

# Local Jobs Plan

## Goulburn Murray Employment Region | VIC | January 2023

Workforce Australia Local Jobs (Local Jobs) is a program that supports tailored approaches to accelerate reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways in response to current and emerging local workforce needs.

### Local Jobs elements

#### Local Jobs Plan

The Local Jobs Plan sets out the skills and employment challenges and priorities of the region, and associated strategies that will drive the design and implementation of activities to be implemented to address these challenges.

#### Employment Facilitators

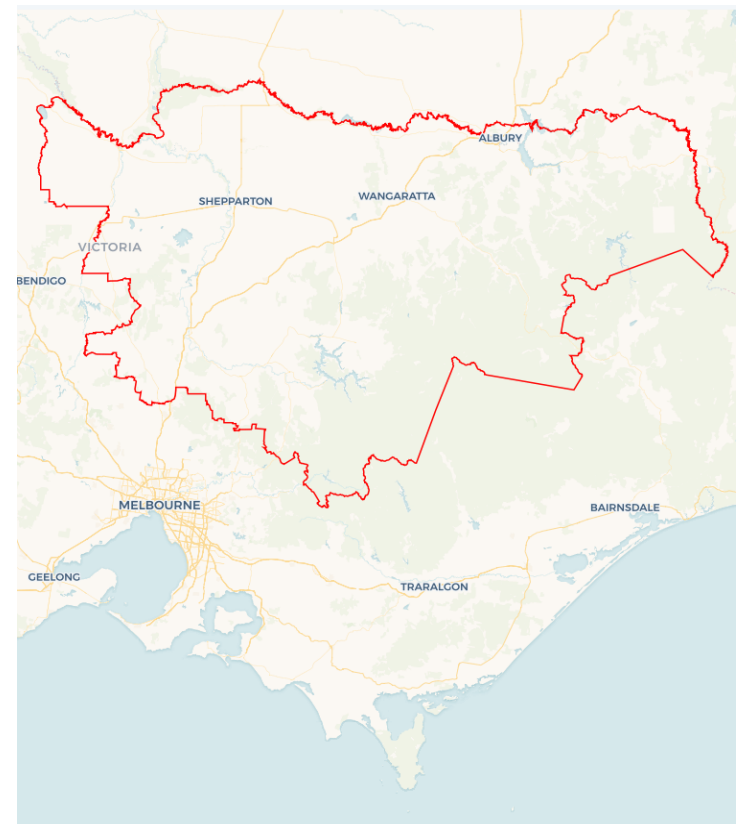
Employment Facilitators and Support Officers support the delivery of the program by bringing together key stakeholders including businesses, employment services providers, higher education and training organisations.

#### Local Jobs and Skills Taskforce

Each Employment Region has its own Taskforce. Representatives include local stakeholders who have demonstrated experience in upskilling, reskilling, and an ability to represent, connect and collaborate with others in the region to meet labour market needs.

#### Local Recovery and National Priority Funds

The Local Recovery Fund supports projects that meet the priorities identified in the Local Jobs Plan. The National Priority Fund provides funding for innovative local solutions to address structural barriers to employment.



Explore labour market insights for the [Goulburn Murray Employment Region](#)

### Local labour market challenges in the region

- Public transport across the region is not always available due to the geographical distances between city and town centres.
- Lack of housing has resulted in few affordable rental opportunities close to larger populated areas. This has caused increased levels of housing instability and homelessness.
- Trade labour shortages and a steady decline in young people committing to starting and completing apprenticeships have impacted the growth of the construction and manufacturing industries.
- Agricultural producers rely heavily on domestic and international workers to meet demand and are continuing to face a dramatic shortfall in workers.
- The hospitality/tourism sector has seen staff move to employment less impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, creating significant shortages across the industry.

### Local jobs and skills priorities and strategies in the region

#### Priority 1 – Growth industries

##### What are our challenges and opportunities?

Many regional growth industries including hospitality, tourism, manufacturing, construction, agriculture, viticulture, health care and social assistance (including aged care) are currently operating at a reduced capacity due to the inability to attract, recruit and retain skilled or unskilled workers.

##### How are we responding?

- We are promoting all new and existing programs with Workforce Australia Employment Services Providers and stakeholders to enhance local employment and training opportunities for both new and existing staff.
- We are engaging with businesses and industry peak bodies to create pathways to employment and pre-employment programs for individuals.
- Our local Taskforce is assisting in the identification and development of industry-specific recruitment models, tailored to business needs in growth industries.
- Connecting businesses to Workforce Australia Employment Services Providers, supports and programs to optimise outcomes for businesses and individuals.

#### Priority 2 – Youth unemployment

##### What are our challenges and opportunities?

Young people in the Goulburn Murray Employment Region have been negatively impacted, and in some cases disengaged from the workforce, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown periods. This has resulted in higher levels of youth unemployment and COVID-19 related job losses.

##### How are we responding?

- We are promoting all new and existing programs available at federal, state and local government departments that generate opportunities for youth with Workforce Australia Employment Services Providers and community organisations.
- We continue to identify existing training opportunities for youth, that align with current local employment needs.
- We are engaging with businesses and industry representatives to identify apprenticeship, traineeship, and job placement opportunities for young people.
- We have collaborated with local Registered Training Organisations to develop pre-employment taster workshops for in-demand vocations.
- Our localised Taskforce is assisting in the development of pre-employment taster activities that target growing industries.

### Priority 3 – Indigenous opportunities

#### What are our challenges and opportunities?

Assisting Indigenous participants within the Goulburn Murray Employment Region locate suitable employment opportunities will require innovative and collaborative solutions to identify and support complex barriers to employment.

#### How are we responding?

- We are boosting employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants in collaboration with local Indigenous organisations.
- We are continuing to promote existing programs and new initiatives available for Indigenous participants.
- We are collaborating with local Indigenous organisations to develop strategies to improve engagement in training and employment opportunities.
- Our local Taskforce is assisting in the development of culturally appropriate recruitment models, in collaboration with industry and Indigenous organisations.

### Priority 4 – Construction and infrastructure

#### What are our challenges and opportunities?

Infrastructure and construction projects within the Goulburn Murray Employment Region will require a suitably skilled regional workforce to fill both short and longer-term employment opportunities, as they become available.

#### How are we responding?

- We are collaborating with Registered Training Organisations and industries to ensure current and future workforce demands are aligned with training opportunities to support future projects.
- We are working with businesses to identify apprenticeship and entry-level opportunities to meet the needs of major projects.
- We continue to promote existing programs and future initiatives that upskill individuals to meet current and future workforce demands.
- Our local Taskforce supports the sector by facilitating local connections and the creation of specific industry working groups.

### Priority 5 – Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and mature age cohorts

#### What are our challenges and opportunities?

The Goulburn Murray Employment Region has a high proportion of both CALD and mature age residents, with both cohorts requiring a tailored approach to developing participant's skill sets and their ability to meet the requirements of growth and in-demand industry vacancies.

#### How are we responding?

- Our local Taskforce is working with local industry representatives to assist in the development of solutions and activities to increase CALD and mature age engagement in employment and training opportunities.
- We are collaborating with Workforce Australia Providers, community organisations, and industry to re-engage CALD and mature age individuals into the labour market.
- We continue to engage with organisations and stakeholders to promote local employment and training opportunities.
- We are promoting new and existing programs and initiatives that support these disadvantaged cohorts.

### Want to know more?

- Contact: Faye D'Helin, Goulburn Murray Employment Facilitator: [faye.dhelin@goulburnmurraylocaljobs.com.au](mailto:faye.dhelin@goulburnmurraylocaljobs.com.au)
- Visit: [Local Jobs](#) or [Workforce Australia](#)