

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 28 October 2022

# ***WRAP - Werribee Region Agriculture Pathways***

### **BACKING OUR STUDENTS TO DEVELOP SKILLS IN AGRICULTURE**

WynBay LLEN thanks and applauds the Andrews Labor Government for announcing that Secondary schools across Victoria will receive funding to help students gain the skills they need for a career in agriculture.

Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins on Wednesday, 26 October 2022, visited Velisha National Farms in Werribee South along with APCH to announce grants will be awarded to 43 school projects that boost student pathways into the sector, as part of the \$5.5 million Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund. The minister was welcomed by the students and staff of Werribee Secondary College, Manor Lakes P-12 College and APCH horticulture students.

Across Wyndham and Hobsons Bay, the WynBay LLEN's Werribee Regional Agriculture Pathways WRAP program will use a \$189,500 grant to introduce students to modern agricultural techniques from seed to market.

Around \$1 million in funding will also allow tech schools to invest in new technology and resources to deliver online and outreach agricultural technology programs that meet the needs of industry as farming practices evolve.

It includes supporting agriculture camps at Geelong Tech School, traditional land care and bush foods at Bendigo Tech School and Smart Farm innovation at the Wyndham Tech School.

The Secondary Schools Agriculture Fund forms part of the Labor Government's \$50 million investment in the Agricultural College Modernisation Program – helping more students pursue careers in agriculture and meet the growing demands of the growing farm, food and fibre sector.

Improving access to vocational education and training (VET) is part of the Senior Secondary Pathway Reforms, offering students more choices that match their strengths and interests.

From 2023, more Victorian schools will provide access to a set of 12 core VET pathways for students. Agriculture and Environment is one of the core pathways, which reflect areas of high jobs growth and the diverse reasons students undertake VET.

For more information visit [vic.gov.au/secondary-schools-agriculture-fund](https://vic.gov.au/secondary-schools-agriculture-fund).

**Quote attributable to Minister for Education Natalie Hutchins**

*“This is all about backing our students – who are the future of agriculture and the next generation of farmers. This funding will help thousands of young people get the skills and the experience they need for a career in the sector and set them on the path to a bright future.”*

**Quote attributable to Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney**

*“These grants will provide a huge benefit – supporting more students with ambitions to embark on a career in agriculture and help them develop the skills need to get into the sector.”*

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