

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Regional Development



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SHEPPARTON FOODSHARE'S NEW HOME MAKES HISTORY

Shepparton Foodshare has a new purpose-built home in Mooroopna, marking the first time in its 13-year history that the organisation has its own warehouse to provide its critical food relief services, thanks to support from the Allan Labor Government.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes today formally opened Foodshare's new warehouse and distribution centre in Doonan Street, backed by nearly \$3 million from the Labor Government.

Shepparton Foodshare partners with supermarkets, businesses, manufacturers, growers and other food rescue agencies to provide free, nutritious food for people in need. Since 2012, it has distributed almost five million kilograms of food, or close to 10 million meals, across the Goulburn Valley region and beyond.

The new warehouse is the first home fully owned by Shepparton Foodshare since it was established. It provides a secure base for the organisation to supply food relief and rescue services. On average 390,000 kilograms of food is distributed to more than 100 registered emergency relief agencies, schools, and other organisations each year.

Shepparton Foodshare's new site has increased its service capacity, providing more space where food can be stored, prepared and distributed, donations received and sorted, and where staff and volunteers can work safely and effectively with modern facilities – allowing for future growth and community partnerships.

Around 50 full-time jobs were created during construction of the new facility, with almost 30 local contractors and businesses engaged to provide products, materials and services.

Shepparton is renowned as a community that steps up to help those in need and there are now an additional 50 volunteer opportunities now available across warehouse roles and on the board.

The new site has more warehousing space, along with new offices and a meeting room, as well as a new commercial kitchen to maximise food usage and minimise waste. Cooling and freezer rooms have doubled in size compared with the previous site, allowing access by forklifts to reduce manual handling processes.

Foodshare's home is part of the Victorian Government's record investment of more than \$45 billion across rural and regional Victoria over the past decade. The Australian Government also supported the project with \$600,000.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"Shepparton Foodshare is there for the community when it matters most — providing nourishing meals to people doing it tough and offering a lifeline for communities across the Goulburn Valley."

Quote attributable to Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence

"We're proud of our investment in Shepparton Foodshare's new warehouse to ensure they can continue this vital work. It's part of our support in backing stronger and more resilient communities right across regional Victoria."

Quote attributable to Shepparton Foodshare Chair Jeremy Rensford

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"This new warehouse is a game-changer for our organisation. It gives us the capacity to store and distribute more food to more people and respond faster in times of need so we can better support those who need it most."