

A REFRESHED VISION FOR SOUTHWEST VICTORIA ALLIANCE

Making the most of what we have for the benefit of our communities



SouthWest Victoria
ALLIANCE

HARNESSING THE POTENTIAL OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO FOSTER A PROSPEROUS REGION

The SouthWest Victoria Alliance (SWVA) includes the shires of Colac Otway, Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians and the City of Warrnambool, with representation from Deakin University and Wannon Water.

The natural beauty of SouthWest Victoria is renowned; however the region is much more than a famous coastline, it is a vibrant and diverse region with immense possibilities.

SouthWest Victoria is rich in cultural heritage with the UNESCO World Heritage Budj Bim Cultural Landscape and a remarkable blend of natural diversity that sustains tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, innovation, education and the energy transition.

The SouthWest is proud of what it contributes to the state and the nation. With a deep seaport at Portland and a strong agriculture, grain, minerals and forestry base, our region continues to excel through many market and environmental changes.

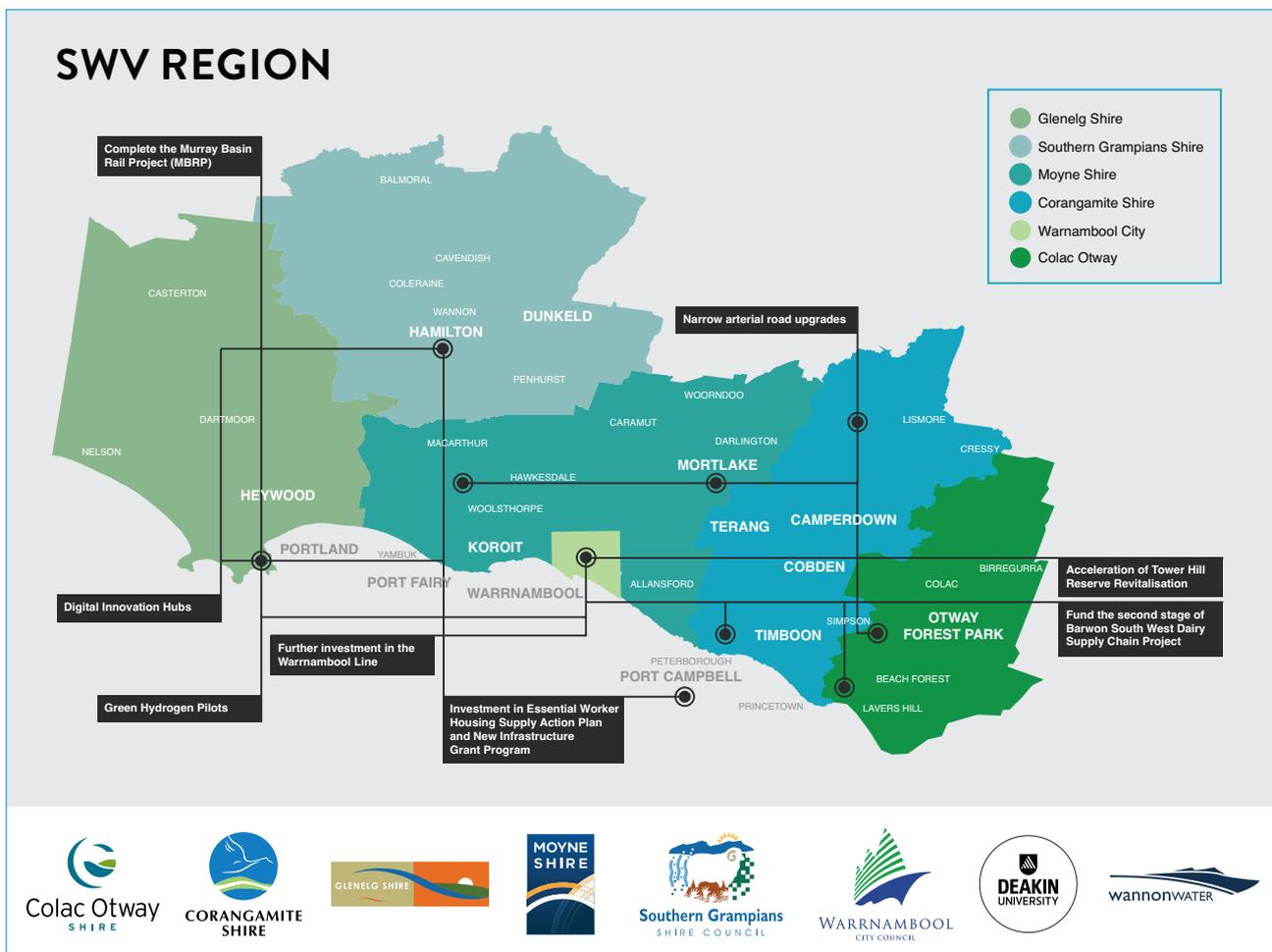
Our landscape has attracted innovators in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture and modern tourism.

The uniqueness of SouthWest Victoria cannot be underestimated as a powerhouse of production in agriculture and energy that will contribute consistently to the state and national GDP.

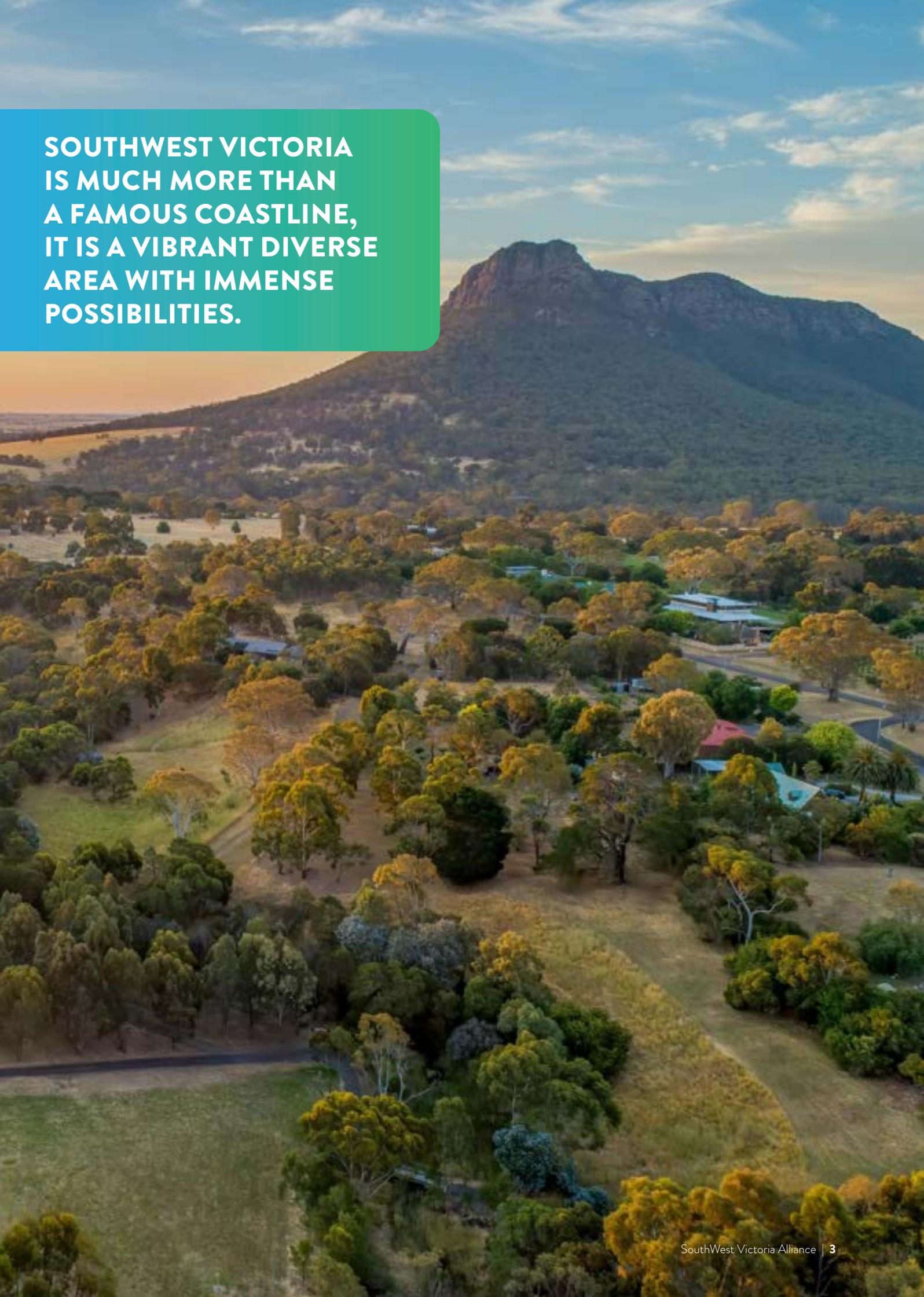
But like many communities we are experiencing higher rates of family violence, high levels of unemployment and lower educational attainment rates.

SWVA is ready to work with government, industry and communities to ensure the region thrives and people have the housing, education, job opportunities, access to childcare and healthcare they need to live a happy, healthy and prosperous life.

Only by working together can we deliver the future growth, strong industry and the good well-paid jobs that our region needs.



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The SouthWest Victoria Alliance's vision for the region has three main themes: Environment, Community and Future Possibility.

ENVIRONMENT

At the heart of the SouthWest vision lies a commitment to the environment. Our stunning natural environment has been preserved and nurtured for tens of thousands of years. It has been the centre of prosperity for all the communities that have lived here.

With energy transition coming to our region, our communities expect to see the transition deliver jobs, training, and community infrastructure.

The region needs a comprehensive plan for how the renewable energy transition will occur.

This plan should be formulated with the assistance of government and industry to ensure the region can participate in energy transition in a positive way.

We need this plan to

- Help understand what the future jobs are and what the future demand for these jobs will be
- Define what training is needed in the region to train people locally
- Understand what our existing workforce and training capacity is
- Ensure and define how women, first nations, young people and other specified groups can be a part of the energy transition and employment
- Examine what else is needed in our region, such as housing, infrastructure and other investments.

Develop the hydrogen opportunity

- Clean Energy Training Hub – placing Deakin at the heart of research and training for this emerging sector
- Gain greater understanding of future workforce potential.

Work with government to development a sustainable water strategy

- Planning for future water use is key to sustainable growth
- Understanding agricultural demands in the region is important to support industry
- Tourism opportunity – geothermal is a future industry that should be explored.



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COMMUNITY

At the heart of any region's success are its people. Our diverse communities are the driving force behind our achievements and will be a key to future prosperity. SWVA wants to give our people every chance at success and work to ensure that they benefit as we journey towards a thriving SouthWest region.

The SouthWest has a rich First Nations history and we recognise the importance of the traditional owners of our lands and want to collaborate with them to celebrate culture and support self-determination.

Childcare

Childcare access is a significant issue with some families unable to access childcare. This has significant flow on effects to people being able to work or even being able to continue to live in the region.

- Greater childcare planning is needed to understand the workforce gaps, demand of childcare and pressure points in the region.
- Deakin University is a key player and will work to develop a Centre of Excellence to train staff and look at solutions such as a workforce pilot program linked to free TAFE training.

Housing

The SouthWest, like many regions, is facing a housing crisis with people not being able to come to the region for education and employment opportunities because there is not adequate housing.

- Key Worker Housing fund is a significant opportunity that the region welcomes.
- Opportunity to use Moyne's example as a pilot to be expanded. We look to government to work with SWVA on projects we are putting forward.

Workforce

Businesses and councils across the region struggle to attract and retain skilled workers. The lack of adequate housing, childcare and other support service plays a significant role in this.

- Work with government to ensure Councils and Businesses struggling to find skilled workers get the support they need to attract and retain workers.





THE SOUTHWEST HAS A RICH FIRST NATIONS HISTORY AND WE WANT TO COLLABORATE WITH THEM TO CELEBRATE CULTURE AND SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION.



FUTURE POSSIBILITY

We see a future for the SouthWest where innovation and growth go hand in hand. The region wants to be at the forefront of sustainable agriculture and eco-tourism, unlocking new possibilities for a more prosperous future and deeper connection with the world beyond our region.

New Tourism

- Geothermal and other eco-tourism: Will be a key part of the future. Government support is needed to develop these sectors.
- Cultural tourism: There is a rich First Nation history in the region and there need to be a greater celebration and promotion of these key assets. Support for the development of linkages between sites is needed.

High Value Agriculture

- Enabling infrastructure is key to supporting the agriculture industry. Roads and other infrastructure need to be sufficient to safely transport goods, and
- Innovation support, trying new innovative and more sustainable practices come at a cost for producers. Supporting the agriculture sector to innovate through targeted grants will ensure the sector is able to grow sustainably.

In a world facing unprecedented challenges, the SouthWest stands as an example of what could be achieved if we work together to prioritise the environment, future possibilities and people.

Our tight-knit communities value the bonds forged over many years, ensuring that everyone is cared for and no one is left wanting. This is a region that works together and is ready to work to tackle our challenges and welcome new members into our communities.



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