

**Simon Phemister**

**SECRETARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS**

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

9 November 2021

## DJPR in 2020-21

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### OUR DEPARTMENT

**Seven** ministers spanning **15** portfolios supported as at 30 June 2021:

#### 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 JACLYN SYMES MP

Minister for Resources

#### THE HON MARY-ANNE THOMAS MP

Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Regional Development

#### 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

## DJPR in 2020-21

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### OUR PURPOSE

*Firmly focused on growing our State's economy and ensuring it benefits all Victorians*

### MORE JOBS FOR MORE PEOPLE

*Helping to grow the economy by working with businesses to create and maintain jobs*

### THRIVING PLACES AND REGIONS

*Building vibrant, prosperous precincts, suburbs and regions that drive economic growth and opportunities*

### INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

*Creating opportunities for all Victorians in communities that are well connected and economically resilient*



## DJPR'S key challenges over 2020-21

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### GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

*Placed the Victorian economy under unprecedented pressure.*

- 1. Over 30 COVID programs and initiatives were delivered to support businesses:***
  - > Sector-specific business supports to target support to those hardest hit*
  - > Helping industries navigate COVID-19 restrictions through support in upskilling, adaptation and advice*
  - > Support for commercial tenancy and landlord relief*
- 2. On-the-ground emergency response and targeted industry engagement to understand and help manage the impacts of restrictions***
- 3. Translated industry feedback to Department of Health to help shape restrictions in ways that best supported businesses***
- 4. Support to individuals to isolate, and jobseekers to find jobs***
- 5. Maintained Whole-of-Victorian Government (non-health) and industry emergency PPE stockpiles and coordinated government non-health PPE access to supply***

# Support for businesses through the pandemic

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## KEY EXAMPLES OF SECTOR-SPECIFIC BUSINESS SUPPORTS



### MULTI-SECTOR SUPPORT

**Business Support Fund (3 Rounds)**  
**Business Costs Assistance Program**  
**Sole Trader Support Program**



### HOSPITALITY SUPPORT

**Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund**  
**Outdoor Eating and Entertainment Package**  
**CBD Small Hospitality Grant**  
**Hospitality Business Grant Program**  
**Night-time Economy Business Support Initiative**



### EVENTS AND CREATIVE SUPPORT

**Live Performance Support Program (Presenters + Suppliers)**  
**Impacted Public Events Support Program**  
**Sustainable Events Business Program**  
**Victorian Live Music Venues Program**



### TOURISM SUPPORT

**Regional Travel Vouchers**  
**Melbourne Travel Vouchers**



### CBD RECOVERY

**Melbourne City Recovery Fund**  
**Melbourne Money Dining Vouchers**

# Support for businesses through the pandemic

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## UPSKILLING, ADAPTATION AND ADVICE



### SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS

- > Partners in Wellbeing Helpline/Peak Bodies
- > Business Recovery & Resilience Mentoring
- > Small Business Digital Adaptation Program
- > Upskill my Business Website

## COMMERCIAL TENANCY AND LANDLORD RELIEF



### COMMERCIAL TENANCY RELIEF SCHEME

Mediation assistance through the VSBC

### COMMERCIAL LANDLORD HARDSHIP FUND

Assistance for small landlords who experience hardship as a result of waiving rent for their tenant

## TARGETED INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT



### WORKPLACE DIRECTIONS AND FAQs

Helped businesses translate public health directions to their operations

### BUSINESS VICTORIA HOTLINE

Answered 500k calls relating to COVID-19

### MULTICHANNEL INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Two way engagement with industry on COVID issues via multiple channels – e.g. promoted COVIDSafe practices (including compliance with QR code requirements) through peak bodies, eDMs, on-ground engagement

### BUSINESS CHAMBERS AND TRADER GROUPS

Grants to local chambers of commerce and trader groups to help their members move into recovery and COVID Normal

## Support to individuals

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### SUPPORT TO ISOLATE



#### TEST ISOLATION PAYMENT

\$450 COVID-19 Test Isolation Payment to support Victorian workers to self-isolate while waiting for test results – more than **\$179 million** in payments to over 400,000 claims



#### PANDEMIC LEAVE DISASTER PAYMENT

Policy support to facilitate the Commonwealth's \$1,500 Pandemic Leave Disaster payment

### SUPPORT FOR JOBSEEKERS



#### WORKING FOR VICTORIA

**\$500 million** Working for Victoria initiative to place 13,500 Victorians back into jobs, as part of the Economic Survival Package



#### JOBS VICTORIA FUND

Launched the **\$250 million** Jobs Victoria Fund, a wage subsidy program that helps businesses hire people whose employment has been most affected by the pandemic

## DJPR'S key challenges over 2020-21

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### **BUSHFIRE, DROUGHT, STORMS AND FLOOD EVENTS**

*Due to multiple severe weather events, DJPR provided intensive programs, advice and support to regional communities and business, including:*

- > **Grants for impacted members of the community including for primary producers**
- > **Business Recovery Advisory Service**
- > **Response, relief and recovery planning**
- > **Rural Financial Counselling Service**
- > **Lead and support roles for State Emergency Management Plan responsibilities**



### **BIOSECURITY – AVIAN INFLUENZA**

*In response to the outbreak of Avian influenza, the largest biosecurity emergency response in Victoria for 20 years, an estimated \$22 million was spent on containment, eradication, and surveillance*

# Highlights from Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) in 2020-21

## *Business Investment and Engagement, in conjunction with Defence Capture*

*Building trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy*



### **BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND ENGAGEMENT**

Assisted **39 firms to invest** in Victoria, supporting creation of nearly **3,000 jobs** and more than **\$1.6 billion in capital expenditure** over the life of the projects

Engaged with over **860 key businesses** to support decision makers with industry insights including business conditions, supply chain disruptions, personal protective equipment supply and COVID-19 recovery

Secured **major investments** in Victoria, including:

- **Seqirus** – \$800 million investment in cell based vaccine manufacturing facility, securing more than 1,000 jobs
- **Alinta Energy** – onshoring customer service centre, creating 230 jobs in the Latrobe Valley
- **Segula Technologies Australia** – Australasian HQ and Engineering and Design Centre in South Melbourne, creating 100 jobs
- **NewCold** – \$147 million investment to expand its Asia Pacific HQ and bolster food storage capacity in Melbourne's west
- **Four Pillars Distillery** – expansion of gin production and customer experience in Healesville

# Highlights from Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) in 2020-21

## *Industry Development and Participation*

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*Building trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy*



### **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

Implemented the Local Jobs First Policy under the Local Jobs First Act 2003 and provided timely advice on requirements for 40 Local Jobs First Strategic Projects.

Implemented the **Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG)** which provided new opportunities for apprentices, trainees and cadets and a total of 1.83 million hours worked in the 12 months to March 2021

Consulted on the **Victorian Fair Jobs Code** with key industry stakeholders

Finalised a number of **Industry Development Grant projects** including the Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong, Additive Manufacturing Hub and Boost Your Business Voucher Program

Launched the **Business Competitiveness Program** to provide grants to assist small and medium manufacturers to expand manufacturing operations and implement new technologies and processes

Worked to ensure availability of **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and medical equipment**, including by supporting local production of face masks, ventilators and other critical equipment

# Highlights from Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) in 2020-21

## ***Business Precincts***

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*Building trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy*



### **FISHERMANS BEND**

Secured **\$179.4 million** for the first stage of development of the **Fishermans Bend Innovation Precinct** based on advanced manufacturing, engineering and design

The Innovation Precinct is at the heart of the Fishermans Bend National Employment and Innovation Cluster which forms one half of Australia's largest urban renewal area



### **DOCKLANDS**

Continued to deliver the State's **\$225 million commitment to redevelop Marvel Stadium**

The project will better position Melbourne to host domestic and **world-class sporting and entertainment events**



### **PARKVILLE**

Secured funding to deliver the **Australian Institute for Infectious Disease** in partnership with the University of Melbourne, Doherty Institute and the Burnet Institute.

This will enhance Parkville as the leading biomedical cluster in the Asia Pacific region



### **FOOTSCRAY**

Construction of the new **Footscray Hospital** commenced, providing the opportunity for strategic precinct planning on the old Footscray Hospital site

# Highlights from Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) in 2020-21

## *Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy*

*Building trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy*



### INNOVATION

Built a robust investor and startup community together with LaunchVic

Established the **Alice Anderson Fund**, a **\$10 million fund** that will co-invest in women-led startups

Delivered the **\$10.25 million** Victorian Innovation and Jobs Fund to support Victorian SMEs to boost their productivity and competitiveness



### MEDICAL RESEARCH

Launched **mRNA Victoria** to develop onshore mRNA manufacturing capability

Provided funding support to more than **30 projects** through the **Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund** and the **COVID-19 Research Fund**



### TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

Launched **Connecting Victoria**, a **\$550 million** program to improve mobile connectivity and broadband infrastructure across the state

Delivered **27 new mobile base stations**

Launched the **free public Wi-Fi network in Shepparton**

Delivered the **\$3.5 million Regional Digital Fund** program, which provided grants for 28 small-scale digital projects

Commenced the **\$64 million Digital Jobs program** to build Victoria's pool of digital talent by retraining 5,000 mid-career workers

# Highlights from Jobs, Innovation and Business Engagement (JIBE) in 2020-21

## ***Small Business Victoria***

*Building trust-based relationships with Victorian businesses to achieve job outcomes that strengthen our economy*



### **SMALL BUSINESS VICTORIA**

Finished partnering with all 79 Local Councils (**a further 19**) through the **Better Approvals Project**

Supported small businesses impacted by the Victorian bushfires through the **Business Recovery Advisory Service**

Partnered with Department of Health to deliver the **Partners in Wellbeing program**, which provided:

- > **1,496 wellbeing coaching** sessions
- > **2,964 financial counselling** sessions
- > **480 business advisory** sessions
- > Embedded clinicians in industry peak bodies

**11.9 million visits** to the **Business Victoria website**, **125 per cent higher** compared to 2019-20

Nearly **8,400 small businesses** used the **Upskill My Business** website

Held **270 online workshops**, attended by more than **2,555 individuals** and assisted more than **1,200 people** on the **Small Business Bus**

Held **1,560 virtual mentoring sessions** across Victoria

# Highlights from Global Victoria in 2020-21

## *Trade*

*Connecting Victoria to global opportunities by building the export capability of Victorian businesses and connecting them to global trade opportunities through its international networks.*



### SUPPORT FOR VICTORIAN FIRMS

Global Victoria supported **3,171** Victorian firms and the achievement of **\$569 million in export sales** through participation in government programs such as:

- > **Export Recovery Package** activities – including 28 Virtual Trade missions involving over 590 Victorian companies, and a series of eCommerce projects
- > **Global Gateway** – over 180 Victorian companies received a grant of up to \$50k
- > **Access Program** – tailored export support through the global network of Victorian Government Trade and Investment offices
- > **Export Skills training program** for over 365 participants

# Highlights from Global Victoria in 2020-21

## *International Education*

*Connecting Victoria to global opportunities by building the export capability of Victorian businesses and connecting them to global trade opportunities through its international networks.*



### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- > Opened the first **Study Melbourne Hub** in **Shanghai**. The Hub has hosted **150 students per week** and delivered 10 successful Global Victoria and education partner events to over 500 stakeholders

### 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 \$1,100 to more than 20,600 international students
- > Over \$2 million to support food relief for international students

# Highlights from Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy (CSVE) in 2020-21

## *Creative Industries*

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*Strengthening Victoria's status as Australia's leading cultural, sport, racing, recreational, tourism and events destination.*



### RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**Provided \$188 million in support** for the creative industries, ensuring organisations and artists received urgent grants and investments in their survival, recovery, and activation



### CREATIVE STATE 2025

Developed **Victoria's \$288 million Creative State 2025 strategy**, informed by engagement with over **1,000 stakeholders**



### VICSCREEN

Developed **VICSCREEN** to supercharge the Screen sector through a record **\$191.5 million** investment over the next four years, supporting **40,000+ jobs**



### REVITALISATION OF VICTORIA'S CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

**\$1.46 billion investment** in the **Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation**, including establishing a new landmark gallery, **NGV Contemporary**

**\$140 million** for the **Geelong Arts Centre Little Malop Street Redevelopment**

Redeveloped the **Australian Centre for the Moving Image**

**\$46 million** expansion of **Docklands Studios Melbourne**

# Highlights from Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy (CSVE) in 2020-21

## ***Sport, Recreation and Racing (SRR)***

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*Strengthening Victoria's status as Australia's leading cultural, sport, racing, recreational, tourism and events destination.*



### **SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE**

**\$290 million to 239 community sport and recreation infrastructure projects**

- > Includes **\$178 million to 70 projects** through the **Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program**, which supported \$335 million worth of infrastructure and created more than 800 jobs



### **SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORT AND RECREATION**

**\$1.6 million** in 2020-21 for the **Office for Women in Sport and Recreation** to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and recreation, from grassroots to senior leadership roles



### **RACING**

**61 racing projects** supported with **\$9 million** in grants from the **Victorian Racing Industry Fund**, with total value **\$18.5 million**



### **SPORTING CLUB GRANTS PROGRAM**

**4,000 grants** totalling **\$6.6 million** approved and paid to 30 June 2021 to improve the capacity, skills and accessibility of organisations

# Highlights from Creative, Sport and Visitor Economy (CSVE) in 2020-21

## *Tourism and Events*

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*Strengthening Victoria's status as Australia's leading cultural, sport, racing, recreational, tourism and events destination.*



### RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Launched the **\$20 million Victorian Events Support Package** to help event organisers manage during the pandemic

Supported accommodation providers through the **Victorian Accommodation Support Program** (nearly **\$8 million**) and the **Regional Tourism Accommodation Support Program** (**\$18.6 million**)

Supported delivery of the **2021 Australian Open**, ensuring large crowds could safely attend



### VISITOR ECONOMY RECOVERY & REFORM PLAN

**\$633 million Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan** launched



### TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Announced 30 projects totalling **\$46 million** for the **Regional Tourism Investment Fund – Stimulus Round**, including:

- > **\$3.53 million** for the Bellarine Tourist Railway Rehabilitation project
- > **\$2.3 million** to improve visitor facilities at the Warburton Redwoods Experience

Announced 19 projects totalling \$120 million for the **Tourism Flagships** program, including:

- > **\$23 million** for the Wilsons Prom Revitalisation
- > **\$23.8 million** for the Great Ocean Road Coastal Trail

# Highlights from Employment and Inclusion in 2020-21

## ***Employment***

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*Supporting people into employment boosts labour supply and helps to build a more economically and socially-inclusive Victoria*



### **JOBS VICTORIA**

**13,500+** Victorians placed into jobs through the **\$500 million Working for Victoria initiative**

**2,100** Victorians into work through the **Jobs Victoria Mentor service**

**\$250 million Jobs Victoria Fund**

Partnered with **40+ organisations** to host **110+ Jobs Victoria Advocates**

Launched the **Jobs Victoria hotline** to match more jobseekers and employers



### **PLACE BASED REFORM + DELIVERY**

Delivered the **Community Revitalisation program**, **1,100+** jobseekers supported



### **ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Partnered with the Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Council to develop the **Victorian Aboriginal Employment and Economic Strategy**

Provided grants to **130 Aboriginal-owned businesses** across Victoria through the **First People's Business Support Fund**, to assist with the impacts of COVID-19



### **SOCIAL PROCUREMENT AND ENTERPRISE**

Developed a new **Social Enterprise Strategy** for Victoria and delivered the place-based Microenterprise Development pilot program at **three sites**

# Highlights from Agriculture Victoria in 2020-21

## Agriculture

*Supporting an agriculture, food and fibre sector that is strong, innovative and sustainable.*



### STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURE

Developed a new '**Strategy for Agriculture in Victoria**': a **transformative 10-year vision for agriculture**, including initiatives to help the sector recover from COVID-19

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



### RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Supported over **2,800 new workers** to enter the horticulture industry through the **Seasonal Harvest Sign-On Bonus** program



### SMALL-SCALE AND CRAFT PROGRAM

**\$3.4 million** worth of grants to help **small-scale and craft agribusinesses** to expand and diversify



### NATIVE FOODS AND BOTANICALS

**\$2 million** for **13 Djakitjuk Djanga grants** to support Aboriginal leadership and participation in Victoria's native food and botanicals industry



### AVIAN INFLUENZA RESPONSE

Responded to the outbreak of **Avian influenza**, our largest **biosecurity emergency response** in 20 years

# Highlights from Forestry and Climate Change (FCC) in 2020-21

## ***Agriculture***

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*Leading the delivery and implementation of the Victorian Forestry Plan and providing technical and policy advice for the sustainable management and use of forest and game resources. Contributes to whole-of-government work on climate change including energy reform across DJPR portfolios.*



### **VICTORIAN FORESTRY PLAN**

Issued **26 Forestry Business Transition vouchers** to support businesses to plan for their transition

Commenced the **Local Development Strategy** program in Orbost that has widespread community support

Established the **Victorian Timber Innovation Fund** and issued **7 grants to 5 existing businesses**

Commenced market engagement processes for the **Gippsland Plantations Investment Program**



### **FORESTRY AND GAME POLICY**

Completed delivery of **Sustainable Hunting Action Plan 2016-20**

Launched the **Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy**



### **CLIMATE CHANGE IN INDUSTRY TRANSITION**

Led DJPR's contribution to the **Victorian Government's Climate Change Strategy**, as well as climate change adaptation action planning

# Highlights from Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV) in 2020-21

## ***Regional Development Victoria (RDV)***

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*Supporting rural and regional communities and economies to be vibrant, thriving and inclusive.*



### **RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

Supported recovery through **Building Works package** projects, e.g. Twelve Apostles Trail, Portland Foreshore redevelopment and Tower Hill infrastructure project

Supported businesses in Regional Victoria to access Government grants, as well as providing advice and support to border communities

Supported delivery of almost 400 projects through the **Agriculture Workforce Plan**

Supported delivery of over 50 projects through the **COVID-19 Regional Recovery Fund**

Assisted border communities impacted by COVID-19 border closures and restrictions, in collaboration with the Victorian Cross Border Commissioner



### **REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Implemented improvements highlighted by regional communities, alongside the nine Regional Partnerships



### **REGIONAL JOBS AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Supported delivery of 39 projects through the **Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund**

Facilitated opportunities for new job creation through delivery of 12 projects from the **Regional Jobs Fund**

# Highlights from Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV) in 2020-21

## *Latrobe Valley Authority*

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*Supporting rural and regional communities and economies to be vibrant, thriving and inclusive.*



### SUPPORTING LATROBE VALLEY BUSINESSES

Supported 1500 Gippsland businesses through the **Business Support Service pilot program**

Provided funding to 225 early stage businesses through the **Latrobe Valley Business and Industry Capability Fund**

Reimbursed state and local government fees to 110 businesses in the Latrobe Valley to help them grow, expand and employ



### FORESTRY TRANSITION PLAN

Actively engaged with Energy Australia ahead of the Yallourn Power station closure in 2028

Assisted workers and families impacted by closures via the **Workers Transition Service**



### INVESTING IN INNOVATION

Supported economic diversification and future growth and job opportunities in the Latrobe Valley

# Highlights from Rural and Regional Victoria (RRV) in 2020-21

## *Resources*

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*Supporting rural and regional communities and economies to be vibrant, thriving and inclusive.*



### HELPING VICTORIA GROW: EXTRACTIVE RESOURCES STRATEGY

Progressed delivery of the strategy, aimed at securing high-quality resources to meet Victoria's infrastructure and housing needs

Included significant public consultation and assessment of more than **250 submissions**



### INTERNATIONAL MINING AND RESOURCES CONFERENCE 2020

Delivered this conference online to promote new opportunities and showcase Victoria's buoyant resources sector



### MODERNISING REGULATION AND LEGISLATION

Completed delivery of major improvements to **earth resources regulation** in Victoria, in response to the Getting the Groundwork Right report

Introduced interim regulations in May 2021 to support the orderly **restart of the conventional gas industry** from 1 July 2021



### VICTORIAN GAS PROGRAM

Permanent ban on hydraulic **fracking**

Exploration permits granted under the **Offshore Acreage Release**

## Highlights from Local Government and Suburban Development (LGSD) in 2020-21

### Office for Suburban Development and Local Government Victoria

*Helping 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.*



#### OFFICE FOR SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT

**Supported recovery in 47 locations** through the Suburban Revitalisation program

Invested over **\$24 million towards 115 initiatives** worth almost \$68 million, to revitalise local activity centres and shopping strips across Melbourne

Established **6 new Revitalisation Boards** in addition to Frankston and Broadmeadows

Metropolitan Partnerships engaged over **3,800 people through 44 events**, to identify local impacts and priorities for suburban recovery

Delivered **16 projects and nine events** as part of the **\$1.3 million Let's Stay Connected Fund** to tackle social isolation and loneliness



#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT VICTORIA

**\$45.8 million Public Libraries Funding Program** and **\$10 million Living Libraries Infrastructure Program** to support libraries providing vital community support during COVID-19

**\$75.2 million through** the Growing Suburbs Fund, including \$25 million in stimulus funding, to support infrastructure including community centres, playgrounds, parks and pavilions

Delivered **\$34.5 million Local Government Outdoor Eating and Entertainment** package

Established **\$7.1 million Local Government Business Concierge and Hospitality Support Program**