

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Training and Skills

Minister for Higher Education

Minister for Agriculture



Monday, 1 August 2022

INNOVATIVE SUPPORT TO REDUCE FARMING CARBON FOOTPRINT

The Andrews Labor Government is helping farmers in the sheep industry reduce their carbon footprint through the creation of a new app to help agriculture workers bring down their carbon emissions.

Minister for Training and Skills and Higher Education Gayle Tierney announced \$1 million through the *Clean Economy Workforce Capacity Building Fund* for the new training app through the Rural Industries Skill Training Centre (RIST), a Skills First registered training organisation in Hamilton.

The easy-to-use training app will use virtual reality simulations to help sheep producers collect data on pasture utilization and sheep production and welfare which, so they can make decisions on the most effective strategies to manage climate variability while reducing CO2 emission intensity.

The app will also help farmers collect and compile emissions data to meet the emerging Clean Energy requirements from their supply chain and maintain access to domestic and international markets.

The project is funded through a Clean Economy Workforce Capacity Building Fund grant, which creates opportunities for partnerships between the Victorian training sector and industry to deliver training that supports the Labor Government's work to decarbonise the economy and achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The Minister also announced an investment of \$328,000 for the purchase of 2 Tenstar Tractor VR simulators to support the delivery of Certificate II in Agriculture courses at RIST.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has made a record \$3.5 billion investment to rebuild TAFE and support universities and higher education to ensure Victorians have access to high quality education and rewarding career pathways.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Training and Skills Gayle Tierney

"This new easy-to-use app is one of the innovating training solutions we are supporting to ensure the agriculture industry is well positioned to deliver the clean economy of tomorrow."

"Our government recognises the vital role our agriculture industry plays in Victoria and is investing in projects to support its future and provide the training needed to support its workforce."

Quote attributable to Rural Industries Skill Training Centre Chief Executive Bill Hamill

"This initiative will provide the sheep industry workforce with a timely and innovative training program to assist the industry comply with the national and global emission policies."