods and services who have fair labour standards and are committed to building safe workplaces and fostering a secure and inclusive workforce.
* Successfully completed the following Industry Development grant projects:
  + Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong, delivered by the Geelong Manufacturing Council, which has generated more than 20 business and research collaborations with a total value of more than $1.5 million as of 30 June 2021.
  + Regional Industry Collaboration program, delivered by the Geelong Manufacturing Council, which created or retained 50 jobs across 12 research projects, generating $3.96 million in capital expenditure.
  + Additive Manufacturing Hub, delivered by Australian Manufacturing Technology Institute Limited, which administered $14.4 million of grants to companies.
  + Regional Manufacturing Clusters, delivered by the Australian Industry Group, which established five clusters across Ballarat/Horsham, Bendigo/Mildura, Shepparton/Echuca, Gippsland and Wodonga/Wangaratta.
  + Advanced Manufacturing Industry 4.0 Hub, delivered by Swinburne University, which conducted 29 Industry 4.0 roadshows/webcasts, with participants from 223 Victorian companies.
  + Boost Your Business Voucher Program, which delivered over $2.74 million across 89 projects.
* Developed and launched a Steel Sector Directory to facilitate use of local steel in major infrastructure projects.
* Promoted the use of digital construction technologies through support to the Building 4.0 Cooperative Research Centre.
* Supported the COVID-19 response by mapping the food sector supply chain and providing analytical expertise to the Supermarket Industry Taskforce, Emergency Management Victoria and the State Control Centre during the COVID-19 lockdowns.
* Implemented the Local Jobs First Policy under the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* and provided timely ministerial advice on requirements for 40 Local Jobs First Strategic Projects. Delivered 198 Strategic Projects from December 2014 to June 2021, with a combined value of more than $97.6 billion and supporting 40,000 jobs across Victoria in industries such as construction, professional services and manufacturing.
* Implemented the Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG) as part of the Local Jobs First Policy, which has been applied to 185 projects worth more than $60.6 billion since its introduction in 2016. In the 12 months to March 2021, commitments to provide work for apprentices, trainees and cadets under the MPSG have grown by 1.74 million hours, while 1.83 million hours were worked in the period.
* Supported the Industry Capability Network (ICN) to deliver key advice in setting Local Jobs First requirements and services, assisting agencies and local businesses to meet requirements. This included hosting online reporting systems, advising local businesses preparing Local Industry Development Plans, and expert ICN advice on evaluating the Local Jobs First weightings.
* Worked to ensure the availability of PPE and medical equipment, including by supporting local production of facemasks and face shields, and essential medical equipment such as ventilators, developing medical equipment and PPE directories to assist industry and government agencies to source locally made products, and maintaining the Whole of Victorian Government (non-health) and industry support stockpiles for emergency access to PPE.

### Innovation and Medical Research

* Supported 127 companies, 2866 entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs and 185 investors through LaunchVic activities to build a robust investor and startup community.
* Established the Alice Anderson Fund, a $10 million fund that will co-invest in women-led startups in Victoria to improve access to capital.
* Invested in Tractor Ventures to establish Victoria’s first dedicated revenue-based (venture debt) fund targeted at early-stage, revenue-positive self-funded startups.
* Launched a new scaleup program for Artificial Intelligence (AI) companies with $1.5 million from LaunchVic and $8 million of private sector capital via Venture Capital Manager Artesian.
* Launched the Technology Adoption and Innovation program to help Victorian SMEs on-board innovative technologies or develop innovative, commercial technology. The program is supporting 134 applications for a total of $6.1 million in funding across a broad range of industry sectors and applications.
* Supported the Johnson & Johnson Innovation Partnering Office at Monash University to identify and nurture commercially-focused projects. This supports the delivery of novel healthcare solutions in collaboration with other leading global life science innovators.
* Continued support for the Victorian Endowment for Science, Knowledge and Innovation to deliver a program of fellowships and awards. Supported international networks to inspire innovation and a pipeline of talent for Victoria.
* Delivered round four of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund, supporting 12 projects with a total of $3 million in grants to fund discovery, clinical, and health practice research.
* Committed a further $16.5 million to COVID-19 research, bringing total investment to $31 million. This includes $5 million to establish a COVID-19 Vaccine Biobank, enabling Victoria-based researchers to access blood, tissue samples, and data from vaccinated Victorians to test vaccine efficacy.
* Supported Victoria’s medical research institutes to apply their expertise in the fight against COVID-19 and other medical conditions through the Operational Infrastructure Support program.
* Recognised Victoria’s brightest emerging leaders in health and medical research at the 26th Annual Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research. The Premier’s Research Excellence Award went to Dr Simone Park from the University of Melbourne and the Peter Doherty Institute for her work on local immune protection against cancer and infection.
* Launched the Generation Victoria project, a long-term study at the Joan Kirner Women’s and Children’s Hospital and commenced state-wide rollout of the project in birthing hospitals.
* Delivered a two-year pilot program to improve and grow clinical trials capability at five rural/regional public health services.

### Capture Teams

* Achieved government endorsement of the Defence Capture Plan to support the growth of the defence SME industry base in Victoria and to leverage Victoria's Research and Development, Science and Technology and skilled workforce base to secure major opportunities for Victoria.
* Partnered with the Australian Defence Alliance – Victoria, to deliver the five Defence Alliances (Aerospace, Digital, Land Systems, Maritime and Submarines) that assist in developing, promoting and showcasing Victoria’s highly capable and innovative defence industry supply chain. The Alliances delivered 22 industry engagement activities and assisted business-to-business matching with domestic and global prime contractors.
* Partnered with the University of Melbourne and the Department of Defence's Defence Science and Technology Group to continue operation of the Defence Science Institute, which sponsored 12 PhD students, nine industry internships and attracted $11.8 million of related research and development to Victoria.
* Secured Leidos’s operations in Melbourne for the Department of Defence’s Joint Project 2096 Phase 1 – Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Integration, creating 50 full-time equivalent jobs and generating $6 million in capital expenditure.
* Secured Elbit’s Human and Machine Teaming Centre of Excellence in Port Melbourne, creating six full-time equivalent jobs.
* Supported the establishment of Segula Technologies’ Australasian HQ and Engineering and Design Centre in South Melbourne, creating 100 jobs.
* Secured the establishment of SYPAQ Australia’s Defence Autonomy Centre of Excellence in Port Melbourne, creating 280 jobs.
* Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Hanwha Defense Australia formalising a long-term partnership to support the establishment of Hanwha’s defence manufacturing operations in Geelong.

### Office of the Lead Scientist

* Produced Australia’s first map of STEM activities available to Victorian women and girls. The STEM Map creates a visual representation of resources available throughout a person’s STEM education, from primary school through to their professional career, enabling more women and girls to pursue a career in STEM. The map increases the visibility of activities by consolidating and displaying the range of programs available to women and girls. This was launched in February has been downloaded 842 times.
* Released the *Stimulating the Science and Research System Creates Jobs and Investment* report in partnership with the Australian College of Learned Academies, examining the impact of a 10-year period of sustained Victorian Government investment in science, technology and innovation. The report identified high-level improvements for investment program design and provided the evidence base to support further investment in science and research infrastructure, skills and talent attraction.
* Launched the *Creating a Healthy Future: The impact of Victorian Government investment in health and medical research* report on the value of Victorian Government investment in health and medical research from 2000–2010. Drawing on case studies and extensive data, it found investments helped establish Victoria’s position as a globally recognised leader in health, medical research and biotechnology.

## Global Victoria

### Export Outcomes

* Supported Victorian firms to achieve $569 million in export sales through participation in government programs such as the Access Program, Export Recovery Package activities, Global Gateway and Export Skills Program.

### Export Recovery Package

* Awarded over 180 Victorian companies with a Global Gateway grant of up to $50,000. Grants were provided for companies to undertake marketing and promotion, market research or market access projects to stabilise and maintain their export base, and adapt their business models for recovery. The projects are expected to generate significant export outcomes.
* Developed five Global Gateway business case studies for website and social media to raise awareness of the grant program and support successful grant recipients. The case studies generated a strong level of engagement with Global Victoria audiences.
* Delivered 28 outbound and inbound Virtual Trade Missions, ensuring DJPR continued to successfully support Victorian companies to trade internationally. These involved over 590 Victorian companies in ICT/Technology; Health, Medical Technology and Pharmaceuticals; Education Technology; and Food and Beverage.
* Supported 1267 international delegates to engage with Victorian businesses and industry through these Virtual Trade Missions and other key initiatives.
* Supported over 400 Victorian exporters to access eCommerce opportunities through accelerator programs, virtual briefings and support to access eCommerce platforms.
* Delivered Export Skills training for over 365 participants, supporting them to increase their export capability and providing them with the digital skills needed to emerge stronger after the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Delivered freight skills training to over 235 participants, supporting them to adapt to a new freight environment of disrupted freight and higher prices post-COVID-19 and develop new business models and approaches. Twelve training webinars and workshops, totalling 24 hours of content, were delivered.
* Advocated to the federal government’s International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) to help exporters of high-value Victorian goods reach and defend markets until commercial services fully resume.

### International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan

* Opened the first Study Melbourne Hub in Shanghai, China, on 31 March 2021. The hub has hosted around 150 students per week and delivered 10 successful Global Victoria and education partner events to over 500 stakeholders.
* Engaged 18 TAFE and university partners to deliver the Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program, providing funding for over 3000 new international student scholarships. The scholarships support international students undertaking English language or Foundation courses, before beginning their principal course, providing a pathway for students to enrol with eligible Victorian providers.
* Provided information, referrals, and complex casework support to around 4400 international students through the Study Melbourne Student Centre. Over $190,000 in material aid (for example, emergency rent assistance and food vouchers) was provided through more than 200 payments to international students.
* Provided grants to 23 Victorian education providers and community organisations via the International Student Welfare Program to support 23,880 international students including with immediate support for those impacted by COVID-19.
* Supported over 10,000 international students through the Lead, Intern, Volunteer, Experience (LIVE) Program, achieving a 90 per cent participant satisfaction rate. The program delivered a range of strengths-based employability, entrepreneurship, and empowerment initiatives, including building social capital and leadership skills.

### International Student Emergency Support

* Continued to support international students via the International Student Emergency Relief Fund. During 2020–21, provided $21.6 million in grants of up to $1100 to more than 20,600 international students who experienced financial hardship due to income loss.
* Provided over $2 million to support food relief initiatives for international students in Victoria.

### Opening of Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) office in Vietnam

* Formally registered the Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) office in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in August 2020 and commenced operations in January 2021. The establishment of this 23rd VGTI office will drive new trade, investment, and exchange opportunities for Victorian and Vietnamese businesses.

### Global Victoria Women (GVw)

* Continued to grow and expand the Global Victoria Women (GVw) network of women seeking to learn from successful female business leaders as role models.
* Delivered the Female Business Leader in 2020 GVw Virtual Seminar in December 2020, attended by over 200 Victorian and international delegates. The seminar demonstrated the resilience and agility of Victorian and international female leaders and businesses in responding to the impact of COVID-19.
* Engaged over 300 Victorian and international delegates across nine activities delivered through the GVw platform from March to June 2021. All activities were delivered in partnership with the VGTI international offices and leveraged other partnerships, including with bilateral chambers of commerce and foreign governments.

## Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy

### Tourism and Events

* Launched the $633 million Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan which outlines strategies and initiatives to grow the visitor economy and create jobs by developing new and innovative tourism products, destinations, and experiences. The plan was informed by the findings of the Regional Tourism Review, completed in 2019.
* Delivered three rounds of regional travel vouchers and one round of Melbourne travel vouchers to Victorians – more than 113,000 vouchers were claimed for a $200 reimbursement when spending more than $400 on accommodation, experiences, tours or attractions during their stay. Voucher recipients have reported spending more than $157 million when taking up these offers.
* Announced 30 projects to be delivered in the short-term as part of the $46 million Stimulus Round of the Regional Tourism Investment Fund, including:
  + $3.5 million for the Bellarine Tourist Railway Rehabilitation project
  + $2.3 million to improve visitor facilities at the Warburton Redwoods Experience
  + $3 million towards construction of a visitor centre at the Victorian Fisheries Authority hatchery at Arcadia, near Shepparton
  + $1 million to deliver stage two of the Latrobe Valley’s Haunted Hills mountain bike park.
* Announced 19 tourism flagship projects totalling $120 million to attract more visitors to regional Victoria and activate regions, including:
  + $23.8 million to develop the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail
  + $11.9 million towards a Gippsland Tourism Recovery Package
  + $10.3 million towards developing the Murray River Adventure Trail.
* Worked with Visit Victoria and the Melbourne Convention Bureau to secure major and business events for Victoria, including SpineWeek 2023, International Mass Spectrometry Conference 2024 and the International Geographical Congress 2028.
* Delivered nearly $8 million through the Victorian Accommodation Support Program to eligible tourism accommodation providers who experienced booking cancellations between 12 and 17 February 2021. This built on the Regional Tourism Accommodation Support Program in July to September 2020 which paid more than $18.6 million to 3881 accommodation businesses.
* Worked with Creative Victoria to design and commence delivery of the $20 million Victorian Events Support Package to support event organisers, hosts and suppliers as they manage the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Supported delivery of the 2021 Australian Open, implementing complex quarantine arrangements and protocols to ensure large crowds could attend safely.
* Facilitated hosting the world’s largest crowd since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic at the ANZAC Day Collingwood vs Essendon AFL match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).
* Progressed approvals and registrations of 68 Tier 1, 476 Tier 2 and 7922 Tier 3 events under the Public Events Framework.

### Sport, Recreation and Racing

* Allocated over $290 million to 239 community sport and recreation infrastructure projects. This included 70 projects that received a share of $178 million in funding through the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program, which supported $335 million worth of infrastructure and created more than 800 jobs.
* Delivered $2.9 million through 15,500 vouchers in the Get Active Kids Voucher Program, helping with fees, sports equipment, and uniforms for eligible children aged four to 18 years.
* Provided support through the COVID-19 Experience Economy Package. This included over $9 million for 30 Victoria-based national sporting organisations and professional teams, over $18 million for more than 6700 local clubs, leagues and associations, and over $20 million to 75 state sporting associations and state sport and recreation bodies.
* Provided $6.6 million through over 4000 grants in the Sporting Club Grants program to support the purchase of uniforms and equipment, to improve the capacity, skills and accessibility of organisations, and to support with costs of COVIDSafe operations during circuit-breaker lockdowns in 2021.
* Supported 10 organisations with over $1.3 million to deliver projects through the Gender Equality in Victorian Sport and Recreation Program, established a Community of Practice of over 100 people from 29 organisations to increase sector capacity and awareness to create gender equitable sport and recreation settings and prevent violence against women.
* Funded over 100 clubs with Change Our Game Community Activation Grants through the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation. Provided 47 scholarships and four research grants to expand the evidence base for women and girls in sport and active recreation. Delivered three new Change Our Game pilot programs on sports broadcasting, women in governance and regional governance.
* Provided grants to nine Victorian Football League clubs from the near $1 million Strengthening Victoria’s AFL Development Pathways Program, assisting clubs to meet additional costs associated with COVIDSafe interstate competition.
* Hosted the National Basketball League (NBL) Hub, comprising 42 regular season games, incorporating the entire inaugural NBL Cup.
* Supported delivery of one of the world’s most famous and prestigious foot races, the 139th Stawell Gift.
* Provided funding through the Significant Sporting Events Program to support events including the Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic 2021, Australian Baseball League Championship Play-offs and Round two of the 2021 Supercars Championship.
* Completed the $64.6 million State Netball and Hockey Centre redevelopment. Progressed John Cain Arena upgrades, the new Rugby League State and Community Centre in Broadmeadows, and Danny Frawley Centre for Health and Wellbeing at Moorabbin Oval.
* Supported professional women’s sport outcomes through Australian Football League Women’s facility upgrades at Essendon Football Club Community Education and Event Centre, North Melbourne Football Club Redevelopment stage two, Richmond Football Club’s Punt Road Oval, Icon Park, Mars Stadium, Ballarat, Casey Fields, Cranbourne East and Victoria Park, Abbotsford.
* Delivered $9 million in grants to support 61 projects through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund. These projects will deliver a total value of almost $18.5 million and included the first single-turn greyhound racing track in Australia at the Traralgon Greyhound Racing track.
* Heard 200 cases at the Victorian Racing Tribunal in the first full year of operations.
* Secured funding to support the Harness Racing Victoria Transformation program, which seeks to increase investment in the code by encouraging greater participation, reducing barriers to entry, and leveraging the strength of the industry in regional Victoria.

### Creative Industries

* Oversaw a total investment of $188.25 million for survival, recovery and activation of the creative sector, one of the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2021–22 State Budget provided a further $288 million to the sector, and creative businesses and organisations have received significant support through the Victorian Government’s business support measures.
* Worked with the First Peoples Direction Circle to introduce First Peoples Streams and assessment panels for all key grant rounds, and supported First Peoples initiatives like Yalingwa, Yirramboi, First Nations Fashion and Design, and the Koorie Heritage Trust’s Annual Koorie Art Prize.
* Revitalised Victoria’s cultural institutions with the opening of the redeveloped Australian Centre of the Moving Image, the $46 million Sound Stage Six capital project and commencement of the $140 million upgrade to Geelong Arts Centre’s stage three site, as well as a $1.46 billion investment in the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation, which will establish a new landmark gallery, the NGV Contemporary, and establish 18,000 square metres of vibrant new gardens in the heart of the city.
* Engaged with over 1000 sector stakeholders through face-to-face and online creative sector and public consultations to inform Victoria's next creative industries strategy Creative State 2025.
* Developed VICSCREEN, the state’s first screen strategy in over a decade, which aims to supercharge the Screen Sector through a record $191.5 million investment over the next four years supporting more than 40,000 jobs.
* Attracted to Victoria a new, globally focused animation house, Princess Bento Studio and secured a new Asia-Pacific headquarters in Melbourne for major international games studio Keywords Studios. These will create 280 full-time creative jobs for Victoria’s screen sector.
* Delivered a fully digital Melbourne International Games Week to comply with COVIDSafe practices. A record number of participants from across the globe joined over 30 different events designed to strengthen the reputation of Melbourne as the hub for Australian and Asia Pacific games.
* Collaborated with Melbourne Fashion Festival to deliver a hybrid event program to comply with COVIDSafe practices including digital runways, an online magazine to stimulate retail sales, and live runways dispersed across the city to showcase some of Melbourne’s iconic arts-based locations.
* Delivered, in partnership with the City of Melbourne, the exclusive Fashion Capsules event as part of Melbourne Fashion Week. Over 60 Victorian designers participated across seven locations, making it the largest fashion installation in Melbourne’s history.
* Continued state-wide digitisation of Victoria’s regional galleries, expanding the publicly accessible Victorian Collections database to 200,000 images and over 50 online exhibitions, with a public directory of over 1500 collecting organisations.
* Began construction on stage three of the Geelong Arts Centre (GAC) redevelopment, a Geelong-first construction that prioritises local jobs and social value. The construction will create 600 jobs and make GAC a modern, accessible regional cultural centre.
* Completed an award-winning renewal of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image through a $40 million investment from the Victorian Government and philanthropic sector. The ambitious multiplatform redesign creates a more accessible and open facility, and provides a unique experience blending architecture, design, and technology to explore the moving image.
* Delivered the Creative Neighbourhood Partnership Program, fostering collaboration and improving access to affordable and fit-for-purpose creative spaces across Victoria.
* Provided over $40 million in COVID-19 support to more than 800 recipients from across the Victorian creative sector, from over 3000 applications for funding to independents, collectives and small to medium organisations through 10 funding programs.
* Established the Creative Workers in Schools program, which provided employment and training for over 150 creative industries workers in Victorian schools.
* Delivered more than $25 million in dedicated support to the live music industry, including $14.6 million in relief for 172 music venues through the Victorian Live Music Venues Program and strategic initiatives, $2.95 million to support 130 Victorian contemporary artists and organisations through the Victorian Music Industry Recovery Program, and $5 million to bring over 350 live music events to regional Victoria and outer-suburban Melbourne in 2022.
* Completed the $2 million Music Market fit-out at Collingwood Yards in early 2021, providing a hub for Victorian music industry organisations.

## Local Government and Suburban Development

### Office for Suburban Development

* Continued to support existing and new Suburban Revitalisation Boards, chaired by local Members of Parliament, with representatives from local government and local businesses, community organisations and institutions. The Boards help to deliver local priorities for economic, social and liveability improvements. In addition to the existing Frankston and Broadmeadows Suburban Revitalisation Boards, six new Suburban Revitalisation Boards were created in Boronia, Lilydale, Melton, Noble Park, Reservoir and Tarneit.
* Invested almost $24 million towards 115 Suburban Revitalisation projects with a combined value of just under $68 million.
* Delivered Suburban Revitalisation activities across Melbourne, including at three 20-Minute Neighbourhood pilot sites and projects in Thomastown, Lalor, and Altona Beach.
* Provided 32 metropolitan councils with over $3 million to revitalise shopping strips as places for locals to gather, work, shop and enjoy. The grants to date leveraged $9.9 million in contributions from the councils, resulting in almost $13 million of investment.
* Engaged 3800 people across 44 engagement activities, comprising virtual events and online engagement on regional priorities including transport, mental wellbeing, employment, business resilience and local living.
* Supported the Metropolitan Development Advisory Panel to provide strategic advice to government to support Melbourne’s recovery from COVID-19 and ongoing metropolitan development.
* Delivered 16 projects and nine events across Melbourne as part of the $1.3 million Let’s Stay Connected Fund, a grant fund supporting community groups and organisations to tackle social isolation, loneliness and the digital divide during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Supported four events in Melbourne as part of the final delivery stages of the $33 million Pick My Project initiative. This community-led grants program has made an impact by supporting education, connectedness, inclusion and the disadvantaged.

### Local Government Victoria

* Delivered the $34.5 million Local Government Outdoor Eating and Entertainment package, which provided financial support to councils to make it easier for hospitality businesses to expand their outdoor premises.
* Established the $7.1 million Local Government Business Concierge and Hospitality Support program, which employed more than 230 workers who proactively promoted COVIDSafe practices by engaging directly with businesses.
* Established the $6.3 million Women Building Surveyors Program to improve gender balance in the construction industry by supporting forty women to begin training as municipal building surveyors.
* Provided $800,000 for 16 councils to employ COVID Safety Officers to help Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) businesses develop COVIDSafe Plans.
* Facilitated implementation of the $2.4 million COVID-19 Relief program to support councils to provide food, healthcare and other material relief for people required to quarantine or self-isolate at home.
* Delivered $25 million additional stimulus funding through the Growing Suburbs Fund to support infrastructure such as community centres, playgrounds, parks and pavilions.
* Supported the largest elections in Victoria’s history, held safely and securely despite the impact of COVID-19.
* Facilitated the nomination and training of 2186 candidates to contest the elections.
* Supported safe and secure postal voting across all Victorian councils, with a voter participation rate of 83.6 per cent.
* Facilitated improved gender equality in elected councillors through funding local government programs including It’s Our Time marketing campaign, Local Women Leading Change, and the Australian Local Government Women’s Association’s mentorship program; 43.8 per cent of elected councillors are women – the highest level for councils across all Australian states.
* Implemented phases one, two and 3A of the new Local Government Act 2020, providing a contemporary and accessible legislative framework and ensuring integrity measures are in place to address councillor conduct and behaviour.
* Designed a consultation and co-design approach with the local government sector to develop products and materials to meet individual council’s needs.

### Emergency Coordination and Resilience

* Delivered critical infrastructure planning for the food, grocery and communications sectors under the *Victorian Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy Act 2015*. The annual Sector Resilience Plans for these sectors are aimed at continuous improvement and maintaining strong relationships with critical operators.
* Delivered DJPR responsibilities under the Victorian State Emergency Management Plan.

## Forestry and Climate Change

### Forestry and Game Policy

* Implemented the *Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016–2020*, including release of the Deer Control Strategy and the Economic Contribution of Recreational Hunting in Victoria report.
* Launched the *Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy* which will build Traditional Owner participation in hunting, land management and conservation.
* Delivered the Victorian Government’s commitment to Adaptive Harvest Management for duck hunting in Victoria, to ensure the sustainable management of game ducks through a rigorous, impartial and scientific population model.
* Enhanced the Kangaroo Harvesting Program. The program helps farmers manage kangaroo populations in a sustainable and humane manner, while creating jobs for harvesters and processors.
* Contributed significantly to interdepartmental forest policy priorities, including working with the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning on the Code Review to support the delivery of the *Victorian Forestry Plan* and to implement the obligations under the Regional Forest Agreements (notably the Major Event Review).

## Victorian Forestry Plan

* Issued 26 Forestry Business Transition vouchers which were valued up to $25,000 each to support businesses to better understand their capabilities, options, and strategies for transition. The Victorian Forestry Plan has $1.1 million allocated for the voucher program.
* Established the Victorian Timber Innovation Fund to support initiatives such as the Timber Innovation Grants program, with seven grants approved during 2020–2021. In 2020–2021, grants approved totalled $2,397,000 and payments amounting to $1,699,140 were made.
* Facilitated more than 830 engagements with businesses, communities and government agencies to provide transition information and support to affected communities.
* Released the $4.0 million Local Development Strategy grants program in March 2021. The Orbost Local Development Strategy commenced with positive community involvement throughout the context analysis phase. Applications for another two communities were received, and grant discussions with a further five councils were well progressed. A total of $130,362 was spent in 2020–2021.
* Progressed detailed design of the worker support package for forestry workers affected by the transition away from native timber harvesting, for a staged release prior to 2024.

### Plantations

* Executed an $875,000 funding agreement with Hancock Victorian Plantations, to expand its world-class tree nursery in Gelliondale, Gippsland.
* Commenced developing a farm forestry program with VicForests. This program seeks to maximise farm forestry’s contribution to increasing the supply of plantation timber while delivering a range of other benefits to private land holders and the community.

### Climate Change in Industry Transition

* Led DJPR’s contribution to the Victorian Government’s Climate Change Strategy, which aims to lead the state to a net zero-emission future by 2050 while enhancing the economy, creating jobs, encouraging investment, and protecting our forests and land. This included preparing greenhouse gas emissions reduction pledges for the Industrial Processes and Product Use and Agriculture sectors to support achievement of Victoria’s interim targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 28–33 per cent by 2025 and 45–50 per cent by 2030 compared to 2005 levels.
* Led DJPR’s contribution to the Victorian Government’s climate change adaptation action planning, including developing a draft *Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan* for primary industries that builds on actions already underway. The final plan will enable partnerships that stimulate new research and innovation, and boost knowledge and adaptive capacity.
* Completed several assessments to better understand the economic opportunity for Victoria as it responds to climate change, transitions to net-zero emissions and successfully navigates adaptation. This included a deep-dive assessment of opportunities for Victoria’s tourism industry, and development of regional emissions profiles.
* Supported government in its response to EnergyAustralia’s decision to close the Yallourn Power Station in 2028. The seven-year notice period provides certainty to the energy market, workforce and community in preparing for their futures. EnergyAustralia agreed to invest up to $10 million in a support package to assist its workforce with the transition.

## Rural and Regional Victoria

### Resources

* Progressed the delivery of the *Helping Victoria Grow: Extractive Resources Strategy*, aimed at securing high-quality sand, stone and gravel resources to meet Victoria’s infrastructure and housing requirements, through the development of Strategic Extractive Resources Area pilot projects in Wyndham and South Gippsland. This included significant public consultation and assessment of more than 250 submissions lodged through Engage Victoria.
* Delivered the International Mining and Resources Conference Online 2020, promoting new resources opportunities across the state and showcasing Victoria’s buoyant resources sector, with minerals exploration at record-breaking levels.
* Released a new rehabilitation guideline for Victoria’s extractives sector, *Preparation of Rehabilitation Plans: Guideline for Extractive Industry Projects*. This provides more certainty about the future rehabilitation of quarries across the state and applies to new work plans and all work plan variations from 1 July 2021.
* Completed delivery of major improvements to earth resources regulation in Victoria including new notification approval processes, operating procedures, regulatory guidelines and enhanced regulatory practices. This reflects the findings of the *Getting the Groundwork Right: Better regulation of mines and quarries* report (October 2017).
* Enshrined a permanent ban on fracking in the state’s Constitution with the *Constitution Amendment (Fracking Ban) Act 2021*.
* Introduced interim regulations in May 2021 to support the restart of the conventional gas industry in Victoria from 1 July 2021 and ensure there are no risks to the community or the environment from the restart of the gas industry. The Regulatory Impact Statement consultation period for the new Petroleum Regulations 2021 will open in early 2021–22 to deliver further reforms for the sector.
* Launched a new *Guide to Recreational Prospecting in Victoria* in March 2021, explaining where prospecting can take place and what equipment can be used.

### Regional Development Victoria

#### Barwon South West regional business centre

* Supported the state’s recovery through projects funded under the Building Works package including the Twelve Apostles Trail (Timboon to Port Campbell), Portland Foreshore redevelopment and Tower Hill infrastructure project.
* Continued to facilitate delivery of the $382.5 million Geelong City Deal. Projects completed include the Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour wave attenuator (Wangim Walk), Barwon River Planning project and the Gheringhap Street Drain project. Construction commenced on the Queenscliff Ferry Terminal, the Deakin University Future Economy Precinct Infrastructure project and block one of the Malop Street Green Spine.
* Launched the Geelong City Deal – Private Sector Business Enablement Fund to support public infrastructure projects in the Shipwreck Coast precinct.
* Facilitated Maeil Dairies Co Ltd to develop a new milk processing plant in North Geelong creating 25 new jobs.
* Worked with over 40 businesses across the region to secure $3.8 million funding assistance through the Agriculture Workforce Plan.
* Provided support to Goodman Lawyers in Portland via the Regional Jobs Fund to expand their office to provide state-wide remote conveyancing services.

#### Gippsland regional business centre

* Established and supported the COVID-19 Regional Recovery Working Group to coordinate regional recovery programs for impacted businesses and communities.
* Continued to support the East Gippsland Bushfire Economic Recovery Working Group and the delivery of strategic priorities within the Economic Recovery Sub Plan.
* Supported major stimulus initiatives in Gippsland through the Visitor Economy Regional Recovery Plan including flagship projects such as the Snowy Rail Bridge restoration and the establishment of the Metung Hot Springs and Nunduk Spa Retreat.
* Supported the completion of major infrastructure projects including Morwell Innovation Centre at the Hi-Tech Precinct Gippsland and secured anchor tenant Alinta Energy leading to 230 new jobs in the Latrobe Valley. Completed the 300-seat Latrobe Valley GovHub in Morwell, delivering 200 new public sector roles, and finalised the last stages of the Latrobe Creative Precinct in Traralgon.
* Commenced the stage one main works package of the Regional Car Park Fund, which will deliver up to 900 free car parks in Traralgon, Morwell and Moe, and progressed stage two works for the Gippsland Logistics Precinct in Morwell.

#### Grampians regional business centre

* Supported completion of Ballarat GovHub and managed the transition of up to 1000 workers from seven state government departments into this $100 million building.
* Oversaw the next step of the award-winning By Five project with the transition from direct government facilitation to a fully community-led project.
* Assisted facilitation of the Rupanyup Community Retail Hub project, where the community bought the local supermarket and established a community-owned social enterprise in a new building.
* Managed funding of $2.7 million towards a $4.2 million investment in the City Gate Gas Connection Project in the Parwan Employment Precinct. The project will create jobs for up to 1500 workers over six years.
* Supported various projects and programs through the Regional Jobs Fund and Invest Victoria that realised total investments of $146.9 million and created 120 jobs in the Grampians region.
* Worked with local government areas (LGAs) to develop a range of localised solutions to housing shortages impacting workforce attraction and growth. Implemented initiatives that will unlock housing development in Stawell, Ararat and across the Wimmera Southern Mallee.
* Established the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Committee, incorporating all LGA CEOs and key government agencies, to provide a platform to identify immediate regional impacts and concerns during COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Hume regional business centre

* Delivered over $62 million worth of economic development projects including the Kilmore Creek Precinct Masterplan and Landscape Design, and Releasing the Floating City – Expanding the Houseboat Manufacturing Industry at Eildon.
* Facilitated the creation of over 361 new jobs in the Hume region, assisting private sector businesses to expand and grow. This included expanding the James Stockfeed business, and the Ride High Country Private Sector Activation.
* Facilitated finalisation and implementation of Regional Partnership-endorsed priorities such as the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District Resilience Strategy, Lake Eildon Activation Masterplan, Optimising Victorian Alpine Resorts economic growth plan, Tomorrow Today Foundation and Seymour Revitalisation.
* Supported businesses impacted by COVID-19 to respond to outbreaks in Shepparton and Kilmore and the NSW/VIC border restrictions. Worked with the Department of Health and the local community in response to the Shepparton COVID-19 outbreak, providing advice and support to the community and businesses.
* Enabled support for bushfire-impacted communities by developing the North East Bushfire Economic Recovery Plan.
* Facilitated and supported the Albury Wodonga Regional Deal.

#### Loddon Mallee regional business centre

* Continued to lead the $90 million Bendigo GovHub project in partnership with Development Victoria and Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal Clans Corporation. This project will bring together 1000 state and local government employees and improve government service delivery in the region.
* Supported 3097 businesses impacted by COVID-19 in Loddon Mallee through the Business Support Fund. Assisted 496 hospitality businesses to secure grants totalling $2.5 million through the Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package and provided financial assistance to 14 business organisations in the Bendigo region through the Business Chambers and Trader Groups Program.
* Facilitated opportunities for new job creation through the Regional Jobs Fund, including investments such as the $50 million H W Greenham and Sons Pty Ltd redevelopment and modernisation of their abattoir in Tongala, creating 230 new jobs; the $3 million GTS Freight Management Pty Ltd upgrade of their freight and logistics head office facilities in Mildura, creating 57 new jobs; and the $1.3 million Lancefield Brewery Pty Ltd development to establish a new craft brewery and café in Lancefield, creating 15 new jobs.
* Collaborated with Agriculture Victoria to assist 129 businesses to obtain grants totalling $22.5 million through the Agriculture Workforce Plan.
* Supported projects including the Macedon Shared Trails, the Mildura Riverfront stage 1a – Village Square, the Gargarro Regional Botanic Garden – stage two (a Loddon Campaspe Regional Partnership Priority), the Cohuna CBD and Waterfront Connections, and the Industrial Estate Expansion – Tate Drive, Kerang.

### Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA)

* Supported 1500 Gippsland businesses through the Business Support Service pilot program, connecting them to tools, information and advice to support their growth. The service is delivered by a team of local concierges based at the LVA, Latrobe City Council, Wellington Shire Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, South Gippsland Shire Council, East Gippsland Shire Council and Bass Coast Shire Council.
* Provided $1.7 million funding to 225 early-stage businesses through the Latrobe Valley Business and Industry Capability Fund, which builds capacity through collaborative activities, training, professional services, feasibility studies, infrastructure and equipment.
* Reimbursed state and local government fees valued at over $4 million to 110 businesses in the Latrobe Valley to help them grow, expand and employ more people.
* Supported the Ladder Step Up Latrobe Valley program, assisting young people into employment or to re-engage with secondary or vocational education. The program moved to a mixture of online and face-to-face delivery with an increased focus on participants’ mental health and welfare during COVID-19 restrictions.
* Opened the new Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, Gippsland Regional Indoor Sports Stadium and Morwell Recreation Reserve upgrades as part of the $85 million Latrobe Valley Sports and Community Initiative. Developed a Latrobe Valley Events Precinct online resource to encourage usage of Latrobe Valley facilities for major events.
* Assisted workers and their families impacted by industry closures via the Worker Transition Service, connecting them to services for training, upgrading skills, career advice, assistance to take up new employment, and personal and mental health support.
* Engaged with new energy projects in Gippsland to develop worker profiles and skill matrices for employment with businesses such as Star of the South and Marinus Link.
* Managed a recruitment portal supporting Alinta Energy and Jobs Victoria to recruit the first 100 staff for the new contact centre based at the Morwell Innovation Centre.

## Agriculture

* Developed and released *Strong, Innovative and Sustainable: A new Strategy for Agriculture in Victoria*. This transformative 10-year vision for agriculture is supported by initiatives to help the sector to recover from COVID-19 and to bolster the economy.
* Launched the $15 million Food to Market program that invests in local food production and strengthens supply chains.
* Launched the $5 million Pathways to Export program, supporting farmers to build export capability, grow existing exports and move into new markets.
* Continued to support farmers to reduce energy costs and be more energy efficient and productive, through the $30 million extension of the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan.
* Developed the Agriculture Sector Pledge that commits to protect and enhance the future of the Victorian agriculture sector, respond to climate change and reduce emissions.
* Conducted a successful traceability pilot with the citrus industry, using blockchain technology and digital fingerprint labelling to trace over 400,000 kilograms of fruit from Mildura orchards to export markets.
* Supported over 2800 new workers to enter the horticulture industry through the Seasonal Harvest Sign-On Bonus program and facilitated the arrival of nearly 850 Pacific workers into Victoria.
* Provided grants for 13 projects, benefiting over 2000 seasonal horticultural workers, to provide additional COVIDSafe accommodation, transport assistance, accommodation coordination and pastoral care services.
* Engaged with almost 2300 stakeholders, including over 1000 jobseekers and direct calls to almost 900 businesses, successfully facilitating job connections and ensuring COVIDSafe business practices.
* Supported over 900 Victorian farmers to improve safety for their families, workers and visitors by providing rebates for investment in infrastructure and equipment through the Farm Safety Rebate Scheme.
* Created a high-volume way to screen wheat for nitrogen-use efficiency, using a world-first application of automated digital imaging technology, to support the reduced use of nitrogen fertiliser while maintaining yield.
* Developed two world-first diagnostic tests to detect deformed wing virus and sacbrood virus – viruses transmitted by Varroa mites that can weaken and kill honeybee colonies.
* Discovered the balance of sunlight and shade to develop red peel on two blush pear varieties – a highly marketable trait that attracts premium prices in export markets. The Lanya and Ricō varieties were developed at the Tatura SmartFarm to meet market specifications and have been commercially released.
* Accurately estimated dry matter intake in dairy cows, setting a gold standard; determining how cows convert their feed into milk supports farmers to allocate their supplementary feeding and pasture to increase herd milk production and reduce waste.
* Supported the Rural Financial Counselling Service program to provide free and impartial financial counselling to farmers and related small businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship. Counsellors worked with over 1500 businesses to assist with developing and implementing plans to improve finances and build resilience.
* Awarded scholarships to 13 young Victorian farmers across a range of agriculture industries and established a Young Farmers Network to provide coordinated and consistent information and opportunities to young farmers.
* Delivered over 1420 grants of up to $10,000 to support on-farm drought resilience, and employed over 75 full-time equivalent staff over several months in drought programs.
* Administered 680 rebates of up to $25,000 to Victorian farm businesses to address animal welfare needs and/or build resilience to drought (funded by the Commonwealth Government as part of the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme).
* Released a Directions Paper in October 2020 to support development of a new animal welfare act, and in April 2021 released an engagement report outlining consultation findings that represent feedback from more than 1200 individuals and organisations.
* Progressed reforms to assist vets and animal shelters to more efficiently reunite lost pets and owners. Public consultation on the reforms concluded in August 2020, with 1066 submissions received.
* Improved traceability of dog and cat breeding and sales by delivering the Pet Exchange Register and via the new legislative requirement for dogs and cats born after 1 July 2020 to be permanently linked to their source. 28,377 source numbers were issued, and 4266 renewed, to individuals and organisations breeding, selling and/or giving away these animals.
* Implemented the Protecting our Pets initiative that provided an additional $5.9 million over four years and $1.3 million ongoing to support regulatory services provided by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Victoria.
* Delivered round nine of the Animal Welfare Fund Grants Program, as part of Government’s $3 million commitment to expand animal welfare grants. A total of $645,746 was awarded to projects that enabled shelters and foster carers to purchase equipment or upgrade/expand their services, not-for-profit and community vet clinics to maintain and expand their services, and new low-cost clinics to be set up in areas of need.
* Responded to the outbreak of Avian influenza, the largest biosecurity emergency response in Victoria for 20 years – an investment of approximately $22 million that involved the depopulation of 14 per cent of Victoria’s layer hen population.
* Responded to the detection of Khapra Beetle, number two on Australia’s list of unwanted national priority plant pests, found in imported goods intended for distribution across Australia.
* Responded to and provided support for areas affected by storm and flood events including West and South Gippsland, Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne and the Central Highlands. The agricultural impacts of these events are currently estimated to be approximately $38 million.
* Provided support to producers and industry in affected regions to identify any urgent animal welfare needs and to record property, livestock and horticulture impacts.
* Supported the agriculture sector to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Initiatives included: supporting cross-border movement, including the establishment of the national Agriculture Workers’ Code, facilitating continued agricultural exports, chairing regular industry forums with peak agriculture bodies, and facilitating movement of beehives between Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

## Employment and Inclusion

### Jobs Victoria

* Placed more than 13,500 Victorians in jobs through the $500 million Working for Victoria initiative. This was part of the Victorian Government’s $1.7 billion Economic Survival Package to assist people back into work, including those who lost jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Supported more than 2100 Victorians into work through Jobs Victoria Mentor services.
* Launched the $250 million Jobs Victoria Fund, a wage subsidy program that supports businesses to hire people whose employment has been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Victorian employers can access wage subsidies of up to $20,000 to create steady and secure job opportunities for at least 10,000 people.
* Partnered with over 40 organisations to host more than 110 Jobs Victoria Advocates across Victoria. Jobs Victoria Advocates meet with jobseekers in their local communities to link people with the information, support and training that’s right for them.
* Launched the Jobs Victoria hotline to provide employment information and referral to services over the phone. Matched ready-to-work jobseekers and employers seeking skilled and talented workers via the Jobs Victoria online hub.

### Policy and Strategy

* Coordinated the Victorian Government response to the Inquiry into sustainable employment for disadvantaged jobseekers.
* Led engagement with the Commonwealth and agencies to obtain and disseminate employment data to inform policy and service responses.

### Aboriginal Economic Development

* Partnered with the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council to develop the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Strategy, as well as work to progress self-determination and economic prosperity for Aboriginal Victorians.
* Commenced the Aunty Mary Atkinson Scholarship Program, providing scholarships to support Victorian Aboriginal tertiary students studying subjects relevant to DJPR portfolios.
* Engaged with Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders across Victoria through nine Regional Aboriginal Employment Roundtables and identified ways to support more Aboriginal Victorians into jobs.
* Delivered the First People’s Business Support Fund, which provided grants to 130 Aboriginal-owned businesses across the state to assist with the impacts of COVID-19.
* Increased employment of Aboriginal staff in DJPR to 39 staff, and delivered cultural safety training to 750 DJPR staff, as part of the Aboriginal Recruitment and Career Development Strategy.
* Provided grant funding to support job creation, COVID-19 recovery, bushfire recovery, economic development and other initiatives that enhanced economic prosperity for Aboriginal communities.

### Place Based Reform and Delivery

* Delivered the Community Revitalisation program which supported more than 1800 residents from Dandenong, Hume, Wyndham, Flemington and Shepparton to access community-led pathways to economic inclusion. Of those, 619 gained employment with local businesses, and 39 microenterprises were established in hospitality, digital services and social impact organisations.
* Continued working across government to make the Victorian Government a more effective partner with communities on place-based approaches.
* Commenced the Stronger Places, Stronger People partnership with the Commonwealth Government and Mildura Rural City Council. The partnership will support local leadership by Hands Up Mallee and demonstrate how cross-government collaboration can improve outcomes for children and families.

### Social Procurement and Enterprise

* Continued implementing the Victorian Social Enterprise Strategy and delivering the place-based Microenterprise Development pilot program at three sites.
* Developed a new Social Enterprise Strategy in partnership with the social enterprise sector, with public and cross-government consultation.
* Established a $1 million Microenterprise Development Bushfire Recovery Program under the Bushfire Recovery Regional Economic Programs Fund, Local Economic Recovery Program, Victoria.
* Assessed how to strengthen the impact of the Social Procurement Framework (SPF), including its contribution to inclusive employment.
* Enhanced SPF reporting and measurement capability by releasing a bespoke SPF reporting module on the Industry Capability Network’s Victorian Management Centre.

## Industry Coordination and Recovery

* Played a critical role in ensuring Victorian businesses were informed on COVIDSafe activities and industry restrictions and worked closely with the Department of Health to create a Roadmap to reopening.
* Established a business closing and reopening support team that managed COVID-19 restart planning, support and the development of guidelines across all industry sectors, providing clarity on how to operate in a COVIDSafe manner.
* Held more than 300 industry roundtables and engagement sessions, resulting in 13 updates to Workplace Directions and 253 published FAQs that helped businesses translate public health directions to their operations, and which facilitated real-time information-sharing on restriction changes, night-time economy, updates on density quotients, and the Victorian Government's QR code system.
* Undertook broad industry engagement following the mandatory use of QR codes, including 65,000 AI calls and 10,000 conversations assisting businesses to register and implement QR code check-ins.
* Partnered with peak industry bodies to promote COVIDSafe practices and compliance, including compliance with QR code requirements.
* Provided Victorian businesses with support and information to navigate new COVID-19 requirements through the DJPR-managed Business Victoria Hotline (13 22 15) which answered over 500,000 calls relating to COVID-19 during the year.
* Delivered a range of initiatives through the Melbourne City Recovery Fund and the City Revitalisation Fund, including dining vouchers, that boosted revenue for CBD businesses, helped protect jobs and encouraged visitation and visitor spend in the city.
* Delivered the COVIDSafe Business Fund which provided practical support to businesses. This included a small business deep clean for affected businesses, providing thermometers to high-risk workplaces, and assistance with creating and implementing COVIDSafe plans.

### Industry Engagement

* Engaged with industry to understand Victoria's food supply chains and used these insights to develop COVIDSafe working practices with the Department of Health (such as cleaning, surveillance testing and reduced numbers of workers on site).
* Facilitated targeted and one-on-one engagement activities with key industry partners and peak bodies, including faith leaders, CALD leaders and Allied Health, to support those most impacted by restriction changes.
* Provided bespoke COVID-19 restrictions advice to over 5000 businesses. Created and published online hundreds of tailored documents to translate public health directions advice for industry operations.

### High Risk Industries Engagement and Enforcement Operation

* Delivered the engagement component of the High Risk Industries Engagement and Enforcement Operation, to coordinate the education and regulation of high-risk and at-risk industries. Collaborated with regulatory partners, including WorkSafe and the Department of Health, to ensure businesses had controls in place and were compliant with Chief Health Officer directions.
* Engaged directly with businesses through on-ground teams to ensure awareness of COVIDSafe requirements. This focused on metropolitan retail and hospitality businesses, including licensed venues, to ensure understanding of QR code requirements.
* Developed a proactive campaign in alpine areas for the 2021 ski season to provide business information and support on how to be COVIDSafe over the season.

### COVIDSafe Public Events Observers

* Coordinated implementation of the Public Events Framework and Public Event Observers Program, to build confidence in the safe and compliant delivery of events and support the potential need for contact tracing.
* Coordinated, as part of the Public Events Framework, submissions from public event organisers of COVIDSafe Event Plans for Tier 1 (greater than 7500 attendees) and Tier 2 (1000 to 7500 attendees) events which exceed capacity restrictions permitted under the Restricted Activity Directions.
* Attended Tier 1 and Tier 2 events in metropolitan and regional Victoria to observe the degree of compliance with approved COVIDSafe Event Plans and report instances of non-compliance.

## Corporate Services

* Processed over one million grant applications as part of DJPR’s COVID-19 response. These grants supported Victorian individuals and businesses to provide for their families and keep their staff employed.
* Established a centralised Procurement Centre to deliver a consistent and rigorous approach with enhanced reporting, contract oversight and supplier management and value, enabling the department to continue to deliver at pace.
* Facilitated the transition to and between remote and hybrid working for DJPR staff across the state, enabling service levels to be maintained by providing tools, technology and support.
* Enabled timely delivery of the most critical projects and services for the Victorian community during the pandemic, by ensuring our workforce was flexibly deployed between teams in response to changing priorities.
* Increased the safety of DJPR’s information assets by introducing extensive, mandatory cybersecurity awareness training in addition to regular testing, education and awareness programs.
* Delivered the reimagined Business Victoria website, in partnership with Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement and Strategic Communications and Marketing, offering an enhanced user experience for Victorian businesses seeking information and support.