



MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Chair Cr Rod Fyffe today welcomed a number of announcements relating to yesterday's Federal Budget.

"RCV is very pleased that the Government has honoured their commitment to unfreeze indexation of Financial Assistance Grants to Australian councils. These payments are vital to ensuring councils can provide appropriate facilities and services to our communities," Cr Fyffe said.

"Indexation of these grants has been frozen since 2014 and regional councils, who are more dependent on these grants, have been doing it the toughest."

"RCV also welcomes the Government's extension of the *Roads to Recovery* program and recommitment to the *Bridges Renewal* program which is so valuable to regional councils trying to ensure people in their communities can travel safely," Cr Fyffe said.

"As part of RCV's pre-Budget submission, we also called for an extension to the *National Stronger Regions Fund*, which is crucial to funding job creating local infrastructure. The Government has pledged ongoing funding for this successful fund across the forward estimates and we look forward to hearing more about this from the Government and the Opposition in the lead up to the federal election."

RCV is a regional leadership group dedicated to building a sustainable Victoria by providing strategic advice, coordination and advocacy to State and Federal Governments to support policies which enable Victoria's regional centres to grow and develop.

Comprising Mayors and CEOs of the 10 largest cities in regional Victoria – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga – RCV is focused on achieving real change in regional Victoria through policy development and active implementation of those policies.

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