

# Barwon South West Region **Geelong Regional Package Forum**

**Date: Thursday, 7 September 2023**

**Time: 9:30 AM for 10:00 AM start**

**Location: Rydges Geelong**  
Myers Street & Gheringhap Street  
Geelong VIC 3220



## **THE GEELONG REGIONAL PACKAGE FORUM**

The Hon. Harriet Shing MP, Minister for Regional Development, warmly invites you to the Geelong Regional Package Forum, for a community-based discussion on the Victorian Government's \$2 billion Regional Package to ensure our state's regions gain lasting benefits from this investment. This includes:

### **Housing, Community Infrastructure & Projects**

- ✓ \$1 billion for social and affordable housing
- ✓ New permanent and upgraded community sports infrastructure
- ✓ \$150 million for regional worker accommodation
- ✓ An additional \$10 million for Tiny Towns

### **Tourism, Community Sport & Regional Development**

- ✓ \$170 million for tourism, events, marketing and the visitor economy
- ✓ \$100 million for community and all-abilities sport
- ✓ \$20 million Aboriginal Economic Development Fund
- ✓ \$25 million Council Support Package

## **SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

### **✓ New Permanent and Upgraded Community Sports Infrastructure**

As part of the Package, communities across the Barwon South West region will benefit from a new multi-purpose, family friendly Aquatics Centre at Armstrong Creek and an Indoor Sporting Complex at Waurn Ponds. Stead Park in Corio and Banyul-Warri Fields in Torquay will also be upgraded to increase capacity and improve sporting facilities.

### **✓ \$10 million for Tiny Towns in Rural and Regional Victoria**

This investment expands the Tiny Towns Fund to a total of \$20 million, delivering more local projects in communities of up to 5,000 people. Projects might include public art and street furniture, tourist attractions such as splash parks, hiking trails or other similar initiatives which improve liveability and community pride for local families, and increase visitation.

## **HOUSING**

### **✓ \$1 billion Regional Housing Fund**

Ahead of the Housing Statement to be released later this year and in addition to the \$1.25 billion for regional Victoria as part of the historic \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build, the Victorian Government will invest a further **\$1 billion** to provide over **1,300** new social and affordable homes across regional Victoria.

### **✓ \$150 million Regional Worker Accommodation Fund**

The Government recognises the challenging worker accommodation shortages being faced by regional communities.

This Fund will provide new and affordable housing options for key workers, supporting job security, growth, and better access to services across regional Victoria.

We will continue to work with councils, Regional Partnerships, and local communities across regional and rural Victoria in determining the housing needs and opportunities in each region.

## TOURISM

The Regional Package includes **\$170 million** for tourism, events, marketing and the visitor economy.

✓ **\$150 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund**

Tourism is a vital part of Victoria's regional economy. This Fund will ensure Victoria's regions have the best of everything on offer, providing significant funding for new tourism infrastructure, regional events, tourism industry development, support for Victorian primary producers, and multicultural festivals.

✓ **\$20 million Regional Tourism Marketing**

This program will help ensure our outstanding regional offerings are marketed across our state, the country and the world.

## COMMUNITY SPORT & REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

✓ **\$60 million Regional Community Sport Development Fund**

This Fund invests in community sport and recreation infrastructure to deliver new and upgraded facilities for regional communities across Victoria. The Regional Community Sport Development Fund will also deliver programs that support community sport volunteer engagement and retention, and participation programs to enable more regional Victorians to get and remain active.

✓ **\$40 million for an All Abilities Sport Fund**

We are investing in accessible and inclusive community sport and recreation through funding to deliver infrastructure and programs that remove barriers to participation for regional Victorians with a disability.

✓ **\$25 million Council Support Package**

The Regional Package will assist regional councils to deliver revitalisation projects to benefit residents and local communities, and to provide continued support for local initiatives.

✓ **\$20 million Aboriginal Economic Development Fund**

This program will invest in Aboriginal cultural tourism initiatives and provide support for Aboriginal business and employment services to build staff capacity, create new business connections, trade and investment opportunities.

## SEE YOU THERE

We look forward to seeing you at the **Geelong Regional Package Forum**.

The Forum is an opportunity to hear more about the Regional Package, and for you to provide your feedback and suggestions on how the Package can deliver long-term, place-based benefits across regional and rural Victoria. **Consider:**

- ① **What are some opportunities in your community that could be supported through the Regional Package?**
- ② **Which of the topics raised (housing, sporting infrastructure, participation & accessibility, tourism, regional investment/Tiny Towns) are of highest priority to you and your community group?**
- ③ **Do you know of existing community programs or projects already underway that the Regional Package could directly or indirectly support?**

The Regional Package is guided by **six pillars: First Peoples; Accessibility and Inclusion; Economic; Social; Environmental; Sport and Wellbeing**.

These pillars will ensure the economic, social and cultural priorities of Victoria's First Peoples and local communities form the basis of investments in social & affordable housing, Tiny Towns, regional worker accommodation, tourism, events, marketing, the visitor economy, community & all-abilities sport, and First Nations economic development.