

FUTURE OF ORBOST & DISTRICT PROJECT



Media Release – 20th June 2024

Future of Orbost & District Networking and Information Evening

The Future of Orbost & District Project Governance Group is delighted to announce an engaging and inspiring networking and information evening on August 21st. The event promises to be a great opportunity for local businesses, community members and other stakeholders to connect, be informed, share ideas, and celebrate local innovation and diversification.

The evening will commence with a welcome reception at 5:15pm, featuring locally produced food and local entertainment. This will set the stage for a dynamic and informative program, starting at 5.45 pm with an update for participants on the progress and current status of the Future of Orbost and District Project. This will be followed by a panel of local business speakers who will share their own inspiring journeys of business growth and innovation.

Tabatha Jarman, Deputy-Chair of the Project's Governance Group, and who has been instrumental in organising the event, said that strengthening engagement and collaboration across the community was a high priority and the event was designed to support that. "This event is not just about networking; it's about fostering connections, sharing ideas, and exploring new opportunities for our region."

Following the initial panel and Q&A session, attendees will have more opportunities to network while enjoying additional nibbles and entertainment. The event will then delve into the work of the project's Innovation Working Groups whose exploration of innovative future opportunities is inspiring numerous pilot projects and initiatives in and around Orbost & District. This will be followed by a final panel session focusing on some of the local and government business support services which are available. "Our goal is to inspire and empower our community and both existing and aspiring businesses, by highlighting the resources and support available to them, and to drive stronger connections across a range of initiatives," added Ms Jarman. "In spite of the many challenges people face, we believe that by coming together, we can collectively support the positive future we all want."

The evening will conclude with networking, music, and a wrap-up, providing attendees with ample opportunities to connect with like-minded, as well as perhaps unlike-minded, individuals and explore potential collaborations.

The event will be held at the Orbost Golf Club. Bookings are essential, as places are limited, and can be made via the link on the Future of Orbost & District website or by requesting the booking link from project@orbostregion.com.au. To help with the cost of the event, there is a small ticket fee, however if this presents any barriers to attendance, community members should contact the project to have this waived.

The Future of Orbost & District project is a response to the impacts of the end of native timber harvesting in Victoria's state forests, and the need to transition the local economy. The purpose of the project is to build on to Orbost and District's existing strengths and leverage opportunities for supporting positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes. The Future of Orbost Project is receiving support through the Victorian Government's Forestry Transition Program's Community Stream through to September 2025.

The Orbost and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry has an agreement with the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver the Future of Orbost & District project, which is overseen by a community-led governance group.

<Photo Supplied -2022 Future of Orbost & District Networking and Information Event>



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