

Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Training and Skills
Minister for Higher Education
Minister for Agriculture



Tuesday, 8 August 2023

EMPOWERING OUR NEXT-GEN AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE

The Andrews Labor Government is modernising how Longerenong College and Federation University TAFE train Victoria's future agriculture workforce.

Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney today visited Longerenong College to tour the new state-of-the-art student accommodation currently in development, thanks to a \$6.5 million investment from the Labor Government.

The project will also give students a new communal building and other campus improvements to create a supportive learning environment – with construction set to be completed in early 2024.

Federation University TAFE is improving its training capacity for students while incorporating Aboriginal cultural awareness and sustainability into the curriculum.

Through the Government's *Agriculture TAFE and Training Fund*, Federation University TAFE will partner with Longerenong College, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, Southern Farming Systems, and Western AG to deliver Certificate II, III, and IV in Agriculture.

The \$1.87 million investment will help create a pathway and prepare students at Longerenong College to enter Federation University TAFE.

Partner organisations will also equip students with essential skills in contemporary farming practices, with an emphasis on reducing carbon footprints and embracing eco-friendly approaches.

The *Agriculture TAFE and Training Fund* is backed by the Labor Government's \$50 million Agricultural College Modernisation Program, which supports more Victorians to pursue careers in agriculture.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney

"Investing in the education, training and infrastructure for our future agriculture professionals is paramount and will empower our youth to become leaders in the sector, while drive innovation and progress for years to come."

"By recognising the Traditional Owners of the land, we are enriching the educational experience and fostering a more inclusive and diverse agriculture community."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

"This investment will be vital in shaping the future of Victoria's agricultural workforce."