

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



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SUPPORTING OUR AGRICULTURAL AND PASTORAL SOCIETIES

The Andrews Labor Government is backing better facilities at Victoria's Agricultural and Pastoral Societies as they reopen their doors to crowds in 2021.

Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas today announced almost \$300,000 in funding for 46 projects that will enable show societies across the state to undertake projects that will benefit their communities.

Grants of up to \$10,000 will help societies upgrade or establish new facilities, increase local involvement in show activities and create opportunities for agricultural businesses. The support comes after societies experienced a tough year in 2020 with shows cancelled or postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Examples of projects funded include equipment such as sanitiser stations, animal yards, fencing, shade covers and lighting or upgrades to shearing pavilions, luncheon halls, public amenities and viewing stands.

The projects will help the societies deliver exciting events that provide a direct benefit to agricultural communities, building confidence in the sector and supporting regional economies and jobs.

Agricultural and Pastoral Societies play an integral role in many regional communities in Victoria, organising much-loved shows each year and hosting other events for their communities.

The new funding program aligns with the Labor Government's Agriculture Strategy by supporting Victoria's Agricultural and Pastoral Societies to promote the industry's commitment to quality and high performance.

For more information and to see a full list of grant recipients, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Mary-Anne Thomas

"I look forward to heading along to some of the great shows our Agricultural and Pastoral Societies will be putting on this year as they bring our regional communities together and promote Victorian agriculture."

"Agricultural and Pastoral Societies play a crucial role for many regional communities, hosting events ranging from the annual shows to markets, dances, touring entertainment and more."

"These grants will provide an opportunity for many Victorian Agricultural and Pastoral Societies to improve their facilities, which will benefit the whole community."