

Media Release

The Hon Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Trade and Investment



Tuesday, 19 September 2023

INVESTING TO SUPPORT JOBS GROWTH IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

A Victorian insurance repair company will create 25 new jobs and establish a new Geelong base, backed by a strategic fund created by the Andrews Labor Government and leading super funds Aware Super and Spirit Super.

Since its 2020 launch, the \$250 million Victorian Business Growth Fund has invested in successful small and medium-sized businesses to fast-track expansion plans, create more jobs and boost the Victorian economy.

Victorian Business Growth Fund independent manager Roc Partners has completed an investment in Skyline Building Group and First Response Restoration, which provide insurance repairs to residential, commercial and strata properties damaged by events such as fire or severe weather.

The growing business currently has 60 employees working out of Carlton North and Hallam, with a presence in Geelong, and is primarily focused on servicing communities in metropolitan Melbourne and the Mornington Peninsula.

Victorian Business Growth Fund capital combined with Roc Partners' expertise and strategic support will enable Skyline to establish a key Geelong site, hire 25 more staff across its teams and expand its reach to the Surf Coast.

Skyline Building Group and First Response Restoration played a significant role in delivering emergency reinstatement and restoration services to northern Victorian communities affected by the floods in 2022.

The Victorian Business Growth Fund is investing in businesses on commercial terms that provide critical services to Victorians and support economic growth across diverse industries including food, agriculture, steel pipeline manufacturing, mental health services, metal recycling, waste management and insurance repairs.

Victoria has led the nation in relative jobs growth since the Labor Government was elected in November 2014 while an extra 500,000 Victorians have secured a job since the height of the pandemic economic shock in September 2020 – the best performance of all the states in absolute and proportional terms.

The state's unemployment rate in August fell to 3.5 per cent – the lowest state figure – while the regional unemployment rate is a record low 2.4 per cent.

Quote attributable to Treasurer Tim Pallas

"This fund backs great Victorian businesses that are ready to take the next step and employ more people. Skyline provides a vital service in times of need and it's fantastic that the company will grow and expand its offerings."

Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

"Geelong is home to many innovative businesses and we welcome Skyline's commitment which will create jobs and expand our skills bank."

Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

"This is a vote of confidence in Geelong and the Surf Coast and we're proud to actively pursue opportunities that create value and jobs for our community."

Media contact: Silvia Ferretti 0408 363 545 | silvia.ferretti@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Skyline Building Group and First Response Restoration CEO Mitch Craig

“We’re excited to partner with Roc Partners and the Victorian Business Growth Fund to expand operations geographically, invest in great people to grow the business and support our customers in times of need.”