



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AIRPORT RAIL LINK TO UNLOCK REGIONAL VICTORIA

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has welcomed the Andrews Government's commitment to building an Airport Rail Link – a project that will unlock faster, more frequent services to regional Victoria.

Minister for Public Transport Jacinta Allan attended a meeting of RCV last night to brief members on the regional components of the proposal. The meeting also involved RCV electing its new leadership team for the next 12 months, with City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke taking on the role of RCV Chair. Cr Anna Speedie of Wodonga will continue to play a key leadership role as Deputy Chair.

Cr O'Rourke welcomed the Government's rail announcement as an outstanding outcome for regional Victoria.

"RCV has advocated for airport rail to facilitate fast rail across regional Victoria. Linking the project to the wider V/Line network will provide enormous benefits to both Melbourne and our regions," Cr O'Rourke said.

"Faster, more frequent and reliable services will help to manage population pressures on Melbourne and incentivise opportunities for regional living, jobs and much improved housing affordability.

"Airport rail will free up regional rail services across the network and reduce travel times to our cities – it has potential to be a truly transformative project for our state. With this project, we are on the cusp of unlocking enormous commercial and economic opportunities for regional Victoria.

"A key priority for RCV has been improving rail infrastructure to enable better connectivity to regional cities. We welcome the Government's announcement and look forward to continuing to work towards easier, faster transport corridors to regional Victoria," Cr O'Rourke 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*