

MEDIA RELEASE

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MEMBER FOR NORTHERN VICTORIA

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TRAIN STATIONS TO GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Disused railway stations in Donald, Wycheproof and Birchip will soon be transformed into thriving community spaces thanks to \$1.2 million in funding from the Andrews Labor Government's Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program, State Member for Northern Victoria, Jaclyn Symes, announced today.

Refurbishment works are already underway at the old stations and include structural and interior work and roof repairs. Kitchenettes and accessible toilets will also be installed at each station, along with new services, including power, lighting and water tanks.

Once completed in June, the revitalised stations will be leased to local community groups for range of uses.

The railway building in Donald will become a rail museum and exhibition space, while Wycheproof station will become an arts, education and cultural hub.

In Birchip, the local Lions Club, landcare group and historical society will use the refurbished station as community event and exhibition space.

Ms Symes said VicTrack will also be undertaking work on Wycheproof Goods Shed, opposite the station, during this year. This is being done under VicTrack's Heritage Program and will make the building structurally sound.

"This \$1.2 million worth of work will transform these historic stations into vibrant community spaces," Ms Symes said.

"This investment will make these old stations part of the day-to-day life of these towns once again.

"The local communities in Donald, Wycheproof and Birchip have driven these projects from the outset, and I'm proud to be part of a Government that is supporting their passion and initiative.

"The Andrews Labor Government wants to see country towns thriving, which is what these projects are all about."

The Community Use of Vacant Rail Buildings Program provides funding to transform disused rail buildings into affordable, usable spaces for local communities.

The Program is being managed by VicTrack, on behalf of Public Transport Victoria.

For more information visit www.victrack.com.au