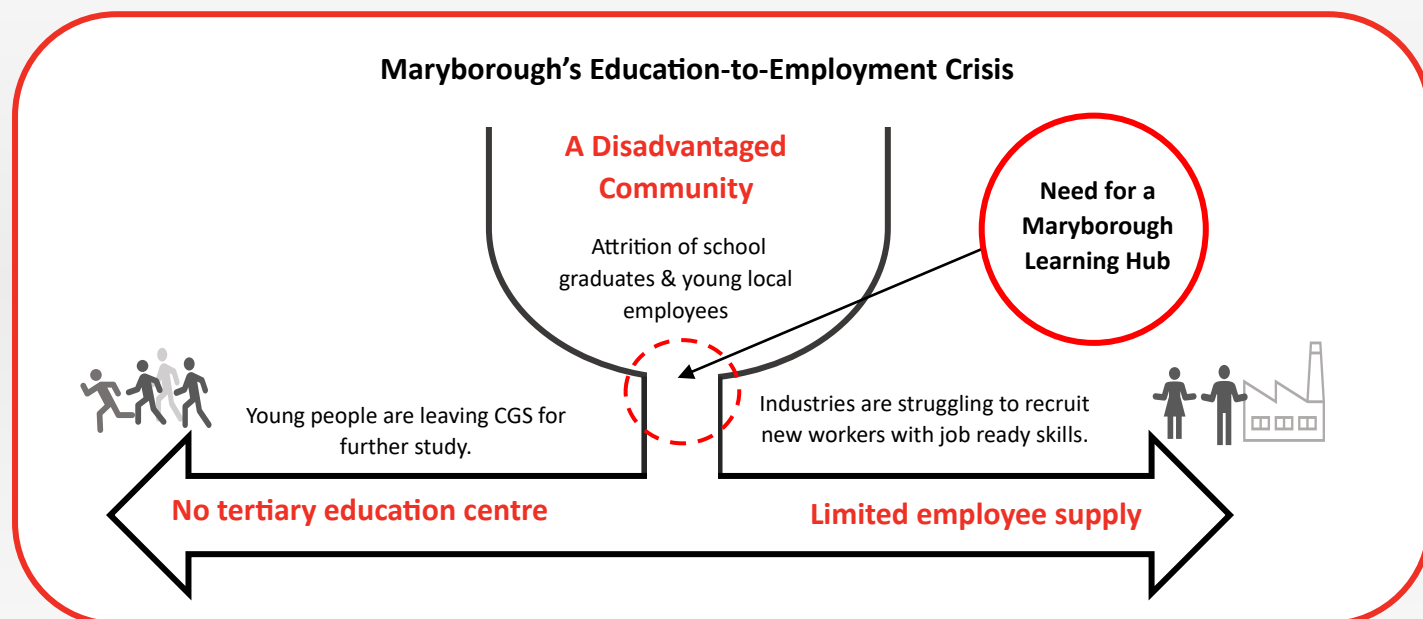


# MARYBOROUGH'S GRAND CHALLENGE: TO BUILD A LEARNING HUB!

The Central Goldfields Shire (CGS) community want to establish a learning hub to plug the gap in local education-to-employment opportunities. In preparation for the establishment of a Maryborough Learning Hub, CGS community stakeholders require 12-16 months of funding for research and development.

## The Learning Hub would provide:

- VET pathways and career information
- University and TAFE courses
- Business entrepreneurship and skills training
- Research to support regional innovation



*There is a defined gap in employment in Central Goldfields Shire together with no post-secondary training to support our young adults to stay within their communities. By offering diverse learning experiences, career advice, mentors/coaches, the Learning Hub will build aspiration and interest in local education, training and work pathways (Cr Grace La Vella, Mayor of Central Goldfields Shire)*

## A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

TILT R&D from La Trobe University have partnered with CGS Council and community stakeholders to identify key challenges and to co-design the development of a learning hub. This has culminated in a [White Paper](#). In preparation for establishment of the Maryborough Learning Hub, action research is planned to include:

### Pilot projects with community stakeholders

- Industry Launch: Q &A visits to schools from businesses, industries and tertiary education providers as well as industry open house student excursions.
- Student learning Hub: A space for young people to study and upskill through short courses by receiving mentoring and training.

### La Trobe University Learning Hub feasibility study

An internally funded research study to provide evidence-based findings on the issue of education-to-employment pathways in CGS and recommendations for Learning Hub programs.

### Maryborough Active Partnerships (MAP) 5-year CGS innovation strategy

Creation of a cross-sector collective of stakeholders from industry, education and government to develop a data-driven systems approach to addressing complex challenges leading to a 5-year innovation strategy for CGS.

## RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

A Maryborough Learning Hub aligns with recommendations from policy research including the:

### Regional Education Commissioner Annual Report 2022

- VET Education and Training: Considerations 8-10

The Maryborough Learning Hub would attract funding to provide high quality VET education in the region aligned with skills training for existing and emerging industries in CGS. This would reduce the need for transportation to other cities for further studies.

- Higher Education: Consideration 11

The Maryborough Learning Hub would serve as a Regional University Centre (RUC) delivering courses for nearby universities enabling greater local access to a university education.

- General: Consideration 13

Building interconnected education and employment pathways between industry, regional universities, VET, RUCs, schools and community to foster aspiration, access, career information and internships for a sustainable local workforce.

### National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy

- Recommendation 1: The Maryborough Learning Hub would expand access to Regional Study Hubs and improve local access to high quality VET programs.
- Recommendation 4: The Maryborough Learning Hub would build student aspiration and improve career advice by supporting local schools to deliver VET courses and encourage higher education pathways through Year 12 completion.
- Recommendation 6: The Maryborough Learning Hub strengthens the role of tertiary education providers in regional development through research, place-based courses and work integrated learning.

### Independent Review into Regional Rural and Remote Education

Page 5 recommendations from the review addressed by a Maryborough Learning Hub include:

- “Expand the availability, affordability and accessibility of high quality work experience placements, VET, dual VET/university options and two year associate degree programs for RRR students”.
- “Support RRR students to make successful transitions from school to university, training, employment and combinations of them”.
- “Support RRR communities to implement innovative approaches to education delivery designed to improve education access and outcomes for students living in remote communities”.

For all inquiries, please contact Brian Gould, Economic Development Officer CGSC  
[brian.gould@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:brian.gould@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au)

## References

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- Napthine, D., Graham, C., Lee, P., Wills, M. (2019). *National regional, rural and remote tertiary education strategy: Final report*. [National Regional, Rural and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy - final report - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)
- Nash, F. (2022). *Regional education commissioner: Annual report 2022*. [Regional Education Commissioner Annual Report 2022 - Department of Education, Australian Government](#)