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Media Release

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Sheed Calls for Budgets to make Joint Investments in Regions

Independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed says it's time for the political parties to put aside their differences and work together to ensure the best and most appropriate projects are funded as governments put the final touches on their 2020/21 budgets.

"We need to build upon the bipartisan approach governments showed earlier in the year in dealing with the management of the COVID-19 health crisis. When the Federal and State governments came together in a National Cabinet we were able to respond quickly to the needs of our communities across Australia. It is important that governments continue with a cooperative approach when it comes to funding major projects which will provide jobs and assist our economy in what will no doubt be a long-term recovery," Ms Sheed said.

"In my budget discussions with the Victorian Treasurer I highlighted the long-term major projects that need to continue to be funded and brought through to completion in the Shepparton District. While smaller capital works projects are on the funding radar, as they too will provide jobs at a local level, this is a time to look at the big picture and big projects that will provide long term investment and employment in the region.

It would be fantastic to see the Federal government come together with the state to fund stage 3 of the Shepparton rail line redevelopment. Our community's strong advocacy saw the Victorian State government fund stages 1 and 2 and we now wait for stage 3 which will see 9 velocity trains run each week day between Shepparton and Melbourne. It will be transformational in many ways and set the scene for even more services in the future.

I have worked hard to make sure the Shepparton line upgrade is firmly on the Victorian government's agenda and I would expect the unfunded third stage to be on their priority list of projects as they further discussions with the federal government.

I have long advocated for the building of the Shepparton bypass and I've been told that the business case will be completed by the end of this year. This will create a perfect opportunity for both the state and federal government to progress a major nation building project, joining our national highways through Victoria and up to the New South Wales border, and create many jobs in our region for years to come," Ms Sheed said.

"There are many other important projects to be funded and regional Victoria should be included in the major recovery investments proposed by both State and Federal governments," Ms Sheed said.

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