



REGIONAL CITIES VICTORIA SUPPORTS CALL FOR \$4.6 BILLION INVESTMENT IN REGIONAL ROADS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRIORITIES

12 August 2014

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) today welcomed the release of RACV's *Regional Growing Pains* report, which has highlighted the need for an injection of \$4.6 billion into regional Victoria's roads and public transport over the next five years.

RCV comprises the 10 largest cities outside metropolitan Melbourne – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga. Together these cities represent a combined population of nearly 800,000 Victorians.

"Regional Cities Victoria supports the recommendations outlined in RACV's *Regional Growing Pains* report and join RACV in calling on the State Government and the State Opposition to adopt the recommendations in the report as a matter of urgency," RCV Chair, Cr Michael Neoh, said.

"RCV has previously highlighted the need for increased support for the maintenance and upgrade of major regional roads and a commitment to preserving and improving transport corridors, including public transport. This report paints an even clearer picture of the significant government investment needed to ensure Victorians using regional roads are able to do so safely.

"In addition, the report's findings also support RCV's call for an increase in the frequency of passenger rail services, as well as planning works, to ensure that the future transport needs of those travelling to and from the regions are catered for. Passenger rail links between regional centres and Melbourne, as well as between cities, is critical in terms of accessibility and amenity.

"More than 25 per cent of Victorians live in regional areas and country communities, so ensuring that transport links between the regions and to Melbourne are safe and accessible is absolutely critical.

"RCV is firmly of the belief that improving roads and public transport in regional Victoria will lead to a more thriving, diverse and economically sustainable Victoria.

"In the lead-up to the state election in November, Regional Cities Victoria will continue to work with RACV, to advocate on behalf of all Victorians for better roads and improved public transport across regional Victoria.

"RCV is committed to working with whichever party wins the November state election, to improve roads, public transport and safety for all Victorians and foster a more thriving, diverse and economically sustainable Victoria," Cr Neoh concluded.

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Media contact: Scott Howard, 0409 858 494 or rcv@cprcomm.com.au