



MEDIA RELEASE

22 July 2016

RCV WELCOMES REGIONAL FOCUS

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Chair Cr Rod Fyffe has welcomed the commitment to strengthening Victoria's regional communities at this week's *Regional Futures Summit* in Bendigo.

The Summit brought together over 200 key players from the state government, local councils and communities across regional Victoria, with the issue of population growth a key focus of the day.

"The Regional Futures Summit was a tremendous opportunity to bring together regional Victoria to talk about the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of us," Cr Fyffe said.

"I welcome the State Government's commitment to ongoing dialogue about the issues that will shape the future of our regions."

With population attraction a key strategic focus for RCV, CR Fyffe said it was pleasing to see it at the top of the Government's regional agenda.

"The primary topic of the Summit was how regional and rural Victoria can attract and retain residents and share in Victoria's growth.

"From RCV's perspective, we're really pleased this was a big focus of the Summit given our keen interest in population attraction, and how we can work collaboratively with the Government to make a compelling case for regional living.

"Other crucial areas such as infrastructure development, tourism, reaching world markets and regional higher education were strong themes and closely align with RCV's agenda going forward."

Cr Fyffe said RCV is looking forward to being a constructive partner with the Government on its regional agenda, including the imminent commencement of Regional Partnerships and the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and called for more funding to support growth in regional Victoria.

"We see a lot of opportunity for working with the Government to advance these crucial policy areas in the interests of strengthening regional Victoria," Cr Fyffe said.

"We look forward to continued government investment to support growth in our regions."

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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