

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Monday, 30 May 2022

MALDON'S PORCUPINE VILLAGE STRIKES GOLD WITH NEW JOBS

The Andrews Labor Government is securing the future of Maldon's Porcupine Village tourist attraction with a \$1.7 million investment towards the project, which will create more than 100 jobs and attract more visitors to the Central Goldfields region.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Martin Pakula today announced that funding from the *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* will go towards restoration works and new accommodation, bringing Maldon's gold rush history to life for visitors.

The restoration, which will include the school, blacksmith, and lolly shop, will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to experience the village just as it was generations ago and learn about how gold shaped Maldon and Victoria's heritage.

The new accommodation including glamping tents and safari-style cabins at the village will help encourage visitors to stay longer and enjoy all the region has to offer.

The project will also feature a native wildlife sanctuary and a function space for school excursions.

This will link it to the Victorian school curriculum, helping children learn firsthand about the gold-rush era and the environment.

Tourism is a key contributor to the Goldfields economy, with the region attracting more than 8.1 million visitors in the year ending December 2019.

The Labor Government's *Regional Tourism Investment Fund* is helping attract more visitors to Victoria's regions, driving private investment and accelerating the recovery of the tourism sector.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Martin Pakula

"We're investing in this project because it will create jobs now and allow future generations to learn about Victoria's fascinating gold rush era."

"The new accommodation will encourage visitors to stay longer and explore the Central Goldfields – that's a win for local business."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"Our region's gold rush history is something to be celebrated and we're proud to back projects like this to boost local tourism."