

# Media Release

**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Water



Thursday, 26 February 2026

## LABOR DELIVERS 45 TAFE UPGRADES

Labor is ensuring regional Victorians get the skills they need, close to where they live, with work underway on Labor's 45<sup>th</sup> TAFE infrastructure project.

Minister Tierney said more than \$237 million has now been invested upgrading and building new TAFE facilities in regional Victoria.

The Minister visited the latest project today: South West TAFE's new Building Innovation and Design Centre, which is set to open in 2027 at the Sherwood Park campus in Warrnambool.

It will prepare future tradies for careers in automotive, construction and clean energy.

The \$11.35 million project is backed by \$5 million from Labor's TAFE Clean Energy Fund.

The new centre will feature large automotive workshops, including a dedicated electric vehicle training workshop.

It will also deliver upgraded and expanded building and construction training facilities with automotive training moving into purpose-built facilities.

The transition to a renewable economy is expected to create 10,000 new jobs each year until 2030 and transform more than 500,000 existing jobs through new skills and training.

Victoria's TAFE network is central to building the skilled workforce needed to meet our housing and clean energy targets.

The Liberals sacked more than 2,000 TAFE teachers, shut 22 campuses and ripped \$1 billion from TAFEs across Victoria. Labor has rebuilt TAFE with 45 new and upgraded campuses across the TAFE Network.

Our Bill will ensure Free TAFE becomes law in Victoria - guaranteeing 70% of funding for Vocational Education and training in Victoria goes to TAFE.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Skills and TAFE Gayle Tierney

*"Only Labor will fully support TAFE. That means protecting Free TAFE and investing in new and better facilities, making it easier and more affordable for future generations of Victorians to build the skills they need for rewarding careers, close to where they live."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jacinta Ermacora

*"We're creating more training opportunities in south-west Victoria and helping more locals secure skilled jobs close to home."*

### Quote attributable to South West TAFE CEO Mark Fidge

*"The project brings new opportunities for our trade students by providing access to industry leading facilities and equips our region with the skilled tradespeople essential for our future growth."*

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