

Media Release



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

31 March 2021

VFF reveals framework for region-led economic recovery

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has provided the framework needed to grow Victorian agriculture and fast-track our state's economic rebound from the impacts of COVID-19 ahead of the May State Budget.

VFF President Emma Germano said the Victorian Government must seize the opportunity to redefine what it means to work and live in the regions.

"Agriculture has undoubtedly showcased its resilience throughout the pandemic."

"We are a significant economic contributor, delivering \$13 billion to the Victorian economy, providing a quarter of all exports and employing more than 87 thousand people."

"Dollar for dollar, our industry punches well above its weight in terms of economic returns and it's time we received our fair-share."

"The Victorian Government needs to recognise the industry's future potential and invest accordingly. We don't want to put a cap on our ability to grow."

Ms Germano said government support was needed on a mixture of key regional infrastructure projects, essential services and government programs to deliver the tools needed for future growth.

"Our crumbling regional roads in many areas are bordering on unsafe."

"We're calling for a minimum of \$650 million in the budget over the next four years for regional road asset maintenance and a further \$200 million to reintroduce the Fixing Country Roads Program."

"We need to ensure profitable, thriving farm business are maintained, protected and allowed to prosper."

"Programs including the On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme and newly proposed On-farm Fire Suppression Grants will future-proof business and encourage investment."

"We desperately need a commitment and long-term strategy to propel agriculture and regional Victoria forward," Ms Germano said.

[Click here](#) to view our full pre-Budget submission.

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