

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government  
in the Legislative Council

Friday, 6 July, 2018



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

## LABOR GOVERNMENT PUTS RUPANYUP ON THE RETAIL MAP

The retail precinct of Rupanyup in the grain growing belt of Wimmera will be rejuvenated through a community led initiative, backed by the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development and Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford was in Rupanyup today to announce a Labor Government contribution of \$500,000 that will breathe new life into the town.

The Labor Government's contribution to the Rupanyup Community Retail Hub will enable the community-led consortia to purchase the town's ailing supermarket and develop a 'mall-style' operation in a new building, which could include a pharmacy, cafe, community spaces and office and meeting areas.

As Rupanyup and Minyip recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first community bank in Australia, the investment couldn't come at a better time to revitalise the town.

The drought-affected town has been facing the loss of its only supermarket, putting it at risk of losing existing families and further population decline – which would threaten the viability of the town.

A partnership between Bendigo Bank, Yarriambiack Shire, Enterprise Rupanyup and the local community raised more than \$700,000 to develop the retail hub, while investing in additional services.

The Rupanyup Market Centre is expected to generate six full-time positions and capitalise on the visitor growth of the Silo Art Trail.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford

*"Rupanyup is home to Australia's first community bank, and the same team behind its success are now driving this project, which we are so proud to support."*

*"No one should ever underestimate the value of people power. The Rupanyup community spoke, we listened and now we're delivering the revitalisation that locals deserve – because locals know best."*

*"Instead of standing back and watching their town lose important services, Rupanyup has come to the Government with an innovative solution – and we're right behind it."*