$73 MILLION FOR LATROBE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The Victorian Coalition Government is delivering $73 million for a major redevelopment of Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The stage 2a expansion of the hospital will include:

- A new emergency department with more than double the existing capacity of the current facility
- A new 30 bed ward
- A cardiac catheterisation laboratory in Gippsland for the first time
- A new 12 bed short stay unit
- Two day rooms for endoscopy procedures
- A new carpark, entrance and admissions area

This investment will ensure the best available health care for Latrobe Valley and Gippsland communities into the future. Local residents seeking access to both basic and specialised treatments will receive world class care in their local community. See inside for more details.

DELivering FOR REGIONal VICTORIA

- $29 million for 78 new CFA fire tankers
- $500 million for 78 new CFA fire tankers
- Extra $286 million for country roads maintenance
- $500 million for new and upgraded schools
- $220 million for Murray Basin Rail Project

Local Initiatives

- $40 MILLION FOR FREE WI-FI ON V/LINE TRAIN SERVICES
  - $40 million to fix mobile blackspots and deliver free Wi-Fi on V/Line train services, including Traralgon.

- $11.5 MILLION FOR HAZELWOOD MINE FIRE
  - Delivering $11.5 million for the recovery and response to the Hazelwood Mine Fire.

- SHARE IN $1 MILLION FOR MORWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL REGENERATION PROJECT
  - Funding to enable the three schools in Morwell to undertake comprehensive planning for a revised master plan.
MASSIVE BOOST FOR LOCAL HEALTHCARE

In addition to the $73 million redevelopment of the Latrobe Regional Hospital, the Coalition Government is also delivering:

**Improved Medical Air Transport**

An estimated $550 million investment in world class air ambulance helicopters, to replace Ambulance Victoria’s current helicopter fleet, including those that operate out of the Latrobe Valley with a set of faster, larger aircraft that can travel longer distances without refueling.

**Elective Surgery Blitz**

A $190 million boost to enable hospitals to perform more elective surgery procedures and continue to reduce waiting times.

**Gippsland Regional Cancer Care Centre**

Due to be completed later this year, this project is enhancing radiotherapy services for the Gippsland Region and is integrating Latrobe Regional Health Services’ cancer services into a patient-friendly facility.

**ELECTIVE SURGERY WAITING LIST CUT**

The $73 million investment in Latrobe Regional Hospital has coincided with a healthy drop in the number of patients waiting for surgery as well as a rise in admissions.

There were 1063 patients treated from the elective surgery waiting in this year’s March quarter up on the 870 waiting list admissions a year earlier.

The elective surgery waiting list was reduced from 1119 at the end of the March 2013 quarter to 866 at the end of the March 2014 quarter.

All 158 Category 1 urgent elective surgery patients were operated on within the benchmark 30 days in the March quarter.

The March elective surgery improvement is the result of the Coalition Government’s determination a year earlier to reverse the $107 million mid-year hospital funding cut by the former Gillard Labor Federal Government.
FIXING COUNTRY ROADS

Communities across the Morwell electorate and Gippsland more broadly will share in a $130 million statewide package to boost road maintenance across regional and rural Victoria.

This extra funding for capital restoration works, road maintenance and resealing will improve safety and support local industry and businesses.

This new package is in addition to the $160 million Country Roads and Bridges program which provides an extra $1 million a year to 40 rural councils for road repairs.

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Government will spend more than half a billion dollars on road management across the state in this financial year.

ADVANCED COAL PROJECTS BRING JOBS FOR LATROBE VALLEY

Two new advanced coal projects supported with $50 million under the State-Commonwealth Advanced Lignite Demonstration Program will deliver new jobs and investment in the Latrobe Valley.

The projects will establish two new demonstration plants which will produce high value products including oil, fertiliser and upgraded coal.

Victoria is home to one of the world's largest brown coal reserves and investment in new technologies enables the development of smarter, cleaner and more sustainable uses for this important resource.

The two projects have the potential to bring significant employment and investment to the Latrobe Valley and to contribute to the economic growth of the area.

PROJECT ONE

Ignite Energy Resources has been granted $20 million for the development of an $84.3 million pre-commercial plant producing upgraded coal products for local or export markets and synthetic oil which can be refined into fuel sources such as diesel and petrol.

PROJECT TWO

Coal Energy Australia has been granted $30 million for the development of a $143 million demonstration plant producing fertiliser, oil and high value coal used in steelmaking.

Member for Morwell and Minister for Energy and Resources Russell Northe with Deputy Premier Peter Ryan at the funding announcement.
$1 BILLION REGIONAL GROWTH FUND

In addition to the new projects being delivered in this year’s budget, the Coalition Government’s $1 billion Regional Growth Fund (RGF) continues to drive growth in regional Victoria.

The RGF is delivering new and improved infrastructure and creating more jobs in regional cities and country communities every day of the year.

Since it was established in 2011, the Regional Growth Fund has invested nearly $400 million in more than 1400 projects, generating over $1.6 billion and creating thousands of jobs.

In the Morwell electorate, the RGF has supported a number of key projects including:

- $400,000 for the re-surfacing of the Traralgon Tennis Courts complex
- $490,000 for the External Electricity Line Upgrade at Lion Dairy Morwell
- $800,000 towards the development of the Gippsland Plains Rail Trail
- $340,000 for amenities upgrade at the Yallourn North Town Hall
- $326,500 towards a pallet and wood treatment upgrade at Fishers Timber Morwell

Better Local Healthcare

Country hospitals will share in an extra $287 million in funding over the next year to treat more patients in hospitals and emergency departments.

Fixing Country Roads

An extra $130 million for maintaining Victoria’s roads, bringing the road maintenance budget to more than $500 million in 2014-15 — compared to $384 million under Labor.

Combating Ice Drug Use

More than $30 million extra for drug treatment services in areas like Gippsland for more effective education and treatment responses for ICE and other drugs.

Protecting Local Communities

The largest ever investment in Victoria Police, including $13 million for Tasers for all 24-hour regional police stations.

Skills and Training

Over $1.2 billion a year for skills and training and $30 million for automotive and supply chain workers to assist them to transition into new and growing industries.

Sport and Recreation

Regional communities will share in a $35 million grant program to upgrade existing and deliver new sport and recreation facilities across the state.

Local Tourism

An additional $14 million will help bring more visitors to regional and rural communities, adding important economic benefits to our communities.

Better Schools

Country schools will share in a massive $500 million package to build and upgrade local schools — delivering modern learning environments for country students.

Building Better Schools

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