

Media Release

Ms Danielle Green MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Sport

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria



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ICONIC CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS ART GALLERY TO BE TRANSFORMED

The Andrews Labor Government is revitalising Central Goldfields Art Gallery with major works underway set to transform Maryborough as a must-stop destination for visitors.

Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green today viewed progress on the project which has been backed by a \$1.7 million investment from the Labor Government's *Regional Infrastructure Fund* and the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund*.

The refurbished and restored gallery is located inside the town's iconic 161-year-old fire station and will build on the success of the gallery in the region's arts and culture scene when the doors re-open in September.

Events, exhibitions and arts programs for all ages are being planned for the gallery that are expected to attract thousands of tourists each year and offer locals more opportunities to come together and learn about their history and culture.

There will be increased space for artists to showcase their works and permanent collections including high-profile Australian artists like Arthur Boyd.

The gallery will also bring to life the region's history, showcasing works that demonstrate the town's connection to textiles, with the Maryborough Knitting Mills having operated in the town for 70 years until the 1990s.

The gallery's new open-plan interior will make the most of the building's natural assets – including the original 19th century ceiling beams – while improvements to lighting, temperature control and floor levels will make the building more accessible and create new contemporary spaces for retail and exhibitions.

There will be upgrades to the education, community and artist workshop area which will mean more students, groups and creatives can be involved in workshops and presentations.

The building's bell tower will overlook a new landscaped garden area designed to acknowledge and celebrate the Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners. The garden has the potential for art projections and specially commissioned furniture. It will also incorporate stories of fire and water with indigenous plantings.

This project is part of the Government's more than \$30 billion investment across rural and regional Victoria since 2015.

Quotes attributable to Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Victoria Danielle Green

"I'm thrilled to see the Central Goldfields Art Gallery one step closer to completion, which will boost the region's tourism potential while creating local jobs."

"We are revitalising Maryborough's Central Goldfields Art Gallery to encourage more visitors to stop in town, support local businesses and further boost our regions vibrant economies."