

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
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FAST-TRACKING INVESTMENT TO SUPPORT REGIONAL RECOVERY

New job-creating infrastructure projects are being fast-tracked across regional and rural Victoria to ensure our regions continue to thrive.

Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas announced the new *Investment Fast Track Fund* is open for applications as part of the Victorian Government's program to support local jobs and communities.

The *Investment Fast Track Fund* will help take important projects from the ideas phase to be ready for development, with grants of up to \$500,000 available to local councils, community organisations and the private sector for planning, design and business case works.

The fund is part of the Government's flagship \$156 million *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund*, which helps businesses create jobs in regional Victoria and supports councils to build the infrastructure locals and visitors need.

The Government has announced almost \$700 million and created around 11,000 jobs across regional and rural Victoria since the *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* was established in 2015.

This investment is making our regions even better places to live, work, visit and invest by growing jobs, leveraging private sector investment, and improving community and visitor facilities.

The *Investment Fast Track Fund* aims to support a new pipeline of projects across the state to encourage continued private sector investment.

The opening of the *Investment Fast Track Fund* comes after the recent announcement of the *Regional Infrastructure Fund – Stimulus Round*. Also part of the *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund*, the stimulus round aims to create jobs by funding priority community projects that can be activated quickly, helping regions to recover and thrive.

Applications for the second round of the *Regional Infrastructure Fund's* 2020/21 program are due to open on 16 June.

The *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* is central to the Labor Government's almost \$30 billion investment in rural and regional Victoria since 2015.

Information and guidelines for the *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* can be found at rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

"Our continued investment in regional and rural Victoria provides ongoing job opportunities and better facilities for locals and visitors right across our state."

"The new Investment Fast Track Fund will support the recovery of communities large and small, and ensure Victoria continues to have our nation's most vibrant regional economies."