

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Resources



Wednesday, 9 March 2022

DRIVING DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY ACROSS REGIONAL VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is investing in digital projects to help businesses and communities be better connected to create jobs and drive economic growth.

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford today announced the full list of digital projects from the Labor Government's \$3.5 million Regional Digital Fund.

The Fund supports a broad range of small-scale digital projects identified as priorities by the local Regional Partnership, investing up to \$390,000 in each partnership region.

Projects are rolling out across the state including Strengthening Care for Children which provides telehealth access for those in the Wimmera Southern Mallee to the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. In Gippsland the fund is supporting around 120 local tourism businesses to access digital skills training and a one-on-one online or onsite mentoring service from a digital tourism expert.

Barwon, Central Highlands, Great South Coast, Goulburn, Loddon Campaspe, Mallee and Ovens Murray regions also have projects underway addressing digital connectivity skills helping residents and businesses move beyond geographical and social barriers to economic growth.

The Regional Digital Fund projects will help build digital technology infrastructure, skills and capability in regional Victoria, supporting ongoing competitiveness of regional businesses, emerging industries and helping to create local jobs.

For more information and a full list of the projects visit rdv.vic.gov.au/resources/digital-plans/innovation-in-the-regions.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford

"Improving access to digital technology creates jobs and connects communities."

"Investing in digital infrastructure and providing training for residents and businesses across regional Victoria sets up local communities for the future."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

"These projects are crucial for regional Victoria. Having access to reliable digital technologies helps communities stay connected and businesses adapt to new ways of doing things."

"Where you live shouldn't be a barrier to participate in the digital world."