



MEDIA RELEASE

Regional Victoria tops Melbourne for liveability

14 February 2018

A landmark new study has revealed regional Victoria outperforms Greater Melbourne across a number of key liveability metrics.

The Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) Liveability Index, undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, scores Victoria's ten largest regional cities above the state capital on half of the themes analysed in the report.

It found that regional cities are more liveable than Melbourne in key areas including housing affordability, health services, community infrastructure and nature-based attraction.

RCV Chair Cr Margaret O'Rourke said the study shows that regional cities are attractive alternatives to Melbourne.

"The results prove what those of us in regional Victoria already know – our regions are great places to live, work and invest," she said.

"The report confirms that we have strong, affordable housing with far more accessible options than the Melbourne property market; access to high quality primary and tertiary health services; and substantial community infrastructure such as parks and recreation spaces."

"These strengths compliment the unique lifestyle, culture and opportunities presented by regional Victoria."

Cr O'Rourke said the data from the Liveability Index supports RCV's objective of facilitating population growth in regional Victoria.

"The population of Melbourne is growing faster than any capital in Australia and projected to hit 8 million people by 2050. Regional cities have a key role to play in rebalancing this growth by attracting skilled professionals. This will drive productivity in regional communities while easing pressure on Melbourne.

"The report shows we're well placed to take on more people – now, and into the future."

The Liveability Index also highlights areas requiring investment in order for regional cities to meet the benchmark set by Melbourne. These include improvements to rail reliability and speeds, mobile and broadband services, and a greater emphasis on tertiary education.

"Boosting investment in key areas such as transport and connectivity – particularly rail infrastructure – will provide better connectivity to regional cities. This will enhance the perception of our regions as attractive places to live and ultimately draw a greater share of the population."

Cr O'Rourke said RCV commissioned the Liveability Index to identify and understand potential opportunities for member cities to improve on existing liveability performance, and attract and retain residents.



“RCV is focused on working on ways to improve liveability and employment options in our cities,” Cr O’Rourke said.

“We will continue to advocate to both sides of politics in the lead-up to this year’s state election to ensure policies and commitments serve the interests of regional Victoria.”

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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

