

Media Release

Ms Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Agriculture



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DRIVING UP TOURISM IN LAKE EILDON

The Andrews Labor Government is unlocking more tourism opportunities and growing jobs in Lake Eildon by fast tracking the planning of upgrades to the scenic Skyline Road.

Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas today announced \$500,000 funding through the Labor Government's *Investment Fast Track (IFF) Fund* to enable planning, consultation and detailed designs to construct the remaining 15 kilometres of Skyline Road.

The funding will enable the Mansfield and Murrindindi shire councils to complete necessary planning work ahead of sealing Skyline Road's gravel surface.

The planning stage of the Skyline Road Tourism Precinct catalyst project will include design works to improve access for visitors and locals travelling between Eildon and Bonnie Doon.

The project forms part of the broader Lake Eildon Masterplan which received a \$150,000 grant through the Government's *Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund* in 2019 to reinvigorate its visitor appeal around Lake Eildon. The activation of Lake Eildon has also been a Goulburn Regional Partnership priority.

Skyline Road's proposed upgrades will mark the first step in turning the Lake Eildon area into a premier tourism destination by opening the door to more food, beverage and accommodation investments as a result of easier road access.

The road is a key vantage point for sightseers to observe a snapshot of Lake Eildon and Victoria's surrounding High Country, with the road sealing upgrades opening the door to potential cycling events that will provide new experiences for visitors around Lake Eildon.

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

The *Investment Fast Track Fund* is part of the Victorian Government's flagship *Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund* which helps businesses create more jobs in regional Victoria and supports councils to build the infrastructure locals and visitors need.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$700 million in its Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund since 2015 – supporting around 13,000 jobs and delivering 1,000 projects.

The funding is part of the Government's more than \$36 billion investment across regional and rural Victoria since 2015. For more information, visit rdv.vic.gov.au/rjif

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Mary-Anne Thomas

"This project will provide an important gateway to drive more visitors into Lake Eildon, which in turn will support the regional economy and local jobs."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"Fast tracking the planning and upgrades of Skyline Road will set up Eildon and Bonnie Doon to tap into new local business investments, drawing in more visitors all-year-round."

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