

Media Release

The Hon Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Industrial Relations



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Friday, 19 July 2019

GETTING BEHIND LOCAL GIPPSLAND BUSINESSES

The Andrews Labor Government is helping one of Australia's largest manufacturers of natural and organic food products reduce its power bills and retain jobs.

Minister for Economic Development Tim Pallas today visited Pureharvest in Drouin to see the company's \$1.25 million solar panels project, which is reducing its emissions by 1,150 tonnes a year.

The Labor Government is supporting local businesses in cutting energy costs by raising efficiency and finding alternative energy solutions, with \$90 million invested so far.

Pureharvest's non-dairy milks, juices, cold press oils and organic grains are found in major supermarkets and health food retailers across the country.

They also export to South-East Asia, China, New Zealand, the Middle East and Europe.

Pureharvest is also benefitting from the Labor Government's regional payroll cuts, which mean that by 2022-23 they will be paying just a quarter of the metro rate.

The *Victorian Budget 2019/20* was the third Budget in a row where the regional payroll tax has been reduced and comes in addition to further tax initiatives for regional businesses, like stamp duty discounts for the purchase of commercial and industrial properties.

For an eligible \$500,000 property purchased after 1 July 2023 this would mean a \$12,535 discount.

More than 500 eligible businesses based in the Latrobe-Gippsland region have already shared in payroll tax savings of more than \$38.3 million.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Economic Development Tim Pallas

"We're helping businesses so they can manage energy costs, remain competitive, improve long-term sustainability and retain Victorian jobs."

"With our support, Pureharvest has been able to invest in a cutting edge solar PV project which will help them to cut the cost of their power bill and maintain the viability of their business."

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"It's great to see local businesses like Pureharvest investing in solar projects, making them more energy efficient, reducing emissions and driving down costs."