

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Water

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Equality



Wednesday, 9 August 2023

COMMUNITY PAVING THE WAY FOR GIPPSLAND'S TRANSITION PLAN

Community members across Gippsland are setting out their long-term vision for the region, with a transition plan that will help to create more jobs, economic growth and provide a roadmap for the region.

Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing today announced the completion of the Latrobe Valley and Gippsland Transition Plan, which was led by the Latrobe Valley Authority (LVA) and developed in collaboration with industry, community and education providers – with support from the Andrews Labor Government.

The plan ensures local communities are supported through the transition to sustainable industries and puts the people of Gippsland at the centre of government decision making. More than 1000 community members came together to have their say on the region's shared vision – providing their local knowledge, expertise and feedback.

The plan makes 52 recommendations focusing on the transition, and includes education and training pathways to local employment, fairly paid jobs, a thriving economy built on industries with a long-term future, a sustainable environment and communities that work together.

It builds on the LVA's work to support communities since it was established in November 2016, with a roadmap for the next 12 years and beyond.

The Labor Government is putting power back in the hands of Victorians by bringing back the SEC. With the Gippsland Energy sector generating more than \$1.2 billion economic value each year and employing more than 4,100 people, we're creating even more opportunities for locals to drive Victoria's renewable energy future.

We've invested \$5 million to create the Clean Energy Centre in Morwell through TAFE Gippsland, creating more local training and education opportunities. We've also partnered with TAFE Gippsland, Federation University, Star of the South and Energy Australia – working with industry to give more young Victorians real job opportunities.

We're upgrading infrastructure across the region to give locals and visitors even more reasons to spend time outdoors – boosting local economies, jobs and creating more safe and vibrant public spaces. The *Gippsland Destination Management Plan* is building more accessible and affordable infrastructure in key locations across the region, with upgrades to public spaces and all access facilities.

We've made a record investment of almost \$2 billion, which includes programs and support delivered by the Latrobe Valley Authority and created an additional 4,000 jobs across the region since 2014. The *Victorian Budget 2023/24* includes \$7.2 million for the Latrobe Valley Authority to continue its important work in the region.

The Labor Government will continue to work with partners to support businesses, ensure people get secure jobs, protect the things that make Gippsland special and ensure the community has what it needs to thrive.

For more information visit lva.vic.gov.au/transition/plan.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Harriet Shing

"The Latrobe Valley Authority has worked intensively with and for communities since it was established, and continues to play a central role in transition and planning for industry, workers, and communities."

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“This Plan reflects the optimism, achievements, and emerging ambitions of the region. It recognises Gippsland’s strengths and opportunities, and sets a course for long-term prosperity and liveability.”

Quotes attributable to Latrobe Valley Authority CEO Chris Buckingham

“The Latrobe Valley Authority was tasked with developing a plan ‘In the region, by the region and for the region’ and that is what has been delivered.”

“We share a Transition Plan that acknowledges the challenges facing our community, respects the unique characteristics of our inspiring region and describes an optimistic and achievable vision for Gippsland.”