



MEDIA RELEASE

RCV welcomes fast rail pledge

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Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has welcomed the Victorian Opposition's plan for high speed rail to regional cities.

RCV Chair Margaret O'Rourke said continued investment in regional rail services is pivotal to economic and population growth in regional Victoria.

"RCV welcomes this announcement from the Coalition. Fast rail has the potential to transform the way people move between regional cities and Greater Melbourne. With the right planning, it can change the way people live and work in our regions.

"There has been strong progress on Victoria's regional rail network in recent years, with infrastructure investment from both state and federal governments, and planning underway for fast rail between Geelong and Melbourne.

"RCV is a strong advocate for increasing the speed and frequency of regional rail services and we welcome the expansion of fast rail capability across regional Victoria.

"We look forward to seeing further details from the Coalition on this announcement."

Cr O'Rourke said a plan of this scale will require close engagement with local government and regional representatives.

"We look forward to working with the Coalition through the planning and development of this policy. Meaningful consultation will ensure the benefits of this project are fully realised.

"Ensuring all regional cities are supported by modern, dependable passenger rail remains a key focus for RCV. Ongoing investment is required across all regional passenger train lines to deliver fast and efficient services to regional Victorians," Cr O'Rourke said.

Regional rail connectivity is a key priority of RCV's advocacy plan, *Growing Regional Victoria*. View the platform [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