

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Regional Development
Witness:	Heather Ridley, Deputy Secretary, Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
Committee Member:	Jaclyn Symes, MP
Page/s of transcript:	6

Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you. Good afternoon. Just regarding the Regional Jobs Fund, I note on the department's website that applications for the fund for 2024 have been closed but there is no public information on their allocation. Have successful applicants for that round been announced?

Jaclyn SYMES: As you would appreciate, Mr Puglielli, I think some of that will be before my time and some will be since. I am certainly aware of a lot of the recipients. As to whether I can confirm if everybody who has been successful has been notified, I will have to take that on notice. If there are not any, there would be very, very few.

Answer:

Applications for the Regional Jobs Fund closed in 2022-23. Successful projects are listed on the Regional Development Victoria website: www.rdv.vic.gov.au/grants/regional-jobs-fund.

Through the *Victorian Budget 2025/26*, the Government continues to back regional economies and regional jobs.

Regional businesses in Victoria have the lowest payroll tax rate in the nation. And as part of our *Economic Growth Statement*, the Allan Government set out growing regional economies as one of its key actions.

With work well underway to progress all 40 plus of its initiatives, the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* delivers \$240 million to fund the Economic Growth Statement – in full.

At the same time, we're delivering the targeted investments that we know will make a difference to regional economies, including:

- A \$50 million regional stream of the new Victorian Investment Fund, dedicated to supporting fast growing businesses to enhance economic development, generating capital investment and new jobs in regional cities and towns.
- \$10 million to unlock trunk infrastructure – things like water supply, sewerage, roads and electricity – to open up more industrial land across regional Victoria.
- \$400,000 to pilot new Regional Launching Pads, offering new shared spaces, enabling regional businesses, entrepreneurs and investors to meet, work and collaborate.