



MEDIA RELEASE

RCV welcomes national approach to population planning

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Regional Cities Victoria has welcomed today's announcement by the Federal Government of a national plan to manage population growth.

Regional Cities Victoria comprises the 10 largest regional cities in Victoria – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Chair of Regional Cities Victoria, Cr Margaret O'Rourke, said the Government's announcement today will encourage migrants to choose to live in the regions, which offer a viable and attractive lifestyle alternative to the major cities, and will help manage population growth.

"Targeted skilled migration would help address the chronic skills shortage that some regional cities face, and would deliver a significant boost to local businesses and regional economies," Cr O'Rourke said.

"However, we need investment in infrastructure, services and programs in regional cities and towns to ensure we maintain a high standard of living for our communities, and the best possible outcomes for both migrants and residents."

In response to the December 2018 COAG meeting, which called for a national framework to address population management in Australia, RCV issued a position paper – [Population planning and management for regional Victoria](#).

The paper outlined three key principles, including consultation and planning with all levels of government; encouraging migrants to choose regional cities over capital cities; and supporting regional areas with chronic skills shortages.

"In response to COAG at the end of last year, Regional Cities Victoria called on the State and Federal Governments for a coordinated national population planning approach that encourages regional migration and that alleviates the pressure on capital cities," Cr O'Rourke said.

"We're pleased to see that a lot of what has been announced today is in line with our position paper and reflects RCV's thinking on population planning policies.

"Regional Victoria looks forward to welcoming new migrants to its cities."

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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