

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Minister for Trade

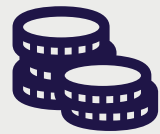
TRADE PORTFOLIO

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

29 June 2021



Trade is vital to the Victorian economy, but closed borders and freight disruptions continue to have a significant impact on exporters



\$55.5 billion

Victorian exports in 2019-20
(goods and services)



330,000 jobs

supported by exports



12% of GSP

contribution of exports to
Victorian economy



\$10.5 billion

export revenue in 2020 from
international education

But the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on exporters including severe disruptions to freight and global supply chains

- 3.6% decline in Victorian exports in 2019-20 compared to previous year
- Education exports down \$3.2 billion in 2020
- Air freight prices – 1.5 - 3.5x pre-COVID levels
- But some sectors have remained resilient, including beef, cosmetics and dairy

Our achievements

- **Export Recovery Package (2020-21 Budget)**
 - Global Gateway: Over 180 high performing exporters have received grants for access to professional services to help them stabilise and adapt their export strategies
 - Virtual Trade Missions: 28 missions delivered this financial year
 - eCommerce program to support Victorian companies to capture new opportunities, including Export Skills Program
 - Advocacy to ensure Victorian exporters are well served through the Commonwealth's International Freight Assistance Mechanism (IFAM) – launched in April 2020 and extended to September 2021

Our achievements

- **Supporting International Education (2020-21 Budget)**
 - \$45 million International Student Emergency Relief Fund (2019-20 and 2020-21) – supported over 33,400 students with payments up to \$1,100 and \$2 million in food relief
 - \$33.4 million for the International Education Short-Term Recovery Plan
 - \$350 million to support universities through the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund

This budget – key initiatives

- The 2021-22 Budget includes \$50.9 million over four years to support Victoria's international education sector to recover and return to growth.
- Includes funding for:
 - expanded **Global Education Network** and **Study Melbourne Hubs** in strategic offshore markets
 - **Study Melbourne brand** destination marketing activity
 - **Study Melbourne Student Centre**, providing emergency and welfare support services to international students
 - **Study Melbourne Inclusion Program** and **Study Melbourne Empowered Program** to improve the international student experience and build sector capacity
 - **International Education Advisory Council** providing strategic advice to Government on sector stabilisation and recovery

This budget – key initiatives

- The 2021-22 Budget provides \$5 million for Trade Facilitation including:
 - **Trade Mission Program** – continuation of virtual trade missions and one on one export facilitation support.
 - **A local campaign and targeted international export campaigns**
- The 2021-22 Budget also includes \$4.2 million over 4 years to support the Victorian Government Trade and Investment Network, including to:
 - Continue our operations and presence in **Tel Aviv** office and extend staffing resources to maintain the continued delivery of the **India Strategy**
- \$1.2 million for new investment professionals in strategic markets