











pit mine research. The ongoing support of GHERG in providing world-leading research into mine stability and rehabilitation will be critical into the future.

- Established in 2021, Federation University’s Future Regions Research Centre (FRRC) brings together expert research and local knowledge to tackle challenges ranging from the transition towards new energy to helping regional communities recover from bushfire and drought. This expertise is embodied by our multidisciplinary teams who are working to develop new knowledge and innovative solutions to the grand challenges facing our environments. These challenges include:
  - managing land and water and its associated infrastructure and integration within the agricultural sector;
  - supporting and restoring ecosystems affected by primary industries and other activities (particularly mining);
  - understanding the role of people at a time of significant societal and environmental change; and
  - understanding the requirements to adapt to climate change and to more actively involve our first peoples in the nation’s future.
- Federation University, in partnership with TAFE Gippsland, can play a leading role in helping to transition the current energy workforce into new jobs through up-skilling and re-skilling.
  - TAFE Gippsland, Federation University and the Committee for Gippsland are partnering to create a *Hydrogen Workforce of the Future* seeking immediate support to develop a business case into what infrastructure, resources, curriculum and academic staffing will be required to retrain Gippsland’s workforce to jobs of the future. At the completion of the business case in mid-2022, the partnership will seek funding to support the development of a Hydrogen Education & Training Centre.

Long term indicators for the Latrobe Valley in relation to education and employment, particularly for young people, tend to lag other regional Victorian areas and Victorian averages. In the Latrobe Valley the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education or training has tended to be higher than in other LGAs. On Bachelor or higher qualifications, attainment across Victoria as a whole (24.3 per cent) is more than double that of the Latrobe Valley (10.8 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

To address accessibility, Federation University has a plan to transform its presence in Gippsland including revitalising Traralgon and making Federation University Gippsland’s University. Through a partnership with Latrobe City Council and the Victorian Government, Federation University has recently been awarded \$750,000 in funding to develop a student-led clinic at the Wellness Centre at the Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre. The student-led clinic will cover a range of health disciplines and allow students to gain crucial on-the-job experience, working directly with the community and focused on community health drivers. It will also provide opportunities for further outreach including community-led research into Latrobe Valley health related outcomes. The funding also provides for the establishment of a small multi-disciplinary teaching space at the soon to be completed Gippsland Performing Arts Centre.

The vision for Traralgon provides for more significant education and teaching space, potentially including student accommodation, bringing education closer to students and reinforcing the visibility of Gippsland’s higher education institution on a daily basis. Having a more visible presence in Traralgon through education spaces, stronger connections with industry and schools, research and industry

<sup>1</sup> Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) Census Quickstats, Level of Highest Education Attainment [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/20504?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/20504?opendocument) accessed 2 November 2021

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