



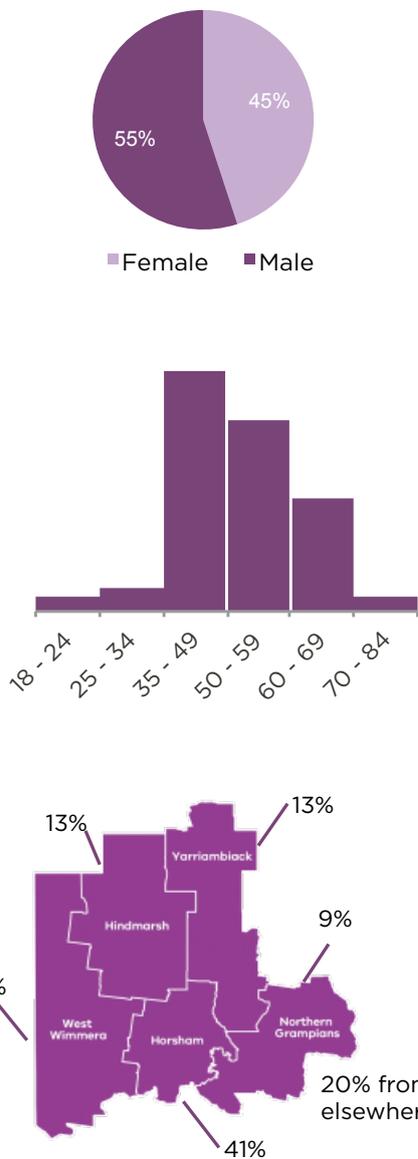
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2017 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Assembly

Horsham, 2 August 2017

Around 200 attendees including Ministers & Partnership members.

Demographics of registrants



25 per cent of those who registered were not on our original invitation list, likely meaning they were new to this consultation process.

Main topics discussed

- Health
- Environment & Energy
- Education
- Transport
- Economic Development
- Social Welfare
- Local Infrastructure



Emerging ideas include:

- Better planning and integration of service delivery across all sectors, explore a DHHS & DET service area in WSM
- Continued lobbying for improved transport connectivity, including funding for a business case for returned passenger rail to Horsham
- Simplify land use & planning
- Focus on region-wide preventive health programs
- Attract, retain and ensure appropriate workforce training
- Advocate for improved network capability within the power grid, to attract further investment in renewables
- Improve local government infrastructure including regional roads, tracks and trails
- Deliver an Early Years integrated services trial for the WSM



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2017 Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Assembly



Your voice making a difference

In 2016, following our Regional Assembly and consultation process, the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership prioritised securing funding for the development of a tourism plan for the region.

As a direct result of our efforts, \$500,000 was allocated for this in the 2017/2018 Victorian Government Budget and, on the morning of this year's Assembly, the Premier visited the Sheep Hills Art Silo, south of Warracknabeal.

Partnership Chair David Jochinke welcomed the funding. "It will be used to work with local providers to develop a tourism plan to boost visitors, diversify the economy and make more of everything the Mallee and Wimmera has to offer," he explains.

Feedback on the Assembly

More than 40 people provided feedback on the Assembly and the engagement process.

Generally, feedback was positive, with overwhelming agreement that large Regional Assemblies of this nature provide an effective way to gauge community opinion and hear diverse views.

Moving forward

The Partnership will consider all information gathered at the Assembly, and through our engagement, and will present to the Rural and Regional Ministerial Committee. Our priorities will then feed into the 2018/19 Budget process.

