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**Local Jobs Plan**

**Wimmera Mallee**

**Victoria**

**July 2022**

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# The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, water, and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures, and the elders past, present and emerging.

# The Local Jobs Program

As part of supporting Australia’s economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Government’s Local Jobs Program (LJP) brings together expertise, resources, and access to funding at the local level to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways in 51 Employment Regions.

Recognising the importance of local knowledge in getting people back into jobs quickly, the LJP includes the following key elements in each region:

* a local Employment Facilitator
* a Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* a Local Jobs Plan
* a Local Recovery Fund to support small scale activities
* access to the National Priority Funding Pool.

The Taskforces, each chaired by the respective region’s Employment Facilitator, develop, and update a Local Jobs Plan for their region that identifies key employment and training priorities and provides a framework for driving employment outcomes in the context of the local labour market.

This Local Jobs Plan for the Wimmera Mallee Employment Region identifies the key LJP priorities with a focus on creating employment opportunities, actively upskilling, or reskilling local job seekers and meeting local employer demands.

# Key employment and training priorities

1. Maximise the benefits of existing Australian, State and Local Government programs, to **create pathways** into growth industries, particularly Hospitality and Tourism, Agriculture, Horticulture, Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction, Transport, Manufacturing and Processing.
2. Increase engagement and build pathways to employment and training opportunities for **Indigenous job seekers** in collaboration with Indigenous communities and industry.
3. Broker opportunities for **skill development and employment** for entry into local industries for **Mature Aged and Culturally Diverse cohorts.**
4. Work with Industry to develop strategies that address **seasonal worker shortages** in sectors with unmet demand such as Agriculture, Horticulture, and Hospitality.
5. Maximise local job seeker opportunities to meet the needs of **major projects**, including infrastructure upgrades, mining, energy, and resources projects.
6. Source opportunities for **youth skill development** **and employment**, across all industry sectors, including apprenticeships and traineeships.

# Employment Region overview

The Wimmera Mallee Employment Region (ER) contains the Wimmera region which incorporates parts of the Loddon Mallee and Grampians regions and covers the dryland farming area South of the range of Mallee scrub, east of the South Australia border and North of the Great Dividing Range.

The Mallee ER covers the most northwesterly part of Victoria, bounded by the South Australian and New South Wales borders. The largest settlements are in Mildura, Swan Hill, Horsham, and Ararat.

The region includes 11 Local Government Areas (LGAs): Ararat, Northern Grampians, Buloke, Swan Hill, Wentworth, Hindmarsh, West Wimmera, Gannawarra, Horsham, Yarriambiack and Mildura.

Mildura is located in northwestern Victoria, situated on the banks of the Murray River. A warm climate, innovative irrigation infrastructure and transport links has helped position Mildura as a ‘powerhouse’ in the food and manufacturing sector. Key industries include dryland farming, irrigated horticulture (table grapes, wine grapes, dried grapes, citrus, vegetables, and nuts), tourism, food and beverage manufacturing, transport and logistics, retail, health, and community services. Through projects like the Smart Farm and partnerships with local and external businesses, education facilities and investors, Mildura Regional Development is assisting the region move towards a prosperous and secure future.

The Swan Hill municipality has experienced significant growth over the past decade, led by the expansion of horticultural/agricultural practices and supported by an innovative manufacturing sector. This success is depicted by the fact the region is Australia’s largest producer of table grapes, pistachios, and olives, responsible for one quarter of all carrots nationwide, a top contributor to the stone fruit industry and accounts for approximately 70 percent of Australia's almonds and olive oil production.

Horsham Rural City is a diverse community situated approximately 300 kilometres north-west of Melbourne and north of the Grampians National Park, in the heart of the Wimmera region of Victoria. Horsham is the major provider of retail, community, and government services in the region. Horsham Rural City’s economy is largely driven by agriculture (both dryland and broadacre farming and livestock grazing), manufacturing (specifically, food products, metal products and transport equipment and parts), construction, public sector industries, retail, and services. The Grains Innovation Park, a nationally acclaimed agricultural research centre, is based in Horsham. The industry diversity creates a business environment and potential for future development.

Ararat Rural City lies at an important junction of the Western and Pyrenees highways, 198 kilometres north-west of Melbourne. Centrally located to the Grampians National Park, the Goldfields, the Southern Coast, and metropolitan Melbourne. Ararat is a major regional service centre in Victoria’s mid-west and is supported by a number of small rural townships. Ararat Rural City has excellent schools, hospitals, transport connections and amenities that support a regional lifestyle. Ararat Rural City is also the gateway to the world-renowned Grampians region where local produce, wine production, agriculture and tourism are among the economic mainstays. Diverse retail and manufacturing industries are spearheading a growing economy.

Prominent industry sectors in the Northern Grampians Shire include wool, broad acre grazing, cereal cropping, viticulture, olive growing, tourism, gold mining, manufacturing, textiles, retail trade, health and community services, Landcare and catchment management and professional services. Industry is generally concentrated in the key townships of Stawell and St Arnaud, where retail and commercial operations are mainly of a local service nature. These centers service the region's needs for shopping, business and commercial services and host other activities including brick making, meat processing, steel fabrication, feed production, supply and service of farm machinery and small service industry.

The Shire of Gannawarra includes the towns of Cohuna, Kerang, Koondrook, Leitchville and Quambatook. The western part of the shire is predominantly used for cereal grain production. The north and east have significant dairying and milk processing. Tourists are attracted to the rivers (for fishing) and the lakes (for bird watching and water sports).

Wentworth is considered the gateway to Outback NSW and is situated on the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers in south-western New South Wales. This strategic location, abutting South Australia and Victoria, is at the crossroads of three major national highways linking the state capitals: Melbourne to the south; Sydney and Brisbane to the east; and Adelaide and Perth to the west. Significant contributors to the diverse economy include the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector, Accommodation and Food Services sector, Manufacturing sector and Mining sector. Tourism is also strong within the region.

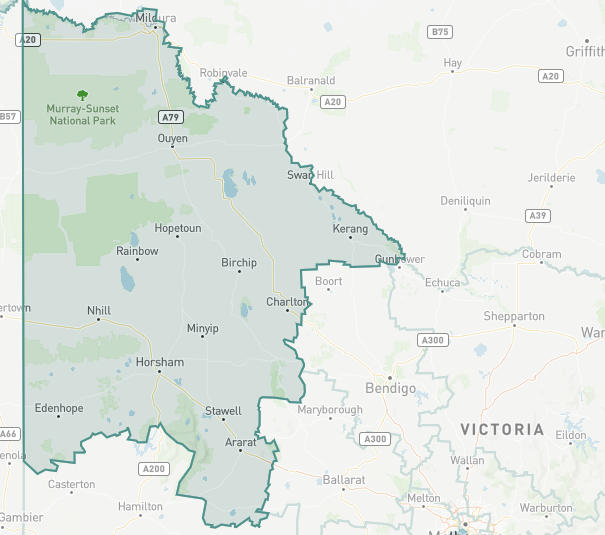
The Shire of Yarriambiack includes the towns of Hopetoun, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Warracknabeal, which service the surrounding broad hectare farming properties. Yarriambiack Shire is the heartland of grain production and handling in the region. The main industry is agriculture which accounts for almost half of the workforce.

The Buloke Shire is bounded by Mildura and Swan Hill Rural Cities in the north, Gannawarra and Loddon Shires in the east, Northern Grampians Shire in the south, and Yarriambiack Shire in the west. The main townships are Birchip, Charlton, Donald, Sea Lake and Wycheproof. Two main highways, the Calder Highway, and the Sunraysia Highway, run north and south through the Buloke Shire. The Shire is a predominantly rural area. Land is used largely for agriculture, particularly grain (wheat, oats, and barley) production and sheep grazing.

Hindmarsh Shire is bounded in the north by the Big Desert and Wyperfeld National Park, and in the south by the Little Desert National Park. On the east, west and south lie the Shires of Yarriambiack, West Wimmera and the Rural City of Horsham respectively. The Shire covers an area of 7,527 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 5,800 people, with 80 per cent living in the towns of Dimboola, Jeparit, Nhill and Rainbow. Agricultural land covers a large part of the Shire and as a major source of employment. Hindmarsh is essentially ‘broad acre’ dry land farming. Major crops include wheat, barley, oats, lupins, field peas, chickpeas, canola, vetches, lentils, and fava beans. Wool and sheep meat are also significant. The Shire has an ‘industry cluster’ in silo and grain handling equipment.

West Wimmera lies in western Victoria on the South Australian border, about halfway between Melbourne and Adelaide. The economy of the shire is dominated by agricultural production, particularly wheat, sheep, and vegetables. The area also boasts a large variety of natural environments for tourists, including the Big Desert Wilderness Park, the Little Desert National Park, and wetlands.

Wimmera Mallee Employment Region Map



*Source: Labour Market Information Portal—map box*

# Key challenges in the Wimmera Mallee Employment Region

Current key challenges in the region include:

* Limited local employment opportunities in remote areas of the region.
* There is reasonable access to public transport (via bus) within the major towns of Mildura, Horsham, and Swan Hill. However, **transport challenges** present for job seekers without a driver’s licence or their own reliable transport in accessing job and training opportunities.
* Employment has been impacted particularly in the **tourist destinations** of the Grampians, Mildura, and Mount Arapiles areas. The ongoing impact has led to difficulties in appointing and filling hospitality roles in restaurants and cafes.
* The **exiting of skilled workers** out of the region to pursue opportunities in Melbourne and larger regional centers continues to contribute to the ongoing difficulties of retaining a skilled workforce, particularly for professional services and management roles.
* The Seasonal workforce has been greatly impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Agricultural producers rely heavily on **seasonal workers** and backpackers to meet fluctuating seasonal labour needs and are continuing to face a **dramatic shortfall** in workers as a consequence of the interim suspension of overseas travel and State border restrictions.

### Youth

As at April 2022, the youth unemployment rate in the Wimmera Mallee Employment Region was 6.8 per cent, a decrease of 3 per cent compared to March 2020. Youth unemployment for the region is lower than the National and State rates but continues to present its challenges withing the region.

The hospitality, tourism and retail sectors were significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, being unable to operate to full capacity and in many cases closing or operating at reduced levels. A proportion of young people are most likely to work in these impacted sectors, which have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. There could be opportunities to broker employment for young people to be engaged or re-engaged in the retail and hospitality sectors as the economy recovers.

Connecting youth (and keeping them connected) to services and employers, including retail and agriculture, will play an important role in driving down youth unemployment and youth disengagement in the Wimmera Mallee Employment Region. This could also be obtained through focusing on jobs and skills in demand and brokering apprenticeships and traineeship opportunities for this cohort.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The LGAs of Mildura, Swan Hill, and Wentworth (NSW) are home to the largest populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander job seekers across the Employment Region. These areas have strong Indigenous service networks, liaising and collaborating with the various local Indigenous organisations will be key in developing strategies that increase engagement in training and employment aligned to local opportunities.

Local strategies could be considered under the Local Jobs Program, to reduce labour market disadvantage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who are not connected to education or employment or have experienced labour market dislocation due to the current economic climate.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

The Wimmera Mallee Region is a culturally diverse region with migrants from Europe, Asia and Africa with the majority residing in either the Mildura, Robinvale, or Swan Hill areas.

The availability and affordability of housing, including public housing, established settlement programs, cultural connections and community clusters has contributed to higher CALD populations when compared to the other LGAs in the region.

Mature Age

The majority of LGAs within the Wimmera Mallee Region have a high proportion of mature aged residents. Across the region mature aged job seekers (50 years and above) make up approximately 28.3 per cent of job seekers registered in Australian Government employment services – Workforce Australia.

Prior to COVID-19, mature aged job seekers were already experiencing challenges with securing and retaining employment opportunities in a competitive market. Post COVID-19, it is expected these challenges will remain.

People with Disability (PwD)

Approximately 28 per cent of job seekers registered in Workforce Australia in the region identify as PwD. The Jobs and Skills Taskforce will consider ways to maximise government programs in education, training, and engagement activities to upskill or reskill job seekers and support those job seekers who have significant barriers. In addition, pathways for education and training and job opportunities could also be brokered for those job seekers who have higher education qualifications but find themselves unemployed.

# Impacts of COVID-19

The Wimmera Mallee ER, like other regional Victorian areas, experienced major employment, and labour market impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020/21. The greatest impact across the region came with the border closures and statewide lockdowns where travel restrictions prohibited worker movement, and limitations on trading impacting tourism, retail, and hospitality businesses.

Hospitality businesses reported reducing staff hours and, in many cases, workers were made redundant as lost revenue resulted in many small businesses closing. Unemployment in regional areas increased, putting local communities in financial hardship. Horsham was impacted directly with the reduction of passing travelers through the town, resulting in many retail and hospitality businesses closing. The main street reportedly experienced a large increase in ‘for lease’ signs in shop windows at the height of the restrictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a widespread impact on the tourism and visitor economy particularly in Mildura, which relies on travelers to the Sunraysia area. Domestic and International boarder restrictions have affected both employers and workers in this industry.

The Wimmera Mallee ER also relies heavily on seasonal agricultural work and export. Domestic and international border restrictions affected employers, workers, and the industry. Overseas workers returned home reducing the backpacker pool of labour available, border restrictions prevented the movement of potential workers from other states to the area, yet the local grower demand for workers did not change. There continues to be a shortage of workers to meet seasonal harvest work demand, particularly in the Sunraysia (Mildura) and Mid Murray (Swan Hill/Robinvale) areas. However, the introduction of Relocation Assistance for Short Term Agricultural Work (now named AgMove) and the Victorian State Government’s programs has provided financial support and incentives for people to temporarily relocate to undertake seasonal work has highlighted the employment opportunities available in the sector.

Significant restrictions on exporting goods further impacted the agricultural sector in this region, leaving domestic markets with fresh stock being unable to be sold. This has negatively impacted local food production and manufacturing businesses, leading to staff reductions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also resulted in some lifestyle migration to the Wimmera Mallee region from metropolitan Melbourne, with reports of rising median house prices in some localities and a reduction in available rental properties pushing rental prices up.

On a positive note, some employers experienced an increased demand for workers, in particular health care in all regional towns across the Wimmera Mallee. However, difficulties sourcing immediate training for workers was experienced in this field due to social distancing restrictions, which prevented classroom teaching.

# Local Stakeholders and Opportunities

There are two Workforce Australia providers in the Wimmera Mallee ER who deliver employment services, these are CVGT Australia and MADEC Australia. Other programs include:

* Transition to Work (TtW) delivering intensive employment services to youth
* ParentsNext supporting parents to prepare and return to work
* Harvest Trail Services connect workers with employers in harvesting areas across Australia. Workers can mix work with travel and learn new skills or start a career in agriculture
* Supporting the Harvest Trail Services is the Harvest Trail Information Service, which provides comprehensive up-to-date information about harvest work opportunities. Harvest Trail Information Service is a national service covering Australia in its entirety
* Career Transition Assistance to help mature aged people to build confidence and skills
* Employability Skills Training to provide intensive pre-employment training and help young people become job ready

There will be opportunities to work with the State Government’s Jobs Victoria Services, which include Career Counsellors, Mentors and Advocates including Skillinvest, Wimmera Development Association, Mildura Rural City Council, SMECC and the Robinvale Employment HUB.

Other Australian Government programs include Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC), Disability Employment Services, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) and more.

Education providers include TAFE Wimmera Mallee, SuniTafe, La Trobe University, Federation University. Registered Training Organisations include the Community College Wimmera Mallee, ACE training and Partners in Training. Five Local Learning and Employment Networks service the area as do several labour hire and private recruitment companies.

The Employment Region also has several not-for-profit organisations that can be connected with to offer a range of social and other supports to local job seekers.

# Large employers

Covering such a large geographical expanse, the key industries vary throughout the Wimmera Mallee region based on the local market characteristics. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing is the largest employment industry in the Wimmera Mallee ER, followed by Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction, Education and Training and Retail Trade. Opportunities to engage for employment openings should be explored for job seekers and skilled workers displaced by COVID-19. These include, but are not limited to:

* Agricultural Services: Harvest Trail Services, Bayer Crop Science Australia, Nuseed and Dow AgroSciences.
* Manufacturing and Transport: Titan Wheels Australia, Wakefield Ironhorse Intermodal Transport Company, Polymaster, Pumpa Manufacturing, Dooen Engineering Services and Wimmera Container Line.
* Food and Beverage Processing: Mildura Fruit Co., Sunbeam Foods, Australian Vintage, Lindeman’s (Karadoc), SunSalt, RH Woodward & Co Pty Ltd – Swan Hill Abattoirs, JK Milling, Glencore Agriculture and Horsham Livestock Exchange.
* Health: Mildura Base Hospital, Swan Hill District Health and Wimmera Health Care Group.
* Education: Latrobe University, SuniTafe, Longerenong College (Workco) and Federation University.

# Selected Major Projects

The Wimmera Mallee ER has a broad range of industries involved in major projects with large numbers of job opportunities. Construction projects recently completed or currently being undertaken include:

* $36 million to construct a new 30 bed state-of-the-art specialist drug and alcohol residential withdrawal and rehabilitation facility in Mildura
* $9.7 million in upgrades and replacement medical equipment at the Mildura Base Hospital
* improved sale yard infrastructure at Ouyen Livestock Exchange
* $10 million into the Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct creating more than 200 jobs
* under $6 million for infrastructure upgrades to Merbein P-10 College
* $15 million on road upgrades at the Robinvale-Sealake Road and the Henty Highway plus $1 million for a new bridge at Albacutya and additional vehicle and pedestrian river crossings in Horsham.
* Cann Group Limited – $144 million Development of the medicinal cannabis facility
* $5.3 million in theatre upgrades for the Mildura Base Public Hospital
* Communities along the Mallee Track are set to benefit from a massive $2.3 million suite of projects in Murrayville, Ouyen, Underbool and Walpeup.

The Projects include:

* + - * Murrayville Recreation Reserve Community Complex and Change Rooms - $1.7 million
      * Murrayville Wetlands Project - $150,000
      * Ouyen Fitness, Health and Wellbeing Centre - $150,000
      * Underbool Bowls Artificial Turf Project - $265,716
      * Walpeup Hall Restoration Final Stage - $25,125

# Existing regional plans, strategic instruments and policy platforms, programs and funding

This Local Jobs Plan intends to leverage and build on the existing regional plans and programs to help move as many people as possible into work or training as quickly as possible. These include:

* Victorian Government Regional Economic Development Strategy
* [Wimmera Mallee Regional Development Plan](https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1663544/Gippsland-Regional-Plan-2015_web.pdf)
* [Wimmera Mallee Regional Growth Plan](https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/regional-growth-plans/gippsland-regional-growth-plan)
* [Mildura Regional Development | Regional Development & Tourism Experts](https://www.milduraregion.com.au/)
* Report to Infrastructure Victoria
* Australian Government [Regional Recovery Partnerships Fund](https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/covid-19-relief-and-recovery-fund.aspx)
* Australian Government [Building Better Regions Fund](https://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/building-better-regions-fund.aspx)
* Wimmera Southern Mallee Housing Blueprint.

## Attachment A – Key employment and training priorities: strategies and stakeholders

PRIORITY 1: MAXIMISE THE BENEFITS OF EXISTING AUSTRALIAN, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, TO CREATE PATHWAYS INTO GROWTH INDUSTRIES, PARTICULARLY HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM, AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE, CONSTRUCTION, TRANSORT, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING.

**Strategies**

* Collaborate with employers to build stronger pathways to employment in the region.
* Boost local employment and training opportunities through the use of existing pre-employment programs.
* Maximise mentorship assistance that directs a range of supports to migrant and refugee job seekers to build capacity for employment.
* Work with Registered Training Organisations to develop training opportunities (micro-credentialling) that meet the needs of current and future Industry demands, including considering opportunities to deliver flexible training (for example: block release or night courses).
* Work with employers to identify apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities.
* Work with industry to increase part-time and casual employment opportunities for participants that are not yet ready to undertake full-time work.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Employment Service Providers
* Local Employers
* Registered Training Organisations
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Industry Groups
* Community Organisations

PRIORITY 2: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND BUILD PATHWAYS TO EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS JOB SEEKERS IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND INDUSTRY.

Strategies

* Identify opportunities for Indigenous job seekers to access employment and training by utilising existing programs and initiatives.
* Collaborate with Registered Training Organisations to ensure current and future workforce demands are aligned with training opportunities suited to Indigenous job seekers.
* Support projects that promote Indigenous business capacity building.
* Liaise and collaborate with local Indigenous organisations to consider strategies that increase engagement in training and employment aligned to local opportunities.
* Tailor training opportunities for participants with long-term barriers to meet their complex and non-complex needs.
* Work with stakeholders to identify strategies that increase referrals into programs that will accelerate employment and training outcomes.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Employment Service Providers
* Registered Training Organisations
* Local Indigenous Organisations
* Local Employers
* Industry Groups

PRIORITY 3: BROKER OPPORTUNITIES FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT FOR ENTRY INTO LOCAL INDUSTRIES FOR MATURE AGED AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE COHORTS.

Strategies

* Identify existing training opportunities that align with current local employment needs.
* Work with local training organisations to identify training programs that will meet future project requirements.
* Partner with training providers to create micro - credentialling activities that fast-track entry level employment opportunities.
* Collaborate with stakeholders, utilising local knowledge to identify skills gaps and develop solutions.
* Maximise existing programs to generate opportunities for mature aged job seekers to secure and retain employment.
* Work with stakeholders to increase apprenticeship and traineeship entry points for mature aged jobseekers.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Registered Training Organisations
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Employment Service Providers
* Local Employers
* Industry Groups
* Community Organisations

PRIORITY 4: WORK WITH INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS SEASONAL WORKER SHORTAGES IN SECTORS WITH UNMET DEMAND SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, AND HOSPITALITY.

Strategies

* Collaborate with Industry to consider strategies to address transportation and accommodation barriers.
* Leverage existing initiatives across the Region including Harvest Bonus Scheme, Relocation allowance and Wage subsidies.
* Collaborate with stakeholders to consider solutions to address seasonal worker shortages.
* Work with Employment Service Providers to increase job seeker engagement and program referrals into seasonal industries.
* Engage with Registered Training Organisations to develop specific training opportunities to meet workforce shortages in seasonal industries.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Employment Service Providers
* Local Employers
* Industry Groups
* Registered Training Organisations

PRIORITY 5: MAXIMISE LOCAL JOB SEEKER OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MAJOR PROJECTS, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES, MINING, ENERGY, AND RESOURCES PROJECTS.

**Strategies**

* Broker opportunities with employers to create employment pathways by utilising current pre-employment programs.
* Work with industry and Local Training Organisations to identify training programs that will meet current and future major project workforce needs.
* Work with employers to identify apprenticeship opportunities for current and future major projects.
* Collaborate with stakeholders to identify skills gaps for current and future major projects.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Employment Service Providers
* Local Employers
* Registered Training Organisations
* Economic Development Plans
* Industry Groups

PRIORITY 6: BOOST OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT, ACROSS ALL INDUSTRY SECTORS, INCLUDING APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS.

**Strategies**

* Collaborate with Industry to identify solutions to increase youth engagement in employment and training opportunities.
* Work with employers to identify apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities.
* Connect with youth organisations to promote employment opportunities.
* Utilise existing programs to generate employment opportunities.
* Collaborate with Registered Training Organisations to increase skill development in young people.
* Utilise existing employment pathway programs to engage youth in ongoing employment.

**Stakeholders**

* Employment Facilitator Team
* Wimmera Mallee Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce
* Local, State and Australian Government Programs
* Employment Service Providers
* Registered Training Organisations
* Local Employers
* Industry Groups

## Attachment B – Labour Market Data Dashboard (May 2022)

This Labour Market Data Dashboard was published in May 2022 and provides a summary of the key indicators for the Wimmera Mallee labour market.
 
The dashboard combines a range of data for each of the 51 Employment Regions, to provide an overview of local labour market conditions. Dashboards are also available for each state and territory, and at the national level. The data used include the Labour Force Survey, Employment Services Caseload, Internet Vacancy Index and Small Area Labour Markets.

For any enquiries related to this dashboard, please contact EmploymentPathwaysAnalysis@skillscommission.gov.au”
