

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MLC

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education



Wednesday, 27 April 2022

SUPPORTING VICTORIA'S FUTURE CLEAN ENERGY WORKFORCE

The Andrews Labor Government has secured a fleet of hybrid and electric vehicles for SuniTAFE, to ensure automotive apprentices in Swan Hill and Mildura have the skills they need for Victoria's clean energy future.

Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney today announced a \$1.18 million investment to buy a range of next generation vehicles including trucks and passenger cars for trade workshops at SuniTAFE's Swan Hill and Mildura campuses.

The new equipment will allow apprentices to learn their craft within their own community, rather than travelling to Melbourne for specialised training.

The Labor Government's investment also supports growing student demand for automotive retail, service and repair courses at SuniTAFE, which is helping meet skills demands in the Mallee region.

The project will support Victoria's transition to a Zero Emission Fleet, including public transport, by developing reliable and affordable technology, strengthening the grid, exploring batteries and storage, creating a public data-repository and rolling out public awareness campaigns.

Victoria's transport sector accounts for 25 per cent of the state's emissions, which is why the Labor Government has rolled out a Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap, including development of a zero-emission public bus fleet by 2025 and having half of all new car sales zero emission by 2030.

The investment is part of the Labor Government's \$12 million TAFE Equipment and Facilities Fund, announced in the *Victorian Budget 2020/21*, and overseen by Apprenticeships Victoria.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has made a record \$3.2 billion investment to rebuild TAFE and support universities and higher education to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and rewarding careers.

Quote attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"We're making sure our TAFE system provides the skills Victoria needs now and into the future, which is why we've invested in this project to give Mallee jobseekers the expertise they need for our clean energy future."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Mark Gepp

"This is a game-changer for SuniTAFE apprentices who previously had to travel to Melbourne for specialised training but who can now get the skills they need for a meaningful career in their own community."

Quote attributable to SuniTAFE acting CEO David Harris

"This Labor Government investment will ensure our students can work directly on the latest equipment and newest technologies, ensuring they have the critical skills they need to work in local industries."