

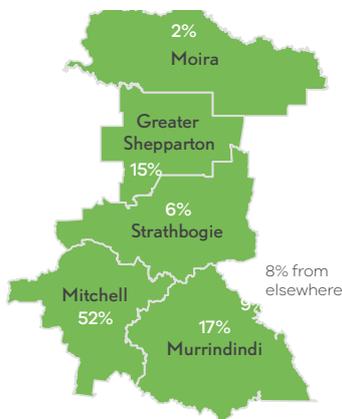
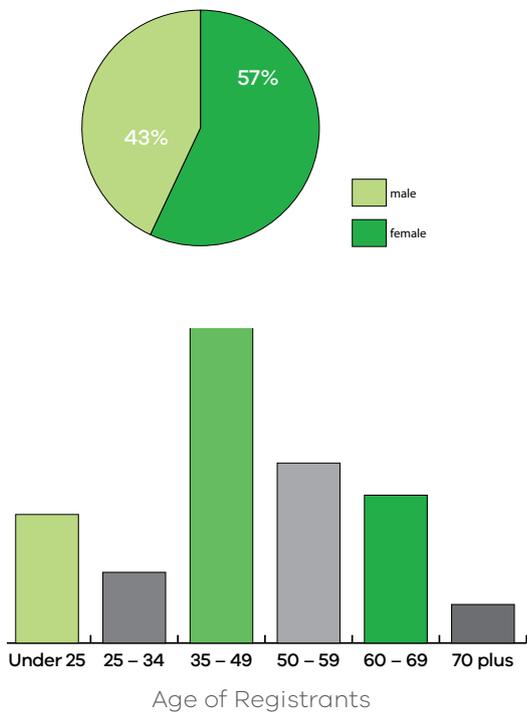


2017 Goulburn Regional Assembly

Seymour, 30 August 2017

170 attendees, including approximately 130 community members, as well as Ministers, and representatives of local and state Governments.

Demographics of registrants



59 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

From talking to the community, the Regional Partnership had a pretty good understanding of its agricultural and health priorities so, in 2017, the Partnership wanted to explore in more detail:

- The opportunities for continued economic diversification
- How we can better support our young people to be happy, healthy and productive
- How we can better support peri-urban growth
- Improving our region's digital connectivity.



Key messages from the Assembly

Tables discussing the same topic came together to nominate their top idea for the evening. Participants were then asked whether they strongly supported, supported, were neutral or did not support these top ideas.

- Compulsory mental health component in Victorian high schools (58% strongly support)
- Multi-party engagement to make sure we have a long-term plan for passenger commuter movement (45% strongly support)
- Activating as many towns as possible across the region through "river connect" along the Goulburn River (50% strongly support)
- An intensive community service wrap-around for individual students (30% strongly support)
- Recognising Goulburn River Valley Tourism and linking in with workforce training and development (55% strongly support)
- Put together a regional cooperative approach to digital connectivity to influence providers and access to infrastructure (61% strongly support)
- Create "cherished communities" where people want to stay (45% strongly support)
- More supervised night-time activities for young people and free transport to get home safely afterwards (62% strongly support).



2017 Goulburn Regional Assembly



Your voice making a difference

Following our 2016 Regional Assembly, the Goulburn Regional Partnership prioritised a number of themes and initiatives - including supporting the development of an Indigenous academy for excellence in sports, health sciences and education; and the development of a master plan for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

As a direct result of the Partnership's efforts, the Victorian Government allocated \$200,000 in Budget 2017/18 for the development of a business case for the Munarra Centre of Excellence in Shepparton. The business case for this national, state of the art indigenous centre is currently being developed and is expected in the coming months.

Also, in Budget 2017/18, the Government announced \$500,000 to develop a Regional Adaptation and Resilience Capacity Master Plan for the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District to build adaptive capacity in the area to respond to change - including drought and population change into the future, and to access opportunities for producers to expand, export and diversify.

Partnership Chair David McKenzie explains: "The Goulburn Regional Partnership was pleased that the Government also included \$43.5 million for new infrastructure to increase rail services between Shepparton and Seymour and funding to plan for the Shepparton bypass. These are things we have prioritised. We can see our Partnership is already having an impact and the voice of Goulburn is being heard."

Feedback on the Assembly

Thirty-three people provided feedback on the Assembly and the engagement process. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with agreement that participants' voices were heard as part of the process and that everyone was provided the opportunity to participate in discussions.

Moving forward

The Partnership is considering all information gathered at the Assembly and through our wider engagement activities. Our priorities will be considered in the Government's Budget process.

