

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Thursday, 5 November 2020

KEY REVITALISATION PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN CENTRAL VICTORIA

Works on important projects revitalising the central Victorian communities of Avoca and Maryborough are underway, boosting local economies, creating jobs and making our country towns better places to live, work and visit.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes was today joined by local council and community members to see how key projects are tracking, designed to build community connections and promote tourism in Avoca and Maryborough.

The \$750,000 *Activate Avoca Stage 1* revitalisation led by Pyrenees Shire Council has been supported with \$500,000 from the Victorian Government's *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund*, and will include new paths, better signage, new communal spaces, and improved accessibility.

The works will create 17 full time equivalent jobs during construction and will make Avoca an attractive destination for visitors to stop and enjoy the town. The first stage of the upgrade is due for completion early next year.

Plans are also underway for the \$127,000 transformation of the historical Maryborough Station Building into a community hub with a new co-working facility for small businesses and relocation of the town's Visitor Information Centre.

Construction for the Maryborough Station building upgrade is due to start early next year, thanks to \$50,000 from the Government's *Stronger Regional Communities Program*, which is also part of the *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* and invests in community-led projects that support economic growth.

Locally-led projects such as *Activate Avoca* and the revitalisation of the Maryborough Station building are designed to create jobs and provide lasting economic benefits for their communities and the broader region.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"It's exciting to see how these projects are coming along – they'll be really important drawcards to encourage tourism back to our regions as they get back on their feet after the impacts of coronavirus."

"When it comes to making our country towns better places to live, the community is best-placed to tell us what they need – that's why we're backing exciting projects like these."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford

"These are wonderful locally-led projects that will mean the world to residents and visitors alike – they will breathe new life into Avoca and Maryborough while maintaining the regions' historic charm."