MADE IN BENDIGO

Working locally, competing globally
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*On the cover: Keogh and Sons Manufacturing.*

The City of Greater Bendigo appreciates the assistance of local businesses, the Department of Defence and REMPLAN, for making this publication possible.
Foreword

Made in Bendigo proudly aims to showcase Greater Bendigo’s diverse and strong manufacturing and mining sectors and confirm that our municipality is open for business!

As Victoria’s third largest concentrated economic base, Greater Bendigo is taking centre stage for unprecedented investment in infrastructure, strong economic and residential growth and an enviable lifestyle for its 110,000 residents.

Over the last 10 years the City of Greater Bendigo has worked closely with other levels of government and has committed to delivering exciting projects for our community to foster innovation and attract and retain jobs.

We have taken a strategic approach to planning for the future prosperity of our region by developing an Economic Development Strategy and a range of other plans to guide residential and commercial, land use and liveability activities.

This work not only identifies our most important issues but presents a framework to maximise opportunities, manage future growth and change in a way that strengthens our economy, enhances economic activity, protects our rich natural and cultural heritage, and helps our local businesses and people to thrive.

Greater Bendigo played a key role in the development of the State Government’s Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Plan 2015-2018. In this high level plan, Greater Bendigo was identified as pivotal to the region’s success over the next 30 years as a major centre for employment and services and as a genuine alternative to living and working in Melbourne.

Home to 7,656 businesses, the City is strongly committed to assisting new business to commence operations in our region.

Our dedicated Economic Development Unit staff work closely with local companies and business networks to provide support and advocacy to both State and Federal Governments to enable business attraction and expansion.

This commitment is ongoing and we continue to work with both existing and new businesses to create a diverse, strong and growing economy that generates jobs and entices people to live, work and visit our region.

Manufacturing and mining is a key driver of our local economy and we are proud of the products that are made in Bendigo.

Bendigo is open to investment and I invite you to learn more about doing business in our region and become our next Made in Bendigo success story.

Craig Niemann
Chief Executive Officer
City of Greater Bendigo
### About Greater Bendigo

<table>
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<th>Greater Bendigo City Council</th>
<th>160km Distance from Melbourne CBD</th>
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<tr>
<td>110,000 Population</td>
<td>7,656 Number of businesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,020km² Size of municipality</td>
<td>47,000+ Number of residential properties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,150+ Number of farm properties</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3,400+ Number of commercial/industrial properties</td>
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<td>4,300+ Number of vacant land properties</td>
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### ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT
- The Bendigo region’s economy is valued at $10.5B per annum.
- Manufacturing and mining represents 24 per cent of Greater Bendigo’s total economic output and is valued at $2.3B per annum.
- The manufacturing and mining sectors employ 4,594 people in Greater Bendigo, almost 11 per cent of the region’s total workforce of 37,659.
- Manufacturing and mining are responsible for 50 per cent of the region’s total exports valued at $1.3B.
- Bendigo is now the third-largest concentrated economic base in Victoria, behind Melbourne and Geelong.
- The region has experienced residential population growth of 1.5 per cent per year since 2005 and the population is expected to reach 120,000 by 2020.

### LOCATION AND WEATHER
Located north of the Great Dividing Range in the exact geographic centre of Victoria, Bendigo enjoys a temperate climate featuring dry summers, cool winters, sunny springs, mild autumns and beautiful blue skies.

### ACCESS
Bendigo is strategically placed with easy access to ports, excellent road and rail infrastructure and a recently upgraded airport. It is within a 100 minute drive or rail trip to central Melbourne and a 90 minute trip to Melbourne International Airport. Bendigo is accessed by the Calder, M1cVor, Midland, Loddon Valley and Wimmera Highways.

Greater Bendigo has played a significant role in the history of Australia as one of the country’s largest, richest and important goldfields and now as a major regional Victorian city.

The discovery of gold in the Bendigo Creek in 1851 sparked a rush of people to the area transforming a remote and quiet valley into a prosperous and thriving city. While Bendigo owes much of its bright future to the legacies provided by its rich golden past it has gone on to become one of Australia’s most progressive and beautiful cities boasting a growing population of 110,000 people and an enviable lifestyle for its residents. In short, it’s a great place to live, work, invest, play and raise a family.
Bendigo offers a fantastic regional lifestyle with a great climate, clean air, quality water and no noise pollution. It is a lifestyle that makes you time-rich so you can spend more time with your family or pursue other recreational activities. Bendigo is acknowledged as Victoria’s regional capital for arts and culture with attractions including the renowned Bendigo Art Gallery, Ulumbarra and Capital theatres, Bendigo Pottery, Central Deborah Gold Mine and Golden Dragon Museum.

Bendigo hosts a range of great events including the annual Bendigo Easter Festival – Australia’s oldest ongoing festival, the Australian Sheep & Wool Show, Groovin the Moo music festival and the Summer in the Parks program that attract people to the region and provide entertainment for residents. Greater Bendigo has a long and proud sporting heritage and some of the best sport and recreational facilities available in regional Victoria. The grand parks, lakes and tranquil bushland areas feature a network of hundreds of kilometres of shared walking and cycling tracks that offer a quiet escape for jogging, cycling or walking.

The region is well known for its excellent wineries, restaurants, cafes, great pubs and clubs. As a major service centre Greater Bendigo offers a comprehensive selection of leading retail centres, strip shopping, weekend markets and other shopping venues. Bendigo’s major retailers and its many specialty shops offer an excellent choice and range of goods.

The Greater Bendigo region offers an enviable lifestyle, the people are warm and welcoming and the unique combination of businesses, recreational and cultural attractions combine to make it a great place to live, work, play, visit and do business.
FAST FACTS

- Thales Bendigo has manufactured more than 1,000 Bushmaster armoured vehicles under contracts to the Australian Defence Force and the Royal Netherlands Army.

- Australian Defence Apparel provides frontline combat uniforms, ceremonial dress and industrial wear for the Australian Defence Force and emergency services. It employs more than 100 people at its Bendigo East factory, which predominately manufactures combat uniforms.

- The Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation has a site located in Bendigo to provide geospatial intelligence from imagery and other sources in support of Australia’s defence and national interests.

- There is a sub-unit of the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victorian Regiment (8/7 RVR) and the 25th Force Support Squadron in Bendigo.

- The Australian Defence Force has four cadet units as well as two Army Reserve units located in Bendigo.

- In 2015, Thales secured a $1.3B contract to provide the next-generation Hawkei armoured vehicles to the Australian Defence Force.

- Bendigo-based manufacturing companies compete for a number of Defence contracts throughout Australia.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

- Thales
- Australian Defence Apparel
- Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation
A world leader in military transport technology, the Thales manufacturing plant in Bendigo supplies military vehicles to the Australian Defence Force and also exports to the Netherlands, Japan and Jamaica.

Since 2010, Thales has invested over $50M into its Bendigo operation, where it employs around 280 local staff designing, manufacturing and maintaining armoured vehicles including the Bushmaster and Hawkei. The blast and ballistic protected vehicles are built under lean manufacturing processes with large-scale software system capabilities and leading international electronics developed in-house through Thales global operation, which encompasses 68,000 employees across 50 countries.

Murray Brown, Bendigo’s Operations Manager, said the region has a number of competitive advantages, including a skilled labour force, close proximity to Melbourne, access to subcontractors and the flexibility to ramp up production.

“Thales subcontracts work to a number of capable local manufacturers including Keech Australia, Harrower Tube Bending, Riches Auto Refinishing, McCullochs and Blackwoods.”

Mr Brown said the success of the Bushmaster and Hawkei is a measure of the skills and quality that goes into the manufacturing process.

“It’s fantastic to know that our work and technology is making the world a safer place for our troops.”

In late 2015, Thales secured a $1.3B contract to provide the next-generation Hawkei armoured vehicles to the Australian Defence Force – a significant result for the business.
FAST FACTS

- The food and fibre sector has two distinct parts. The ‘food sector’ consists of primary production and food and beverage manufacturing while the ‘fibre sector’ includes forestry, wood and paper products, animal feed, animal skins, hides, fibres, textiles, clothing and footwear.
- In Greater Bendigo, the food and fibre sectors represent $956M in annual economic output and nine per cent of the region’s gross domestic product.
- The food and fibre sector employs 2,476 people.
- The food and beverage manufacturing sectors are worth $536M and employ 1,222 people.
- Agriculture, fisheries and forestry alone are worth $165M to the region’s economy with 690 people employed in these sectors.
- Established in 1984, Bendigo Woollen Mills employs 35 full-time staff and produces 100 tonnes of yarn per year.
- GrainCorp operates the largest eastern Australian grain storage and transport network. The company’s Victorian regional operations centre is located in Manang, where they employ 35 staff to manage operations, stock, technical and quality services.
- Nine food wholesalers and 56 food manufacturing businesses are registered with the City. In 2015, there were 1,058 registered food premises including supermarkets, hospitality businesses, manufacturing and health-related facilities.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

- Australian Defence Apparel
- B&B Basil
- Bendigo Gold
- Bendigo Woollen Mills
- Carlile Bendigo
- Dalhouse Foods
- Eagle Foods
- GrainCorp
- Hazelden’s Chicken Farm
- J.C. Tanloden
- J.L. King & Co
- Moira Mass Poultry & Fine Foods
- Parmalat
- Prestige Fresh Foods
- Ridley
- Tip Top Bakeries
- Victoria Carpets Bendigo
- Victoria Olive Groves
Parmalat dairy plant employs 180 staff and runs 24 hours, seven days a week. The plant produces 54,000 tonnes of dairy products a year, including Iced Break iced coffee for southern Australia, Pauls organic milk, Vaalia yoghurt, Oak flavoured milk, sour cream and custard products. Parmalat is owned by Lactalis, one of the world’s largest dairy companies. The Bendigo site has received steady investment over the last few years with the expansion of the site’s processing capabilities to meet the growing pouch and extended shelf life markets. The site currently produces around 160 stock keeping units.

Site manager, Jonathan Bibby, said the Bendigo site undertakes a significant amount of new product development and has created a niche within the Australian business as a boutique manufacturing site for smaller volumes of high-value added products. “Bendigo’s highly skilled staff, central geographical position, proximity to key agricultural regions and buoyant social and economic environments combine to make it an ideal place for food manufacturing,” Mr Bibby said. “The culture of Bendigo has evolved over the last 50 years, it’s a very positive culture and there’s a real can-do attitude here.”

Established in Bendigo more than 60 years ago, Hazeldene’s is a well-known national brand producing a range of fresh and value-added chicken products. The family run company processes around 35 million birds a year, with the end product predominately retailing in the domestic market, under supermarket brands like Coles, Woolworths, Aldi, IGA and Foodworks. Hazeldene’s is one of Bendigo’s largest private employers, with 760 staff located across various local sites including company-owned breeder farms, hatchery and processing plants.

Technical Services Manager Adam Hazeldene, who is also part of the third generation of the Hazeldene family, said the company is planning to make further investments in a new greenfield packaging and portioning facility to support growth into new markets, improve workflows and long term productivity.

“ ” Mr Hazeldene said.

“ ” Mr Hazeldene said. “Like minded collaboration through the Bendigo Manufacturing Group is another valuable resource that this region offers.”
FAST FACTS

- The Bendigo region’s wine industry dates back to the mid-1850s. The region’s wines were first acknowledged in the 1870s when they won international awards in Vienna.
- The beverage sector contributes an annual economic output of $63M to the Bendigo region and employs 111 people.
- The Bendigo region is a net exporter of beverage products to the value of $17M per annum.
- Beverages manufactured include craft beer, coffee roasting, red, white and sparkling wines.

- Greater Bendigo is home to 55 wineries and two world-class wine regions – Heathcote and Bendigo.
- Five coffee roasters currently operate in Greater Bendigo: Old Green Bean, Custom Coffees, Brewhouse Coffee Roasters, The Green Olive Warehouse and The Undercover Roasters.
- True Brew and Brookes Beer are brewing locally to meet a growing demand for craft beer.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

- Avonmore Estate
- Balgownie Vineyards
- Brewhouse Coffee Roasters
- Brookes Beer
- Connor Park Winery
- Custom Coffees
- Flyrro Wines
- Heathcote Estate
- Heathcote Winery
- Jasper Hill Vineyard
- Lynnevale Estate Winery
- Mandurang Valley Wines
- Old Green Bean
- Parmalat
- Prestige Fresh Foods
- Sandhurst Ridge
- Sanguine Estate
- The Green Olive Warehouse
- The Undercover Roasters
- True Brew
Boutique winery Mandurang Valley Wines produces 45,000 litres of wine a year and is currently exporting 60 per cent of its product to China.

Owner, Wes Vine, said exports began in 2007 when it became clear that Australia’s clean and green reputation among China’s rising middle class meant Chinese consumers were willing to pay a premium.

“Our business is focused on innovation. We work with varieties that are more resilient to climate change and adapt to new wine styles, like our Grenache Shiraz Monastrell (GSM) blend ahead of the market. We also regularly attend industry events,” Mr Vine said.

Following success in the red wine market, the family-run business expanded its product range into white wine production by investing in specialised refrigeration and winemaking equipment in 2000.

“Bendigo is a great place for our business. Not only do we have a significant market of 110,000 people on our doorstep, we also have the many visitors who are attracted to Bendigo through tourism,” Mr Vine said.

Mandurang Valley Wines is a major supplier to Bendigo’s Ulumbarra Theatre, which has had a fantastic impact on both the profile and local demand for their products.
FAST FACTS

• Twenty per cent of registered businesses in Greater Bendigo are in the building sector, compared to the state average of 17 per cent

• Greater Bendigo’s population is growing by an average of 1.5 per cent per annum and is expected to reach 120,000 by 2020. About 1,000 new homes are constructed each year and this will continue to fuel Bendigo’s building manufacturing sector.

• A vast array of building products are manufactured in Greater Bendigo including wood and steel wall frames, roof trusses, bridge beams, tilt slabs, box culverts, bricks and pavers, structural steel, lintels and balustrading, furniture, modular buildings and cabinetry.

• Building manufacturing is heavily supported by ongoing demand from the construction industry, which is valued at $3B and represents 9.6 per cent of the local economy.

• Woodform Architectural manufactures innovative timber and aluminum lining systems. Machining 1,600km of timber per annum. The company’s products are featured in the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, Ulumbura Theatre, the MCG and Suncorp Stadium.

• Adbri Masonry is Australia’s leading masonry manufacturer. The Bendigo operation produces 5,500 tonnes of concrete Besser® blocks, paving and retaining walls each month.

• CV Benchtops and Hardware
• Ezy Tilt Panels
• Fulton Hogan (precast division)
• McKern Steel
• Ortech Industries
• Steeline
• The Truss Joint
• Trackline
• Tucks Windows
• Woodform Architectural
More than 10,000 homes stand because of the award-winning manufacturing company BB Truss & Timber. The company produces roof trusses, wall frames, and multi-strut floor joists in their computer-controlled, almost fully-automated Bendigo manufacturing facility.

The family-owned business, established over 25 years ago, employs 60 people in Bendigo and 20 sales support staff across Ballarat, Keilor Park and Malaysia.

Co-founder and owner, Geoff Baxter, said virtually all of the company’s trusses are custom made, with their products used in everything from small home extensions to multimillion dollar mansions that require high-level in-house design capabilities.

“The majority of our clients are smaller builders and owner-builders but we also wholesale directly to timber yards. Our processes are streamlined so that after we have quoted on the clients’ architectural plans, we can manufacture off the same file using our fully-automated, centrally-controlled cutting system,” Mr Baxter said.

“Our workshop is designed to avoid bottlenecks with the raw product entering from one side of the shed where it progresses through cutting and building stages before being dispatched out the other side. BB Truss & Timber is constantly investing in new technology, including new MAC and linear saws, which are calibrated several times a day to achieve accuracy of 2-3mm for timber lengths.”

“BB Truss & Timber is constantly investing in new technology, including new MAC and linear saws, which are calibrated several times a day to achieve accuracy of 2-3mm for timber lengths. Environmental sustainability for a plant of this size is high priority, the business has timber recycling practices in place and the shed operates under solar LED lighting, which has the added benefit of delivering cost savings.”

These processes have resulted in BB Truss & Timber winning all major divisions of the Frame and Truss Manufacturers Association industry awards since 2007, including the 2012 award for best overall frame and truss plant.

Mr Baxter said the company moved to Bendigo because of the availability of appropriately-sized land at an affordable price, which was a requirement to meet the company’s growth strategy.

“Another competitive advantage we have in Bendigo is a stable, skilled workforce,” he said.

“We employ qualified carpenters, we also have the advantage of being able to access employees with a brilliant work ethic and attitude who we can train to do the job. With 90 per cent of our product being delivered to Melbourne, the excellent road links are also an added benefit for our business operation.”
FAST FACTS

• Metals and engineering contributes $343M in economic output to the region each year
• The sector employs 492 people
• The sector’s regional exports are worth $179M each year, representing 6.7 per cent of the region’s overall exports
• Wages and salaries earned by people employed in the sector are $52M per annum
• Metal manufacturing resulted from Bendigo’s mining industry more than 160 years ago, making it one of the first substantial sectors in Bendigo
• The sector produces rotational engineering products, drill rigs, ground engagement tools for the mining and agricultural sectors, sheet metal, complex conveyor systems, precise tube bending and advanced quarry crushing plants
• Bendigo based Industrial Conveying Australia manufactures innovative and customised material handling systems for companies including Qantas, Cadbury, Australia Post and Laminex
• Keogh and Sons Manufacturing design and manufacture industry and agricultural products. The company delivers custom steel fabricated projects using 3D design, computer numerical control machining and high definition plasma cutting
• In 1945, McCullochs Manufacturing built the first track-mounted auto harvester for the rice industry. In 1992, the company manufactured the first hydraulically-operated land grader and 70 years on the company continues to produce innovative, mining, agricultural and industrial machines

NOTABLE COMPANIES

• McCullochs Manufacturing
• McKern Steel
• QME Quarry and Mining Engineering
• Spouhac Industries
• Steeline
• Strathfieldsaye Engineering and Sheet Metal
• Thales Australia
• Universal Manufacturing Australia
Hofmann Engineering established its Bendigo Manufacturing Plant in 2010, the 20,000 square metre facility is one of the largest heavy engineering facilities on the east coast of Australia. In Bendigo the company employs around 85 staff and has some of the largest machining capabilities in the southern hemisphere. The shop floor runs 24 hours, seven days a week.

Dominating a niche market in quality and capacity, Hofmann Engineering manufacture and export large scale specialist engineered equipment. Where necessary the company build or modernise their own customised tools and machines to manufacture equipment required by energy, mining, aerospace, rail and military applications.

General Manager of Hofmann Engineering in Bendigo, Sam White, said the skillset of the labour force, Bendigo’s geographical location and the support and advocacy provided by the City’s Economic Development Unit have assisted the firm.

"Our skilled workers are our greatest assets and we are proud to have a multigenerational workforce. We are also looking to the future with 10 per cent of our workforce currently undertaking apprenticeships," Mr White said.

"With six engineering sites and a vertically integrated manufacturing process, we have the ability to deliver complete projects from concept to completion and that is what our client base is after.”

The family owned and run engineering business makes the biggest gears in the world (up to 15 metres in diameter). The Bendigo site also has the longest lathe in the southern hemisphere at 38 metres long and 1.8 metres in diameter. The lathe has previously been in the Guinness World Records as being the longest in the world.

Hofmann Engineering operates sites in Australia, North America and South America, and has offices in North America, South America, Europe and Asia.

Keech Australia has designed and manufactured high integrity steel castings for the global mining industry. An original equipment manufacturer and direct supplier to the world’s largest miners and equipment makers, Keech continues to innovate through its patented products and services.

According to Chief Operating Officer Cameron Watts, Keech Australia’s focus is on continuous innovation to benefit its customers worldwide.

“Keech is at the forefront of using 3D printing in manufacturing prototyping and production thanks to partnerships with the CSIRO and Deakin University. “Subsidiary Keech 3D Advanced Manufacturing provides a total advanced manufacturing solution with onsite services in product design, digital scanning, CAD modelling, post finishing, reverse engineering and 3D printing.

“We service the medical, aeronautical, automotive, defence and mining industries, as well as commercial sectors and can print in metals like titanium and medical grade thermoplastics,” Mr Watts said.

Keech Australia employs 120 staff across its two factories in Bendigo with offices in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, and Santiago, Chile. Keech exports to a number of international markets including the UK, Japan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Chile, South Africa, America, Canada, South America, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea.

Keech has recently been recognised on the BRW 50 Most Innovative Companies list and was inducted into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame.
Mining and Quarrying

FAST FACTS

- Valued at over $460M, the sector is responsible for $430M in exports or 16 per cent of the region’s export economy.
- According to local mining and quarrying businesses, more than 760 people are employed in the sector.
- Approximately 596 worth of gold has been mined in Bendigo since 1851 making Bendigo the second richest goldfield in Australia and the seventh richest goldfield in the world.
- The region’s diverse product is predominantly non-ferrous metal ore mining, which includes gold, antimony and quarrying products such as clay, sand and crushed rock.
- Bendigo was built on gold and much of the heavy mining technology developed to mine the field has gone on to be used worldwide.

- Fosterville Gold Mine, owned by Newmarket Gold, has extracted one million ounces of gold, worth about $1.6B, since opening in 2005. The company employs 400 people.
- ASQ employs approximately 100 people and supplies crushed rock and aggregates to the Greater Bendigo region.
- Mandalay Resources’ Costerfield mine employs 180 people and produces 12,000 to 14,000 tonnes of ore per month.
- At the height of the gold rush Bendigo controlled the economic wealth of the nation, with its own stock exchanges and two trains a day bringing hundreds of investors to Bendigo from Melbourne.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

- Allstone Quarries Pty Ltd (ASQ)
- Axedale Sands and Gravel
- Fosterville Gold Mine
- Hanson
- Mandalay Resources
Hanson is one of Australia’s leading suppliers of building materials for the construction industry. The company employs 75 staff and a number of subcontractors at Axedale Sands, Axedale Hardrock, two concrete plants and two laboratories located in Greater Bendigo.

Part of the multinational HeidelbergCement group, Hanson produces aggregates including crushed rock, sand, gravel, crusher dust, road base and pre-mixed concrete.

The company’s quarry at Axedale, 20km east of Bendigo, produces 500,000 tonnes of product a year to be used in concrete, bricks and pavers for the Melbourne, Sydney and central Victorian markets.

Quarry Manager, Andrew Harvey, said from a geological perspective Bendigo is unique because it offers a rare combination of gold, minerals, white clay, river pebbles and basalt deposits that were formed in the old Campaspe River Basin.

“Our Axedale Sands operation, which has in-ground reserves equivalent to one million tonnes a year for the next 50 years, is located 7km down the road from the Fosterville Gold Mine. We are fortunate to have both sand and gold in Axedale, it’s a rare combination,” Mr Harvey said.

“Because of Bendigo’s strong mining history we have access to experts in the construction, mining and electrical fields who are accustomed to working with mining companies. This means that 95 per cent of the resources we need can be gained locally.

“Hanson has a strong commitment to use local trades and suppliers wherever possible including the purchase of large scale quarrying equipment.”

Hanson purchased the Axedale quarry in late 2014 and has invested in water-saving technology, which has resulted in the company recycling 90 per cent of the water it uses in its operations.

“Concrete remains the most commonly used building product in the world but the way it is produced is changing thanks to technology and an ever-increasing focus on health and safety,” Mr Harvey said.

“We are committed to having a safe workforce and there is a good culture at our sites. Unlike fly-in fly-out mining jobs in remote areas, we are based in a major regional city which means our employees can return home to their families each night.

“Bendigo is an old city with modern ideas, a progressive Council and a great lifestyle. The facilities, heritage, arts and culture make it a great place to live and work.”
FAST FACTS

- Transport equipment and parts manufacturing contributes $226M in economic output per annum
- 253 people are directly employed by the transport manufacturing sector
- The sector contributes annual wages of $28M into the local economy
- The sector is responsible for exports valued at $97M per annum
- Bendigo businesses hold a number of component manufacturing contracts for defense vehicles including the Bushmaster, Hawkei, Supacat and G-Wagon
- Harrower Tube Bending mandrel bend roll cages, cooler tubes, fuel filler tubes and chassis components for several high-profile V8 supercar teams

Bendigo Rail Workshop is a unique business offering both passenger train and freight train overhauls, repairs and servicing. The company’s workshop is over 12,000 square metres with direct access to Bendigo’s broad gauge rail network

Southern Shorthaul Railroad has been based in Bendigo since 2003, the company runs 57 locomotives delivering intermodal and rail freight across Victoria and New South Wales

Bendigo is home to over 100 transport-related companies and has 12 major freight depots

NOTABLE COMPANIES

- Andy’s Earthmovers
- Bendigo Rail Workshops
- Bendigo Tramways
- bUTE
- Harrower Tube Bending
- Keech Australia
- Motherson Elastomers
- Southern Shorthaul Railroad
- Spoutvac
- Thales
SPOTLIGHT ON...

BENDIGO TRAMWAYS

Bendigo Tramways run Bendigo’s famous Vintage Talking Trams as well as a commercial tram restoration business that draws on the expertise of 31 employees and 36 volunteers.

The business is an important component of the 44-year-old Bendigo Heritage Attractions company, who manage a number of Bendigo’s historic sites.

Mixing old techniques and new technology, Bendigo Tramways offers heritage tram coach-building and engineering, as well as electrical, upholstery and decorating services to clients ranging from private collectors, creative businesses and tramway museums all over Australia, whilst occasionally exporting tram motors, brake equipment and parts to America and New Zealand.

Bendigo Tramways currently has a contract to restore Melbourne’s W-Class City Circle trams for Yarra Trams which has secured work at the Bendigo workshop for at least two years.

Project Manager and Depot Supervisor, Luke Jenkins, said the City Circle project is a balancing act between the historic and the modern.

“This project involves upgrading the W-Class trams using modern techniques and materials to ensure they meet today’s safety and technical standards, while still retaining their original heritage charm,” Mr Jenkins said.

“It’s important for the trams to retain the iconic, historic look and feel that adds so much to Melbourne’s overall character as a city, whilst providing transport that is suitable for today.”

Bendigo Tramways works out of the historic 1903 Bendigo tram depot which was built by the same people who built the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Mr Jenkins said it’s a metaphor for the business as a whole.

“What sets Bendigo Tramways apart from other manufacturing businesses is its history. It was a fight to keep this regional tramway intact and each project that we undertake is carried out with a passion to keep the story of heritage trams alive for future generations to enjoy,” Mr Jenkins said.

“The unique work we do appeals to a range of skilled trades personnel and volunteers, however we operate in a thoroughly modern manufacturing environment.

“The business is committed to the Quality Assurance Program, which is refining our workshop practices and procedures in terms of efficiency and risk management, but we have also seen improved labour outputs through forward contract work planning.

“Bendigo Tramways has experienced significant growth in recent years, with manufacturing revenue up 24 per cent between 2012 and 2015 and staff numbers almost doubling.”
FAST FACTS

• The remaining manufacturing sectors contribute $1.1B to the local economy and employ 2,197 people.

• These sectors include technical equipment and appliances, apparel, furniture, pharmaceuticals and chemical manufacturers.

• The niche businesses operating in this sector manufacture animal vaccines, industrial ceramics, world class yachts and printed materials.

• The sectors exports are valued at $529M per annum.

• Established in 1858, Bendigo Pottery is Australia’s oldest working pottery and it continues to operate as a tourist attraction and viable ceramic manufacturing business.

• Universal Manufacturing offers the most environmentally friendly pre-treatment and powder coating systems available anywhere in the world. Contracted powder coating has increased the company revenue by 25 per cent and created 30 per cent more full time jobs.

• Bentrol design, manufacture and maintain electrical switchboards, security systems and building management systems. The company is developing leading edge software and products that improve energy efficiency by automatically monitoring and adjusting building temperatures, pressure and humidity.

NOTABLE COMPANIES

• ACE Laboratory Services
• ASQ Recycling
• Australian High Performance Catamarans
• Bart ‘N’ Print
• Bendigo Pottery
• Bentrol
• Ceramic Oxide Fabricators
• Espress Printers
• Harrower Tube Bending
• Hopley Recycling
• MSD Animal Health
• Mulqueen Printers
• Red Dog Furniture
• Peerless Products
• Universal Manufacturing
MSD Animal Health produces high quality vaccines for most of Australia’s domestic animal species to meet the need of veterinarians, livestock producers and pet owners. About half of Australia’s dog population are treated with vaccines manufactured at the company’s Bendigo facility. In addition both ruminant and companion animal products are produced in Bendigo for export to New Zealand, Japan and South Africa with future markets emerging in South East Asia.

He said the company was developed around a love of Sprintcar racing and remains humble despite being highly successful. Plans for the future include a workshop extension at the company’s existing site.

Harrower Tube Bending is a family owned metal manufacturing, tube bending and machining firm that has been in business since 1979 producing between 170 and 900 parts a day at its specialist facility in Eaglehawk.

The company holds four major contracts with defence manufacturers Thales, DVR Engineering and Able Industries as well as a number of high-profile V8 Supercar teams. Owners Les and Margaret Harrower said the business is capable of reverse engineering steel bent products like exhausts, air pipes and roll cages to meet customer needs.

“We invest in technology and test our products to ensure we are delivering within 0.5mm and 0.5 degree tolerances on pre-hardened steels, aluminium, plastics and nylon,” Mr Harrower said. “Our specialist welding and cutting equipment has been designed in house so that we can create the exact products required by our national client base.”

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The manufacturing and mining sectors are responsible for 50 per cent of the Greater Bendigo region’s total exports valued at $1.3B per annum. Bendigo is home to world-class manufacturing and mining businesses and we are proud to highlight their innovations and their global success through Made In Bendigo.