

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for the Coordination of Jobs, Precincts and Regions – COVID-19

Minister for Racing

Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events



Thursday, 4 June 2020

COUNCILS COME ON BOARD TO CREATE JOBS, KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE

An army of public hygiene and land maintenance workers employed to help slow the spread of coronavirus has been bolstered in a major push backed by the Victorian Government's *Working for Victoria* fund.

The Government has struck new agreements with 15 councils across Victoria to support more than 1,000 people into jobs. More than half of the councils in the state are now on board with *Working for Victoria*.

An initial sweep of 28 councils across Victoria is supporting more than 2,300 people into jobs that include cleaning, land and asset management, community outreach, hardship relief delivery and crisis co-ordination.

The \$500 million *Working for Victoria* program is matching people who have lost their job due to the economic impacts of coronavirus with employers who need staff. More than 6,700 Victorians have found positions through the program since April, providing a quick return to work and access to training where required.

The councils involved in the latest program are Glen Eira, Greater Shepparton, Hobsons Bay, Hume, Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Hepburn, Horsham, Knox, Loddon, Mildura, Moyne, Swan Hill, Towong and Wellington.

This tranche of jobs includes a proportion of outdoor maintenance and land management roles, particularly in regional areas.

Workers in the Bannockburn-headquartered Golden Plains shire will maintain waterways, outdoor trails and other key recreational assets, along with reducing fire hazards. Greater Shepparton City Council will deploy workers to spruce up the environment, with a focus on planting trees and gardening.

In addition to outdoor maintenance, metropolitan councils are expanding their social outreach and community development activities. The City of Knox is hiring mental health and wellbeing officers, while Glen Eira City Council is supporting vulnerable community members with check-in services, library deliveries and other home services.

For more information on *Working for Victoria* and to register, go to vic.gov.au/workingforvictoria.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula

"This is creating opportunities for people who have lost their job through no fault of their own and providing a crucial community service into the bargain."

"The work that is being done in these programs is one of the reasons that we have been so successful to date in slowing the spread of coronavirus."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Local Government Adem Somyurek

"It's fantastic that a further 15 councils have seen the benefits of Working for Victoria and are taking every opportunity to support their communities."

"From the cleaning of water fountains and bench seats to clearing waterways, the benefit of this work is clear."