Jobs for Victoria
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Jobs for Victoria
Victoria’s economy is thriving. We have the fastest growing population and since coming to office, 150,000 jobs have been created. New businesses are prospering and innovation is booming. And we're home to strong consumer confidence.

We can, and should, be optimistic about our future. But if we are to continue this success, then we need to reflect on the path ahead.

We need to make sure we capitalise on our advantages. That we are growing the industries of the future. And that our economy is delivering for everyone.

That means the time for a hands-off approach is over. In short: we must be willing to roll up our sleeves.

Through our investment in infrastructure, in skills and jobs, we’ve begun that work.

But in the coming months and years, we’ll have even more to do. And when it comes to the prosperity of our state, we won’t take our foot off the pedal.

Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria
Australia’s economy is transitioning: we hear about it constantly.

About how the international market is transforming in a way we’ve never seen before. About the need for a new approach.

But it’s time for more than just talk. If we are to continue to prosper, we must be ready to act.

Because as much as the economic reforms of the 1980s have stood us in good stead, perhaps now – thirty years on – it’s time they were reassessed.

After all, our world is vastly different.

Following the Global Financial Crisis, the rise of Asia and the winding down of Australia’s mining boom, we shouldn’t be afraid to consider whether the status quo is actually delivering – for everyone.

Whether the free market principles – the strict adherence to a hands-off government – have exhausted their economic and political utility.

Just because it’s worked in the past, doesn’t mean it’s right for the present.

In short: the time for tinkering at the margins is over. Governments at every level must be willing to roll up their sleeves.

That begins with better utilising the levers available to us.

Like boosting our public infrastructure investment, helping to create the next generation of jobs and actively shaping our education and training systems, so they are meeting the needs of our future.

We’ve already begun that work.

From a previous average of $4.9 billion per year over the past eleven years, we’ve increased our average infrastructure spend to $7.4 billion per year over the estimates.

Since we came to office, more than 150,000 jobs have been created.

And we’ve invested $1.8 billion in school infrastructure, and aligned training and skills funding with the courses that lead to jobs and have the greatest value to our economy.

But in the months and years to come, we will have even more to do.

Because good – active – governments can do more than just shape policy. They can shape the future.
We are getting on with building the world-class infrastructure Victoria needs.

Infrastructure creates jobs, boosts productivity and supports the services that Victorians need and rely on every day.

As our population continues to grow, it is vital that our transport and communications connections support economic activity in the city, in the suburbs, and in the regions.

That’s why we’re investing $12.3 billion to build schools, upgrade hospitals and health facilities, expand the rail network and cut congestion on our roads.

These investments will directly create more than 15,000 jobs in the short term and stimulate growth in the long term.

**Melbourne’s Public Transport Network**

More trains, more often, makes public transport a reliable option for more Victorians. It helps take cars off the road, which means less traffic for those who drive. We’ve already started removing 50 of the most dangerous and congested level crossings and will fully fund Melbourne’s new Metro Tunnel to get this major project done.

**The Metro Tunnel**

The Government is fully funding the Metro Tunnel – one of the largest public transport projects ever undertaken in Australia. The project will free up the City Loop by taking two of our busiest train lines through a new tunnel with five new underground stations. It will mean we can run more trains in and out of the City every day, and it will create 3,700 Victorian jobs.

The three short-listed bidders for the public private partnership will be asked to submit a formal proposal by early next year. A contract is expected to be awarded by the end of 2017, with works to begin in 2018.

**Hurstbridge Line Upgrade**

We’re duplicating the Hurstbridge line between Heidelberg and Rosanna to run more trains for the north-eastern suburbs.

**Mernda Rail Extension**

The Government is extending the rail line from South Morang to Mernda to ensure that public transport is a real option for residents in one of Victoria’s fastest growing areas.

**New trains**

We’re ordering an extra 28 high capacity trains to prepare for the Metro Tunnel and an additional five X’Trapolis trains to provide extra room for passengers and extra services across the metropolitan network. These trains will be built in Victoria, supporting thousands of Victorian jobs.
REGIONAL RAIL

Ballarat line upgrade
The Government will undertake a major upgrade of the Ballarat line to improve reliability and provide more frequent services to and from Melbourne in the peak. The project will duplicate a 17-kilometre section of single track between Deer Park West and Melton and three kilometres of track west of Warrenheip. It will build new passing loops at Bacchus Marsh, Ballan and near Bungaree so that more trains can run reliably and more frequently on the Ballarat line, with upgraded stations and other improvements to give people in Ballarat the reliable public transport services they deserve, and create hundreds of new jobs.

New regional trains
We are ordering 27 new Vlocity carriages to boost capacity on the regional network and support thousands of Victorian jobs. The Government will also begin planning for the next generation regional train, the future of Victoria’s rolling stock industry.

REDUCING CONGESTION IN OUR SUBURBS
The Government is investing in new projects to slash congestion and improve safety on roads across Victoria, to get Victorians home safer and sooner.

Outer suburban roads
Major upgrades to roads in Melbourne’s suburbs will help ease congestion. These road duplications and other upgrades include:
• Doherty’s Rd Improvement
• Hallam Rd Duplication
• Plenty Road Upgrade
• Yan Yean Rd Duplication
• Thompson Rd Duplication
• Bolton Street Upgrade (Main Rd to Bridge St)
• O’Herns Road Upgrade
Western Distributor – Tunnel and Western Section

The Western Distributor Tunnel will be Melbourne’s second river crossing, slashing travel time by 20 minutes from the west and Geelong and creating 5,600 new jobs. The project will be funded through a combination of tolls on the new road, an extension to the CityLink concession deed, and a government contribution.

The West Gate Freeway will be widened from 8 to 12 lanes between the M80 and Williamstown Road, with a new tunnel under Yarraville connecting to a second river crossing and elevated freeway above Footscray Road. There will be direct access to the Port – taking thousands of trucks out of residential streets and off the West Gate Bridge – and direct access to CityLink, the CBD, and new CBD bypass connections.

Western Distributor – Webb Dock Access Improvement Works

This investment will provide a dedicated lane for access to the Bolte Bridge from the West Gate Freeway, reducing traffic merging and weaving on the West Gate Freeway. These works will also add an extra lane on Cook Street eastbound, improving traffic flow and safety for motorists.

Monash Freeway Upgrade

This investment will add an additional lane in each direction between Eastlink and Clyde Road, and includes managed motorway upgrades to 45 kilometres of freeway to reduce congestion along the M1 from Geelong to Pakenham.

BETTER, SAFER ROADS FOR OUR REGIONS

Regional Victorians need safe, efficient roads. It’s vital for strong regional communities, and essential for the productivity of the whole state.

Road Safety Upgrades

Regional and rural Victoria is the main target of the Government’s $427 million investment to make our roads safer and reduce death and serious injury on Victorian roads. This investment includes funding to make rural roads safer across Victoria, with the installation of safety infrastructure such as flexible barriers, and tactile edge and centre line treatments.

Drysdale Bypass

A six-kilometre bypass road will be constructed to enhance safety and reduce congestion on High Street in Drysdale.

Napier Street Duplication

Napier Street will be duplicated between Weeroona Avenue and Scott Street in Bendigo.

Overtaking lanes

We are investing $516 million to construct overtaking lanes on a number of major regional highways including Princes Highway East, Midland Highway, the Great Alpine Road and Murray Valley Highway.

BUILDING THE EDUCATION STATE ($924 MILLION)

Under a massive school building program, scores of Victorian schools will be renovated, refurbished, maintained and rebuilt. New schools will be constructed and brand-new re-locatable classrooms will meet demand at growing schools.

A strong economy relies on a well-educated, skilled workforce, capable of meeting the needs of our changing economy.
HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE ($982 MILLION)

We are investing in new buildings, more ambulances, vital health equipment and increasing the capacity of our hospitals, including the redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton which will create 140 jobs during construction.

It’s all about saving lives, getting more patients the surgery they need, cutting waiting times in emergency departments, and ensuring Victorian hospitals can meet the needs of a growing population.

A $200 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund will allow hospitals to upgrade and modernise facilities to meet the needs of their community.

Applications are now open with health services across rural Victoria are encouraged to apply for a share of $50 million from the first round of the new fund.

AGRICULTURE INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS FUND ($200 MILLION)

Agriculture contributes close to $12 billion to the Victorian economy. Around 86 per cent of primary production are jobs based in regional Victoria.

The $200 million Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund will invest in projects and programs throughout Victoria to drive economic growth, create jobs and further boost our agricultural exports. It will strengthen the performance and resilience of the agriculture sector increasing the efficiency of supply chains and bringing costs down for our farmers.

The fund will better position our farmers to make the most of growing export opportunities. Getting produce to market more efficiently will strengthen international competitiveness, build confidence and drive investment and jobs.

The $150 million Major Capital Works program is the first pool of funding available through the Fund and proponents are encouraged to approach their local Regional Development Victoria offices to submit applications.

REGIONAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ($123 MILLION)

Improving our water infrastructure will enhance the productivity and viability of our irrigation and agricultural production in regional Victoria. This project will create at least 300 construction jobs and lead to nearly 500 new jobs being created when completed.

REGIONAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ($101 MILLION)

The Government will fund regional tourism infrastructure upgrades to boost jobs and employment in the regional tourism sector.

The Fund will get new projects off the ground and help to grow regional economies and boost jobs by increasing visitor numbers and allow them to stay longer in regional Victoria. Once completed, these projects are expected to create at least 500 construction jobs and more than 1,200 ongoing jobs in regional communities.

The first project to benefit from the Fund is a $58.2 million redevelopment of the Phillip Island Penguin Parade Visitor Centre. Phillip Island Nature Parks will contribute $10 million to the project.

GROWING SUBURBS FUND ($50 MILLION)

We’re providing an additional $50 million to the Growing Suburbs Fund (previously the Interface Growth Fund) to help build community facilities in Melbourne’s fastest growing suburbs including community centres, parks and playgrounds.

Applications for some of the most rapidly growing councils in Melbourne and include Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Wyndham and Yarra Ranges have recently closed. Successful applicants are expected to be announced in November.
PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

We’re committed to stepping in when needed to support individuals, businesses and communities.

A strong economy is an inclusive one. We must address disadvantage and support people at risk of being left behind.

Whether it’s an industry in transition, or a community doing it tough, we stand ready to deliver the assistance and support required.

With a strengthening economy, more people in the workforce and particular skills in demand, we have the opportunity to get more Victorians than ever before into work.

The right support at the right time can make all the difference.

JOBS VICTORIA ($53 MILLION)

Jobs Victoria will provide targeted support services for people looking for work and for employers looking for workers.

For the first time, Jobs Victoria will consolidate all Victorian employment services into a one system that will provide a single entry point, making it easier to access the right support at the right time.

The focus will be on workers in transitioning industries and people who are most in need, including young people, Aboriginal Victorians, and people experiencing family violence.

We’ve already announced the first funding for providers across Victoria to help more than 4,000 disadvantaged Victorians find meaningful work and keep it.

EXPANSION OF THE AUTO TRANSITION PLAN ($10 MILLION)

We’re standing with our auto workers and their communities.

In 2015, we announced the $46.5 million Victorian Automotive Transition Plan which provides a range of supports for automotive workers and businesses.

This year, we’re committing another $10 million to support businesses that hire automotive industry workers affected by the upcoming closure of major car manufacturers.

We’re helping automotive businesses to re-orient their operations and find new markets and we’re investing to help auto workers take up new opportunities.

EDUCATION STATE – TECH SCHOOLS ($116 MILLION)

This initiative will establish 10 Tech Schools in Gippsland, Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong, Monash, Casey, Wyndham, Banyule, Yarra Ranges and Whittlesea. Importantly, students will still be able to attend school at the same time they develop their hands-on skills.
INDUSTRY ADVISORY BODIES ($14 MILLION)

Industry Advisory Bodies will form an important part of the Victorian Skills Commissioner’s industry engagement strategy, which will ensure the Victorian vocational education and training system is delivering the skills that are required for current and emerging workforce needs.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY ($32 MILLION)

This new investment will strengthen Victoria’s position as the number one destination for international students, and assist Victorian education providers to capture emerging demand. This will encourage more students to study in Victoria and boost economic activity within the State, with the expected increase in international students predicted to create nearly 2,500 new jobs.
We’re backing businesses – big and small – to keep growing and creating jobs.

That’s why we’re cutting red tape, reducing the tax burden and opening up more opportunities right across the economy.

And, for the first time in over a decade, we’re increasing the annual payroll tax-free threshold from $550,000 to $650,000, providing payroll tax relief to 36,000 Victorian businesses. Around 2,800 businesses who will no longer pay any payroll tax.

We are committed to creating opportunities for innovation in the economy.

In 2015, we established LaunchVic, a $60 million investment to support entrepreneurs. We’re giving start-ups vital support to establish and grow.

**PAYROLL TAX CUT ($312 MILLION)**

Increasing the payroll tax threshold for the first time since 2002, will keep many small businesses out of the payroll net, relieving pressure on business owners and encouraging jobs growth.

Victorian small businesses with annual payrolls between $4.8 million and $31.5 million will now have the lowest payroll tax burden in Australia by the time the change is fully implemented over the next four years.

To also take effect from 1 July this year, businesses that re-employ displaced apprentices and trainees will get a payroll tax exemption, so they have the best opportunity to complete their qualifications.

**A SMARTER VICTORIAN PLANNING SYSTEM ($25.5 MILLION)**

Victoria’s planning system will become the most efficient in the country, with a new Smart Planning program to be introduced over the next two years.

Smart Planning will create about jobs and save money for property owners, investors and the state by slashing red tape and creating a streamlined, easy-to-navigate system.

The reforms will halve the average number of days to process a planning permit application, from 120 days to 60 days, and reduce the average total time taken to prepare and approve a planning scheme amendment.

Targeted assistance will be provided to regional and metropolitan councils to support priority strategic and statutory planning work, and build capability and skills of council planners. Councils will also be supported to implement the roll out of the Smart Planning Program.

**EXPANSION OF PREMIER’S JOBS AND INVESTMENT FUND ($50 MILLION)**

Additional support for the Premier’s Jobs and Investment Fund to continue to help innovative businesses to develop business cases, and attract investment to Victoria.

The Premier’s Jobs and Investment Panel (PJIP) was established as an independent group of economic leaders to provide advice to the Government on growing investment and creating jobs. PJIP advises on the strategic directions that underpin the allocation of the now $558 million Premier’s Jobs and Investment Fund, and will continue to identify policy reform opportunities that will create the high skill, high wage jobs that will underpin the growth of the industries of the future.
VICTORIAN INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION PROGRAM ($12 MILLION)

This $12 million investment, on top of the $5.6 million we made last year, will support at least 4,000 jobs, apprenticeships and traineeships over the next four years. The Victorian Industry Participation Program has created over 1,000 new jobs per year over the past two years by ensuring that local businesses have the opportunity to participate in Victoria’s record infrastructure program and major projects.

A STREAMLINED PUBLIC LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM

The Victorian Government holds approximately $100 billion in land assets. Providing a single source of information on land holding, a single point for land use strategy and a consolidated point for land development and civic projects is long overdue. By creating this streamlined system, government – often in partnership with the market – will be best-placed to kick-start more development to create jobs and build communities and further entrench our reputation as Australia’s development capital. The streamlined system will see the consolidation of a range of existing entities into Land Use Victoria and Development Victoria.
Victoria is open for business. We are already a national leader when it comes to exports and attracting international investment, visitors, skilled migrants and students.

We're the most diverse and multicultural state. The most liveable city. The sporting capital of the world.

We have the busiest container port and our airport is curfew-free.

In 2015 we exported more than $43 billion worth of goods and services – the highest in almost four years.

Enrolments of international students reached a record of 195,004 in 2015, up 12 per cent on 2014.

Melbourne is on track to be Australia’s largest city in 2030 and Victoria is the nation’s largest generator of food-and-fibre exports.

A centre of innovation and research, and a drawcard that attracts students and visitors from all over the world.

These competitive advantages, combined with our positioning on the doorstep of Asia will drive our future prosperity.

We really do have the best of everything. But we’ve got more to do.

**Trade and Investment Victoria**

Victoria has the largest network of international business offices of any Australian state, driving investment from across the globe and helping Victorian companies make the connections that enable them to export their world leading products.

The establishment of Trade and Investment Victoria takes this support to a new level.

**INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND ASSISTANCE ($116 MILLION)**

The Government will establish a new dedicated investment attraction fund that can be deployed at speed to attract investors and seize upon opportunities immediately. These investments will create thousands of new jobs for Victorians.

**EXPANDING OUR NETWORK OF VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT BUSINESS OFFICES ($66 MILLION)**

Victoria’s future economic success is dependent on engaging effectively with markets and investors around the world. Victoria’s Government Business Offices have helped create nearly 3,000 new jobs each year, a figure which will only grow.

This initiative secures funding for Victoria’s 18 existing international offices and will support the establishment of three new offices in Singapore, Turkey, and South America, which will be opened from 2016, further enabling Victoria to compete in both established and rapid growth markets. A new Deputy Commissioner for Victoria will be appointed to focus on opportunities in Western China.
GLOBALLY CONNECTING BUSINESS ($24 MILLION)

Businesses will be supported through an Outbound Trade Mission Program, Export Skills Program and the Governor of Victoria Export Awards. Targeted and sector based trade missions will provide businesses with access to key export markets. The initiative will also support the growth of inbound trade missions.

INVESTOR MIGRATION AND GLOBAL TALENT ($10 MILLION)

Access to the global talent pool is critical for Victoria’s industries to be globally competitive. We will make sure that Victoria remains the destination of choice for the best global talent, while attracting business people and skilled migrants to live and invest in Victoria.

POSITIONING VICTORIA AS THE LEADER IN ASIA CAPABILITY ($4 MILLION)

Recognising China as Victoria’s largest trading partner, we released our China Strategy in April 2016. It sets a clear vision to make Victoria China’s trade and investment gateway to Australia, based on the strength of our connections and the depth of our understanding of each other’s people, culture and economic needs.

The Government will also establish a new initiative to help Victorian businesses develop the capabilities and connections needed to access and expand into Asian markets. The initiative will drive a coordinated approach between government and the business and education sectors to promote innovation and build knowledge.

Visit Victoria

Visit Victoria is a single, unified voice, working together to sell Victoria’s great strengths. It will attract more major events, tourism, conventions and market our state on a global stage.

GLOBAL MARKETING ($38 MILLION)

Visit Victoria will embark on an ambitious new marketing push to attract visitors to Australia from around the world. Marketing campaigns will showcase Victoria to the world and drive our international visitor numbers ever higher, with an emphasis on attracting visitors from intrastate, interstate and international markets to drive jobs growth in Victoria’s visitor economy.

BUSINESS EVENTS FUND ($9 MILLION)

Victoria’s Business Events Fund supports the attraction of high value and high profile business events and conventions to Victoria, and in particular to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This will increase jobs through increased business tourism.

REGIONAL EVENTS FUND ($20 MILLION)

The Regional Events Fund will create an even bigger calendar of events and attract visitors to Victoria’s regions from Melbourne and interstate. Many more visitors and new residents will get to experience all that Victoria has to offer.

More Investment and Jobs

Victoria’s total share of Chinese investment to Australia to increase from 8 per cent to 20 per cent by 2026.

More Trade

Victoria’s exports to China anticipated to increase by over $5 billion over the next 10 years.
The global economy is transforming rapidly.

On coming to Government, we identified a number of high priority sectors across the Victorian economy.

Sectors that are producing high-value jobs today and sectors that are well placed to produce the jobs of tomorrow:

- Medical Technology and Pharmaceutical
- New Energy Technology
- Food and Fibre
- Transport, Defence and Construction
- International Education
- Professional Services

The expansion of the Future Industries Fund will support initiatives that promote collaboration between large businesses, supply chains and research organisations, to compete locally and globally.

We’re also building on our creative strengths and investing in our creative industries.

EXPANSION OF THE FUTURE INDUSTRIES FUND ($111.4 MILLION)

The Future Industries Fund will be bolstered to fund projects aligned with the Future Industries Sector Strategies, and enhance competitive advantage for Victoria’s six priority growth sectors.

The Government will also use the Future Industries Fund to make targeted strategic investments in supporting infrastructure to accelerate innovation and growth in each of the priority sectors and support the achievement of the objectives identified in the sector strategies.

CREATIVE STATE ($115 MILLION)

Victoria’s creative industries strategy will strengthen Victoria’s leadership across the creative industries, stimulating innovation, collaboration, investment and growth. This investment will also provide for more creative and cultural development.

It provides support to key industry sectors including $16.4m to strengthen Victoria’s design industry, the state’s fastest growing creative sector, and $14.2m for the screen industry to attract more opportunities to Victoria and support Melbourne International Film Festival, one of the world’s best consumer film festivals.

It’s also a critical part of our future, with the creative economy growing at almost double the rate of the broader economy.
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY INNOVATION JOBS ($7.56 MILLION)

Victoria will establish a Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation based on the successful European Climate Knowledge Information Community model. This will accelerate climate innovations through to market.

To further grow jobs in new energy technology, Victoria will also construct a facility that processes the excess food waste generated from the commercial and industrial sector into energy.

SAVING ENERGY, GROWING JOBS ($24.3 MILLION)

The Government will provide improved energy efficiency and reduce energy price pressure on homes and businesses by delivering the Victorian Energy Efficiency and Productivity Strategy.

This will also support the creation of jobs, lower cost pressures and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

DRIVING RENEWABLE ENERGY ($12.4 MILLION)

The Government will assist with the transition from brown coal to renewable technology and reduce barriers to entry for renewable energy and energy storage technologies, supporting jobs in these emerging industries.

Increased investment in renewables will result in employment growth in the renewable energy sector.

This initiative will include:

- Large Scale Renewable Transition: to strengthen incentives for businesses to transition to renewable energy;
- Integrating Local Generation: remove barriers to entry for commercial solar, assist community renewable energy projects and expand Victoria Energy Compare to include solar and storage offers; and
- Energy Storage: the Government will establish frameworks which will encourage growth in storage technology.
Victoria’s economic prosperity is dependent on a strong regional Victoria.

That’s why we’re delivering the highest regional infrastructure investment on record.

With this investment, our regions will become home to industries of the future and renowned centres for education, and arts and culture – drawing in visitors from across the country and the world.

We’re driving growth across Victoria and investing to create jobs in regional Victoria and help workers gain a foothold in fast-growing sectors.

We’re also investing in regional tourism infrastructure, services and attractions so that many more visitors and new residents will get to experience all that regional Victoria has to offer.

**LATROBE VALLEY TRANSITION PROGRAM ($40 MILLION)**

The Government is working to diversify the local economy and grow future industries within the Latrobe Valley through funding a Morwell Hi Tech precinct, Skills for the Future training program, and investment attraction grants as part of the Latrobe Valley Transition Program.

**BALLARAT INNOVATION LAB AND DIGITAL SPACE ($4.2 MILLION)**

ICT sector growth and technology innovation will be boosted in Ballarat through funding the Ballarat Innovation Lab and Digital Space. The Space will act as an SME and technology incubator and accelerator as well as a driver of broader digital and innovation reforms within Ballarat. The Space will also connect and build upon existing assets and initiatives – including the Ballarat Technology Parks, the Federally-funded Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) pilot program, Federation University, and the Ballarat City Council’s Digital Transformation Office.

**BENDIGO ARTS PRECINCT ($7 MILLION)**

Bendigo and surrounds will be Victoria’s newest arts precinct, creating new jobs in the region. Coordination with the Regional Centre Culture program will ensure that creative organisations and regional communities can participate in the roll out of Victoria’s first ‘Regional Centre for Culture’ program, a year-long creative celebration in the Goldfields region in 2018.

This funding will build on Bendigo’s strengths as a creative centre and boost cultural tourism to the region.

Funding will support a major national arts and culture conference, the creation of landmark artworks, and the establishment of a creative industries hub.
REVITALISING GEELONG ($5.5 MILLION)

Investment in Geelong will support the delivery of the revitalisation of Geelong and the continuing work of the Geelong Authority. Outdoor spaces and streetscapes will be improved to unlock investment and drive economic activity in central Geelong.

GEELONG PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT ($7 MILLION)

The redevelopment of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) will expand and improve amenity and access at the 35-year-old centre. Funding is also provided for business disruption costs to enable GPAC to continue to deliver programming and services to the community throughout the construction period, as well as other associated project costs. This funding builds on the $30 million investment in the GPAC redevelopment made in 2015.

PHASE 2 OF THE VICTORIAN MOBILE PROJECT ($11.12 MILLION)

We will remove mobile black spots in fire and flood prone areas of regional Victoria, supporting productivity and jobs growth with high quality telecommunications infrastructure and services. This project will be jointly delivered by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments and a telecommunications carrier. It will provide mobile coverage to high risk areas prone to natural disaster, increasing public safety and supporting the economy of regional communities.

Up to 12,000 households and businesses across regional Victoria will benefit from huge improvements to mobile coverage and connectivity.