



## MEDIA RELEASE

### RCV launches election platform, *Growing Regional Victoria*

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Victoria's ten leading regional cities are meeting in Melbourne today to present a bold policy platform to Premier Daniel Andrews and Opposition Leader Matthew Guy ahead of November's state election.

An influential advocacy group of regional Mayors and CEOs, Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) will officially launch *Growing Regional Victoria* at Parliament House this evening, calling for targeted investments to support regional jobs and population growth. The launch will be followed by a private forum on Friday, where RCV will meet with both the Premier and Opposition Leader.

*Growing Regional Victoria* calls for significant investments across all ten regional cities, including:

- A \$600 million **Regional Jobs Growth Fund** to deliver community infrastructure projects and support regional jobs;
- A \$300 million **Regional Visitor Economy Growth Fund** to supercharge regional tourism;
- A comprehensive **Regional Connectivity Package** to guide investment across rail, road and digital networks; and
- Establishing a **Local Government Treasury Service** to slash interest rates for regional councils.

With under 100 days to the state election, RCV Chair Cr Margaret O'Rourke said the group had been actively seeking support for its policy platform.

"RCV has had productive discussions at high levels with both the government and opposition on our plan for boosting growth across regional Victoria," Cr O'Rourke said.

"Our ten regional cities are home to over 600,000 people – about 10 percent of the Victorian population. We are only scratching the surface of our potential.

"We can help alleviate pressure on Melbourne by rebalancing population in a manner that is sustainable and delivers ongoing growth in regional cities.

"With targeted investment, we can ensure regional cities are home to prosperous and sustainable economies, well-connected transport networks, and are widely known as attractive places to live, work and play," she said.

Cr O'Rourke said *Growing Regional Victoria* provided both major parties with a cohesive platform to support jobs and further enhance the liveability of regional cities.

"We are calling on both sides to back our *Growing Regional Victoria* platform. This is a blueprint to deliver growth and ensure regional Victoria benefits from our state's prosperity.

"Adopting our platform will support jobs and business in regional Victoria, and draw a greater share of the state's population to the regions."

*Growing Regional Victoria* can be viewed online [here](#).

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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*