

# Media Release

**The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC**

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Monday, 24 October, 2016

## SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR GIPPSLAND REGION

Gippsland locals now have an unprecedented chance to shape the future of their region.

Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford today announced the start of online consultation for the Gippsland Regional community ahead of their first Regional Assembly to be held in Moe on 17 November.

A new website recently launched by the Andrews Labor Government now gives people living, working and studying in Gippsland the chance to share their ideas about local opportunities and challenges across government.

Each of the nine Regional Partnerships will host an assembly involving at least 100 people, including community members, Members of Parliament and local government coming together to discuss priorities for each region.

They can also use the website to register their interest in attending the Gippsland Regional Assembly.

Following the Assemblies, each Partnership will deliver key recommendations straight into the heart of government through the new Rural and Regional Ministerial Committee made up of seven members of Cabinet and chaired by Ms Pulford.

The Gippsland Regional Partnership includes the local governments of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, South Gippsland, Wellington and Latrobe City.

Diversification of the local economy, improved social and economic opportunities, capitalising on the growth opportunities of future industries like food and fibre, health, advanced manufacturing and new energy are likely to be among the matters addressed by the Gippsland Regional Partnership.

Be part of the conversation by visiting <http://engage.regions.vic.gov.au>

### Quotes attributable to the Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford

*"This consultation process will give locals what they need – a chance to provide ideas and feedback right to the heart of government decision making."*

*"Rural and regional Victorians are passionate and keen to develop their regions. We hope they'll embrace this opportunity to be part of Victoria's first Regional Assemblies."*

### Quote attributable to the Gippsland Regional Partnership Chair Maree McPherson

*"This is about the things that have real meaning for our region and our future. I hope Gippslanders share their ideas online and put up their hand for our first Regional Assembly."*