

# Media Release

Hon Jacinta Allan MP  
Premier



Friday, 12 June 2026

## LABOR IS BRINGING MORE VISITORS TO BENDIGO

Bendigo Art Gallery's landmark redevelopment has reached a milestone with a striking new façade design.

*Woven* by Aunty Marilyne Nicholls is a tribute to First Nations culture, based on her renowned coil-weaving practice.

The 20-metre-wide artwork will be embedded into the façade of the new gallery.

Once complete, the gallery will inject \$35 million into Bendigo's economy every year and create 170 ongoing jobs.

The redevelopment also includes a second-floor exhibition space, innovative learning centre and a theatrette.

During construction, around 260 jobs will be created.

Local company Fairbrother Construction has been appointed as the project's head contractor.

Labor is investing \$21 million, alongside \$9 million from the City of Greater Bendigo, \$4 million from the Gallery Board and \$9.3 million from philanthropic donations.

Only Labor is investing in regional Victoria, delivering a record \$50 billion to drive economic growth.

This investment makes our regions even better places to live, work, study and visit.

Jess Wilson's \$40 billion in cuts can't happen without cutting regional hospitals and schools.

Regional Victoria can't afford a return to the Liberals' and Nationals' playbook of cuts, neglect and underinvestment.

### Quotes attributable to Premier and Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

*"Bendigo is the cultural capital of regional Victoria, and this investment will help it shine even brighter."*

*"Every time the Liberals need to find savings, regional Victoria ends up on the chopping block."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

*"We're backing a bigger and better Bendigo Art Gallery that will bring more visitors and more jobs to the region"*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Michaela Settle

*"Great regional cities need great public spaces. This project will attract visitors for decades to come and cement Bendigo's place as a cultural capital of regional Victoria."*

### Quote attributable to City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Thomas Prince

*"This landmark artwork is a powerful expression of culture, connection and creativity that will inspire residents and visitors alike and create a lasting legacy for future generations."*

### Quote attributable to Aunty Marilyne Nicholls

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*“Part of my weaving practice is spending time quietly connecting with Country, especially the waterways where the weaving grasses grow. I hope this work inspires conversations amongst people about plant fibres, traditional practice, biodiversity and environmental issues.”*

**Quote attributable to Gallery Director Jessica Bridgfoot**

*“We are thrilled to have Aunty Marilynne’s work adorning our new building. It brings a beautifully organic and playful quality to the geometry of the View Street architecture, and grounds the building within the surrounding gardens.”*