



MEDIA RELEASE

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT KEY TO UNLOCKING REGIONAL VICTORIA

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has welcomed the release of the Victorian Government's Regional Network Development Plan, labelling it an important step towards achieving meaningful public transport outcomes for the state's regions.

RCV chairman Cr Rod Fyffe said it was encouraging to see the Government with a coordinated focus around the planning of regional public transport in the state.

"Well planned public transport is critical to unlocking the potential of regional Victoria," Cr Fyffe said.

"Ensuring regular, efficient and safe public transport to our regional cities will facilitate growth in our regions and help alleviate population pressures on Melbourne.

"Increasing capacity and services across Victoria's regional train, bus and coach services will clearly benefit regional communities and the state of Victoria as a whole.

"Our first impressions of the report are positive, and we certainly agree with the overarching sentiment that a coordinated network is required to facilitate the best outcomes for Victoria, as opposed to ad-hoc improvements."

Cr Fyffe said it was pleasing to see the level of consultation undertaken by the Government, including almost 40 workshops held across Victoria.

"We acknowledge the concerted efforts in consulting regional communities as part of this plan and encourage Government to maintain an appropriate level of consultation in the delivery phase," Cr Fyffe said.

"RCV is ready to work alongside Minister Allan and her Department to help realise the short and long term strategies outlined in the plan."

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Regional Cities Victoria (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.