



MEDIA RELEASE

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POSITIONING REGIONAL CITIES FOR POPULATION GROWTH

Regional Victoria can play a greater role in alleviating the population pressures facing Greater Melbourne, with new Census data highlighting disparities in the state's population growth.

According to the 2016 Census, Victoria's ten largest regional cities experienced an average growth of 7.8% in the five years between the 2011 and 2016 Census, amounting to an increase of approximately 55,000 residents. In the same period Greater Melbourne grew at a rate of 12%, adding over 485,000 residents.

Acting Chair of Regional Cities Victoria, Cr Kylie Gaston, said the data draws attention to the issue of regional population growth.

"Regional cities are perfectly placed to capitalise on Victoria's growing population. Doing so will not only alleviate the pressures facing Melbourne, but also provide real social and economic opportunities for our regional communities," Cr Gaston said.

"We all know that regional cities are great places to live and work, but boosting investment in key areas such as transport and infrastructure will enhance the desirability of our regions as attractive place to live – ultimately drawing a greater share of the population."

Cr Gaston said RCV has a strong track record of commissioning research to inform policy options, and will be proactive on the issue of population growth in the lead-up to next year's State Election.

"An important focus for the group will be working on ways to improve liveability and employment options in our cities to achieve greater population growth," she said.

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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