



## RCV WELCOMES BUDGET'S COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL VICTORIA

### MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional Cities Victoria (RCV), the peak group representing Victoria's ten largest cities outside of Melbourne, has welcomed announcements made in today's State Budget.

In its pre-budget submission, RCV called for a \$100 million commitment to fund the revitalisation of its city centres, investment in funding of critical infrastructure, a commitment to a fairer share of service delivery and appropriate funding for transport priorities.

"RCV agrees with the Government that postcodes should not hinder the livelihood of Victorians. Our group has a track record of working with government to support projects that will deliver real benefits for our cities and the state," said RCV's Chair, Cr Mike Neoh

RCV commends the Government on the creation of its \$250 *Regional Infrastructure Development Fund*, from which a number of major revitalisation projects across RCV member cities will be funded:

- Ballarat Station Redevelopment;
- Wangaratta Saleyards;
- Redevelopment of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre;
- New Gippsland Logistics Precinct; and
- Upgrade of Eureka Stadium, Ballarat.

"RCV is now keen to work with the Government to determine how the remainder of its \$100 million commitment to all our members will be met," said Cr Neoh.

A strong focus of this Budget is jobs and employment. The Government has identified six sectors for extraordinary growth. Two of these, *food and fibre processing* and *new energy technology* have been identified as having, 'a natural home in regional Victoria'.

The Government's \$200 million Future Industries Fund and in particular the \$20 million New Energy Jobs Fund and \$20 million for Food Source Victoria, have a natural alignment with industries which already exist and thrive within regional cities.

Other major projects announced today for RCV member cities that will benefit regional Victoria include:

- \$70 million upgrade of Geelong's Simonds Stadium;
- \$10 million to expand cardiovascular services at Ballarat Base Hospital;
- \$6.6 million towards Work and Learning Centres including in Geelong, Moe, Shepparton and Ballarat; and the
- \$2 million upgrade of Canadian State Park in Ballarat.

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