



# Public Libraries 2020 Summit:

## Public policy - innovation & regional development

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# Growing Victoria Together

- A vision - that by 2010 Victoria will be a state with:
  - A thriving economy
  - Quality health and education
  - A healthy environment
  - Caring communities
  - A vibrant democracy
- Supported by 10 goals

# Overview – DIIRD – “its all about the economy!”

- Investment attraction
- Trade development
- Developing innovative industries
- Regional development
- Marketing Victoria
  
- **Put simply – investment, jobs, exports**

# Why does innovation matter? –

“No man is an island, entire unto himself...”

- Radical change in structure of the global economy
  - Balance of industries
  - Change in the structure of the labour force
  - Mobility – of people and ideas
  - Emerging competitors creating new challenges – the BRIC economies
- Emergence of the 4<sup>th</sup> ‘revolution’
- Change reflected in Victorian economy – challenges and opportunities

# Policy approach to innovation

- Innovating the whole of the economy
- Focus on capability building
  - Biotechnology
  - Advanced manufacturing
  - Design
  - ICT
  - Environmental technologies
- Industry clusters
- STI agenda

# Changing pace of regional development

- Strong growth in regional Victoria
- While strong growth and investment are creating new opportunities, they also bring new **changes** and **challenges**
- Issues of concern are both 'economic' and 'social'

# Moving Forward – Provincial Victoria

## Economic Statement

- Clear manifestation of Government’s desire to ‘grow the whole state”
- \$502M package
- Important partnership with local government
- Aimed at growth – opportunities and challenges
  - Growth Fund to match the RIDF
  - Population growth an important indicator
- Economy **and** community
- An action plan - ensure Provincial Victoria attracts the people, ideas, investment and businesses it needs to move forward



# State policy action is good – but national collaboration is the key

- Two key Victorian Government positions
  - National reform initiative
    - Reducing regulation
    - Building human capital (health & skills)
    - Participation – work incentives
  - National innovation initiative
    - Infrastructure development
    - Incentives to innovation
    - Clear regulatory approaches for R&D
    - Skills
    - Co-operation



# The world is flat....but place matters

- Ubiquitousness of ICT – transforming our lives, work and play
- A diverse and innovative economy is good
  - but not enough
- People and place matter
  - We are not defined by our geography
  - But the vibrancy of our community is important

# Libraries are “in place”

- Approximately 1/2 Victorian population are members – and big borrowers
- A state-wide network – national and global links
  - Early adopters of “acting locally thinking globally”
- Capacity to inspire and influence
  - Contribution to “human capital” agenda (skills & health)
  - Growing the whole state
  - Ideas as an impetus to innovation
- But challengers exist – and value will be best displayed through community development roles