

Media Release

The Hon Shaun Leane MLC
Minister for Local Government
Minister for Suburban Development
Minister for Veterans



Monday, 23 May 2022

SUPPORTING RURAL COUNCILS TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITIES

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting rural councils across the state to access technology upgrades to better service their communities.

Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane today announced \$7 million of funding has been awarded to 25 rural councils through Round Two of the Labor Government's *Rural Councils Transformation Program (RCTP)*.

Many rural councils face difficulties investing in replacing ageing IT infrastructure and systems that prevent rural councils from meeting the service standards they would like to deliver.

Round Two is focused on helping rural councils collaborate and innovate. Participating rural councils will be funded to implement new digital solutions that improve council service for rural communities. The projects include:

- \$1 million to Mansfield Shire Council, Benalla Rural City Council, Murrindindi Shire Council and Strathbogie Shire Council for new technology for records management, financial management, customer relationships and property and rating,
- \$750,000 for Yarriambiack Shire Council, Ararat Rural City Council and Buloke Shire Council to implement new records management, emergency management, building and planning, asset management and data analytics technology,
- \$750,000 to Golden Plains Shire Council, Hepburn Shire Council and Moorabool Shire Council for new asset management technology,
- \$500,000 to Central Goldfields Shire Council and Pyrenees Shire Council for new financial management, rates and property and customer relationship management technology.

Rural councils will also be supported by a new Rural Council Information (IT) Platform Strategy developed with support from Digital Victoria.

For more information about the RCTP and funded projects in Round Two please visit localgovernment.vic.gov.au

To find out more about the projects helping communities and businesses thrive in your local area, visit delivering.vic.gov.au.

Quote attributable to Minister for Local Government Shaun Leane

"Rural councils play a vital role in supporting their communities. This funding will support rural councils to upgrade their technology systems to better serve their communities."

Quote attributable to Minister for Government Services Danny Pearson

"We are supporting local councils with the services they need whether that is better IT services or other technologies so that staff can work efficiently and effectively."