

# Jaclyn Symes MP

**Minister for Regional Development**

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Hearing  
*2019-20 Victorian Budget*

12 June 2019



## Regional and rural Victoria is thriving



### **Robust regional economy**

2.8% annual average growth rate (2014-2018)



### **Strong employment growth**

9.5% total growth rate (November 2014- April 2019)  
60,000+ jobs created since November 2014



### **Low and declining unemployment**

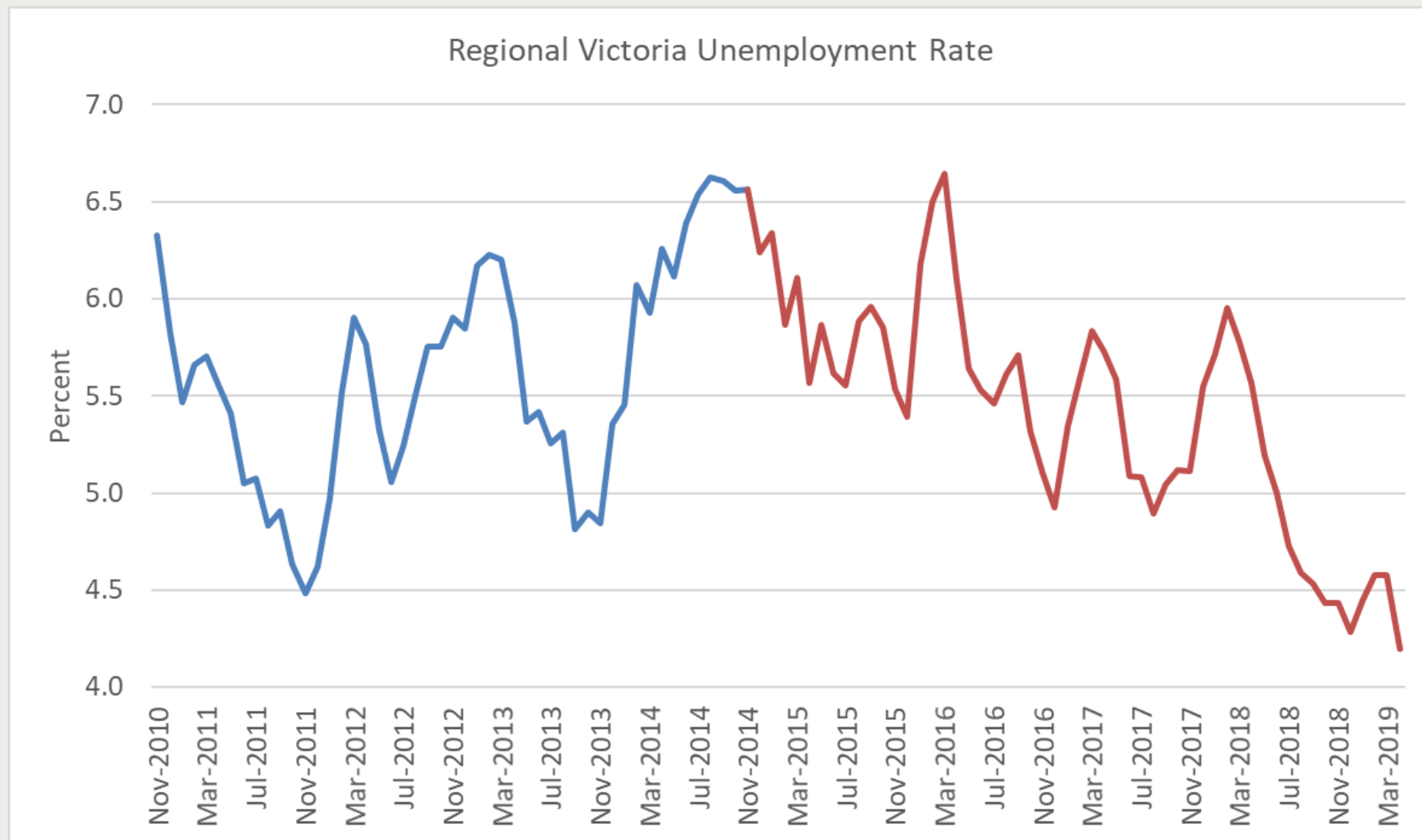
4.2% regional unemployment (April 2019), the lowest of any state (down from 6.6% in November 2014)



### **Stable population growth**

1.4% average annual growth rate (2014-2018)

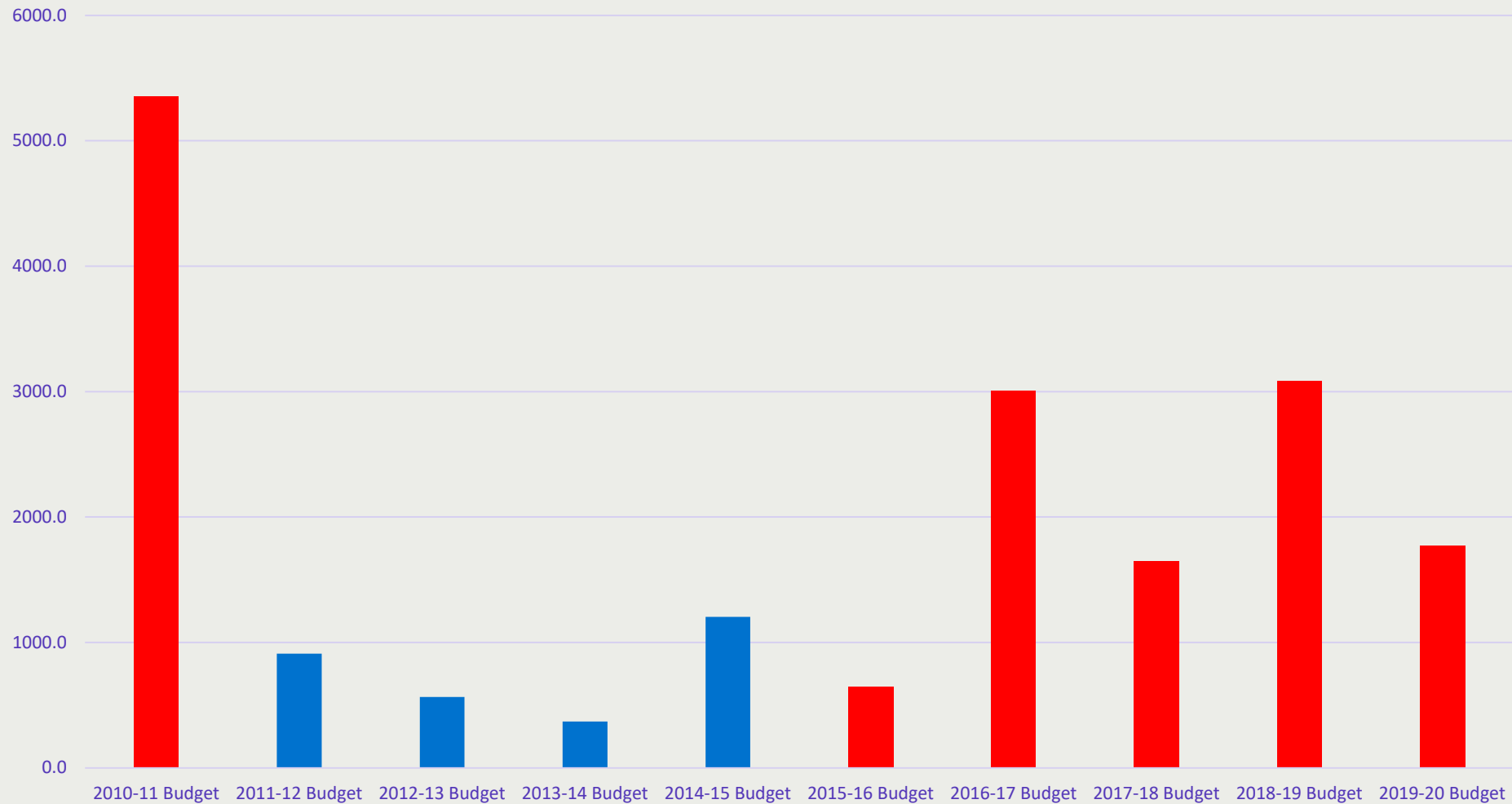
## Low and declining regional unemployment



Source: calculated from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 6291.0.55.001 using a three-month moving average.

# Proven track record on regional and rural infrastructure

Regional infrastructure investment in Victoria 2010 - present (\$000)



## Proven track record of supporting regional and rural Victoria



### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT VICTORIA

- Facilitated the creation / retention of **8,574 jobs** since July 2015
- Supported projects in **all 48** Local Government Areas



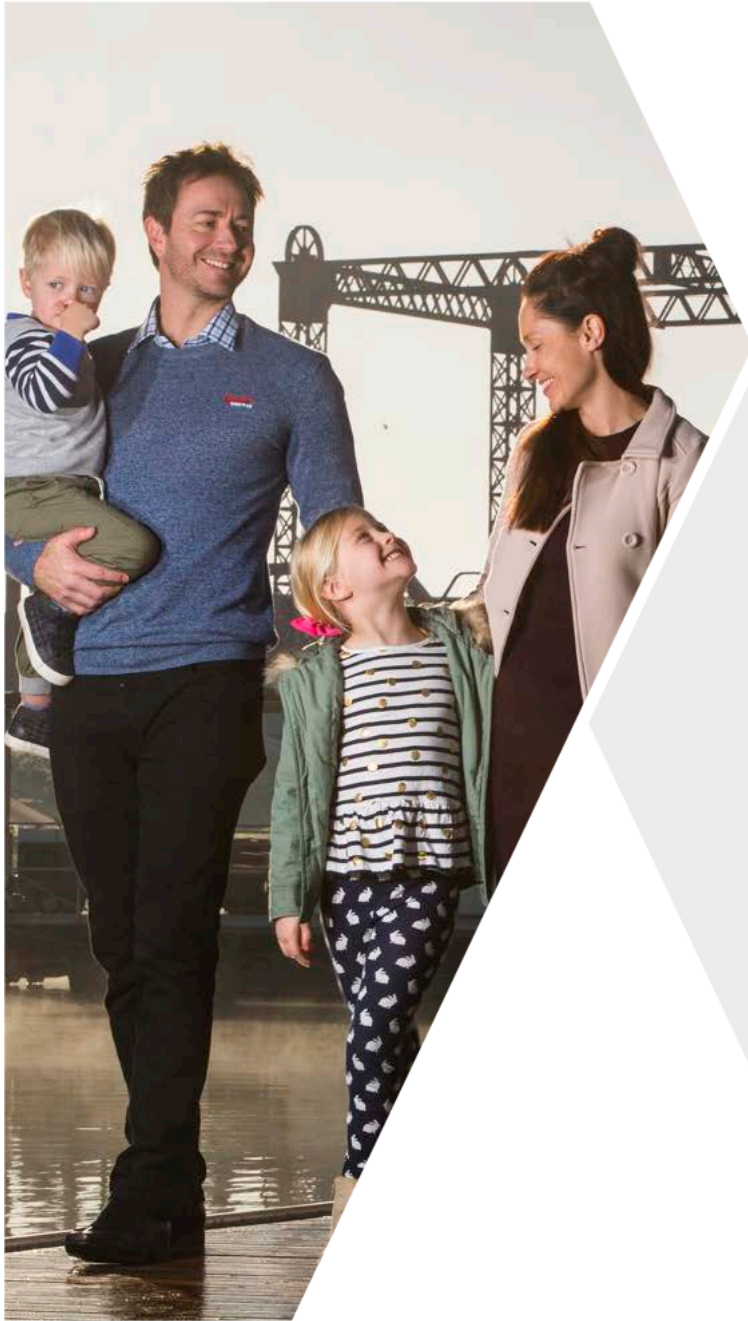
### LATROBE VALLEY AUTHORITY

- Investing in economic diversification projects across the Latrobe Valley
- Over **1,200 new jobs** and leveraged more than **\$104 million** of investment through the Regional Jobs Fund and the Latrobe Valley Economic Facilitation Fund



### 'READY WHEN YOU ARE'

- Promoting country towns and regional cities as the best place to live, visit and invest
- Supported 47 projects aimed at **population attraction**
- Supported 10 **workforce development** plans and future workforce demand assessments



## A renewed approach to Regional Development

- Committed to maintaining and improving regional Victoria as a great place to live, visit and invest
- Focussing our economic development capability, while moving towards a broader, **whole-of-government approach** to regional development
- Positioning DJPR to ensure better delivery for Victorians
- A **new Regional HQ** will be established in Ballarat
- **GovHubs** are bringing more public sector jobs to regional Victoria
- **Better coordination** of whole-of-state regional priorities, e.g.
  - Access to specialist health services
  - Housing to tackle homelessness and support victims of family violence

## 2019-20 Victorian Budget Delivering for Regional and Rural Victoria Program: A whole-of-government package for regional development

- **\$2.6 billion** initiative
- Supporting **4,500 new jobs**
- Boost regional tourism, create jobs, and underpin key industries
- Deliver the infrastructure and services that local communities rely on
- Improve public transport, country roads, TAFE facilities, and provide critical health facility upgrades

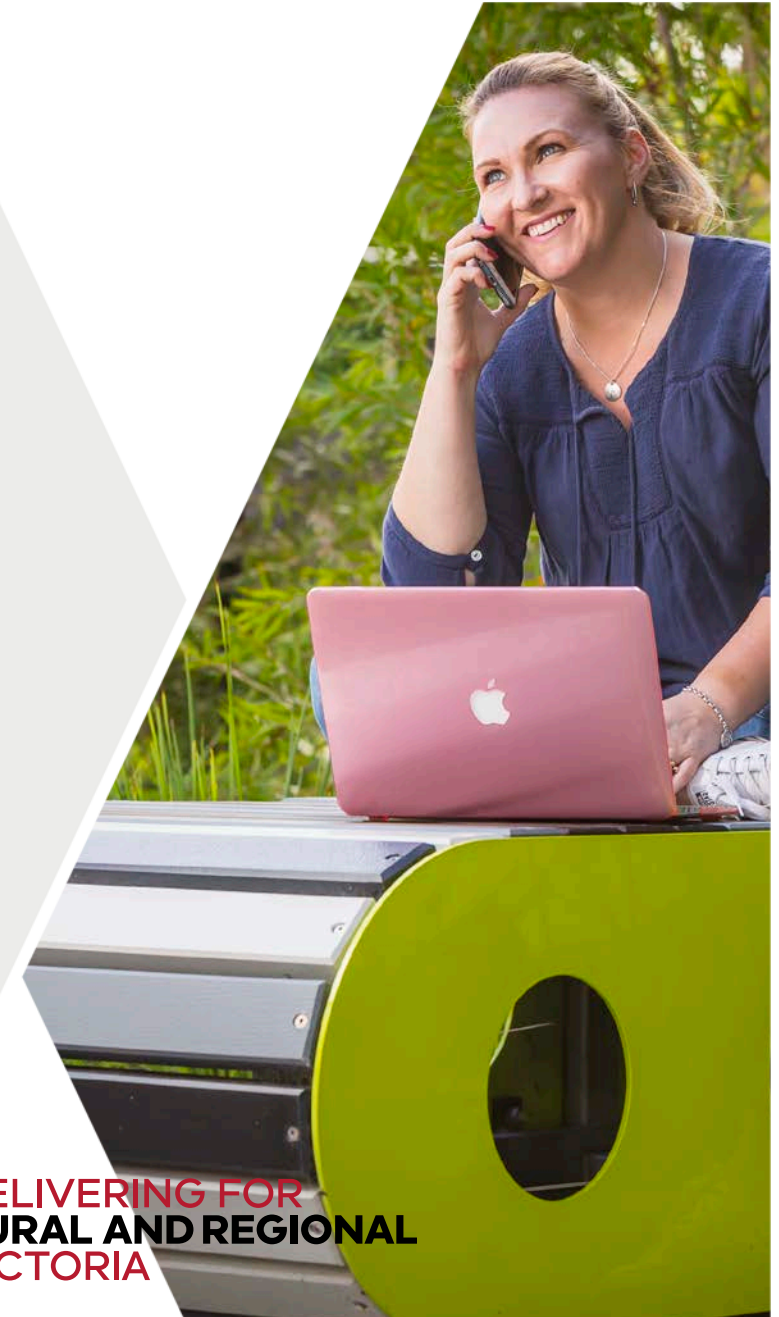


# 2019-20 Victorian Budget

## \$134 million Regional Development Priorities initiative

Delivers a range of priority initiatives across Victoria, including -

- Renewed Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund
- Key election commitments, including:
  - Regional Car Parks Fund
  - Sebastopol revitalisation
  - Benalla Splash Park
  - Lake Entrance Fisherman's Co-op on-water café development
- Other asset and output initiatives:
  - A bigger, better Eureka sports precinct for Ballarat
  - Daylesford and Macedon Ranges festivals and events
  - Bringing the best sports and entertainment to Geelong



**DELIVERING FOR  
RURAL AND REGIONAL  
VICTORIA**



## 2019-20 Victorian Budget Extension of the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund

- Regional Development Priorities initiative includes funding to renew the Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund (RJIF)
- Grants-based funding available to support projects that create new jobs
- Grants available to co-invest in local infrastructure that facilitates private sector investment or improves business activity centres
- Over the past 4 years RJIF has supported more than 700 projects valued at \$1.72 billion – creating or retaining more than 8,570 jobs



## Regional Partnerships

- Important role bringing regional priorities to the heart of government
- More than 2000 community members attended Regional Assemblies across Victoria in 2018
- Outcomes Roadmaps produced by Regional Partnerships will guide efforts of government
- Future Regional Assemblies will be focussed, issue-specific forums

