

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR SKILLS AND WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION

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\$250,000 TO KEEP SHEPPARTON MOVING FORWARD

A \$250,000 Brumby Government funding boost will help 35 people secure sustainable jobs in Shepparton's transport and logistics industry.

Skills and Workforce Participation Minister Jacinta Allan said the injection of funds would boost the region's transport and distribution industry – a rapidly growing industry that is experiencing skills and labour shortages.

"The Brumby Government is taking action to create new jobs and build a skilled regional workforce," Ms Allan said.

"This funding will go to Greater Shepparton City Council's Transport and Distribution Industry Services Unit to support the transport and logistics industry around Shepparton, which is a major regional transport hub.

"This unit was established through a Regional Skills Package under the Brumby Government's \$502 million Provincial Victoria Statement *Moving Forward*, which is supporting regional communities to attract more people, jobs and investment.

"The unit develops projects that address skills and labour shortages in the region by introducing a pool of jobseekers which may not have been previously considered by the transport and logistics industry."

Ms Allan said the new project would focus on people who may have some barriers to employment, including indigenous jobseekers, young people at risk and migrants.

"The Brumby Government has invested heavily in regional communities over the past eight years, putting in place policies focused on rebuilding local communities," Ms Allan said.

"Our regional communities are now enjoying record investment, population and employment growth. The initiative I have launched today is about making sure that an emerging shortage of skills and labour does not undermine that

progress.

“At the same time, it will provide jobseekers with barriers to employment with the opportunity of participating in that growth,” said Ms Allan.

Member for Northern Victoria Kaye Darveniza MLC said as the continued expansion of the state’s transport and logistics industry was creating unprecedented job opportunities for regional communities.

“Over the next four years, the industry will require almost 5000 additional workers each year in careers ranging from transport and warehousing to sales, marketing and customer service,” Ms Darveniza said.

The Victorian transport and logistics industry is one of the state’s largest sectors, employing more than 330,000 people and contributing 14.7 per cent to Gross State Product.