

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples

Minister for Community Sport

Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Wednesday, 25 March 2026

BOOSTING JOBS AND TOURISM IN NORTH EAST VICTORIA

Labor is creating new jobs and opportunities in north-east Victoria so that more locals can thrive and build careers closer to home.

Minister Ros Spence today announced more than \$390,000 for projects that create jobs in forestry areas.

The Shaping Murrindindi's Future project received \$140,000 to improve visitor experiences through three key projects – Beyond the Black Spur, Ride Marysville and the Triangle Food Network pilot.

The Beyond the Black Spur project will explore local tourism opportunities, with initiatives such as Ride Marysville that will investigate how Marysville can position itself as a premier mountain biking destination.

The Triangle Food Network pilot will develop a five-acre hybrid community and market garden, bringing local growers, producers, community members, tourism operators and visitors together.

The Future of Benalla and District project will make the region even better for art and culture, with a \$63,580 grant exploring upgrades to the historically significant Benalla Migrant Camp. The camp is an important part of Australia's history and a draw card for local tourism.

A \$21,140 feasibility study will explore turning the Benalla Art Gallery undercroft into a street art and events space.

The Yarra Ranges Futures project received \$167,000 to develop a proposal for a multi-species micro-abattoir, helping farmers access meat processing closer to the gate and reducing the need for long-distance transport.

We've supported workers, businesses and communities in the state's north east and the Yarra Ranges with more than \$52 million of investment.

For more information visit deeca.vic.gov.au/forestry

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

"We're putting regional communities first, driving job creation, strengthening local businesses, and ensuring opportunities stay where people live and work."

"This investment will support community-led projects and bring more visitors to regional Victoria."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"Only Labor can bring more investment into the regions – helping Victorians grow their businesses in the north east."