

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Minister for Industry Support and Recovery
Minister for Trade
Minister for Business Precincts
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events
Minister for Racing



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BACKING PROJECTS THAT BRING VISITORS BACK TO GIPPSLAND

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Gippsland after a devastating year of bushfires and coronavirus with a budget boost that will bring more visitors to Victoria's east to spend money and support local businesses.

The *Victorian Budget 2020/21* will provide \$18.5 million to build new accommodation, upgrade the East Gippsland Rail Trail and improve access to remote natural and man-made attractions.

The *Gippsland Tourism Recovery Package* includes \$3.5 million to build 10 eco-pods at Cape Conran Coastal Park. The distinctive accommodation will be built from sustainable materials and attract more visitors to the beautiful beach on the Melbourne to Sydney coastal route.

Metung Hot Springs will receive \$1.5 million to support the establishment of a year-round geothermal mineral spring that can welcome 250 guests, and \$1 million will go towards the Nunduk Spa and Eco-Resort proposed for the southern shores of Lake Wellington.

The package also includes \$3.5 million for a community-led restoration of the historic timber trestle Snowy Rail Bridge, providing a safe pedestrian and cycling crossing on the East Gippsland Rail Trail.

A further \$2 million will create more camping spots in East Gippsland, \$2.8 million will improve access and visitor facilities at Mallacoota Inlet, and \$350,000 will help the koala trail at Raymond Island accommodate more visitors.

The package also includes \$3.85 million to provide better access to Point Hicks Lighthouse. The lighthouse was built in 1887 and is the tallest on mainland Australia. It is in the secluded and pristine Croajingolong National Park, a region steeped in rich Aboriginal and European history.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"Gippsland has had a tough year – but visitors are starting to return and these investments will keep them coming."

"These projects will bring more visitors to Gippsland to spend money and support local businesses."

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"The historic Point Hicks Lighthouse and beautiful Mallacoota Inlet are wonderful coastal attractions enjoyed by thousands of Victorians every year – and we're ensuring they can be enjoyed for generations to come."

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"Victorians have shown they're keen to get back out into our beautiful regions and spend local to help country communities get back on their feet – that's why we're investing in the infrastructure to welcome them in."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Harriet Shing

"This is about supporting our region to recover and rebuild communities after a devastatingly tough year. I'm delighted that this investment recognises a number of projects which communities have identified as priorities."

Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Jane Garrett

"This package will be a great support for local tourism and will ensure more people visit our stunning region."

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