



Regional cities call for \$100 million CBD investment

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Mayors and CEOs from Victoria's 10 largest regional cities met with the Premier and Opposition Leader recently to brief them on Regional Cities Victoria's top asks ahead of the November State Election. Chief among their wish list was a \$100 million investment for the revitalisation of regional cities' CBDs.

RCV comprises the 10 largest cities outside metropolitan Melbourne – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

“At our recent Regional Cities Forum, RCV launched its *Revitalisation of City Centres* policy. At the heart of this policy we are calling on the government and opposition to commit to a \$100 million investment to assist Victoria's regional cities to transform city centres into vibrant and active areas,” RCV Chairman, Cr Michael Neoh said.

“We believe that an investment to improve our city centres now will result in increased liveability and greater opportunities for business and employment down the track,” Cr Neoh said.

RCV is seeking an investment of \$100 million over four years, to be delivered on a 3:1 basis between the state government and the 10 regional cities respectively. This equates to an average of \$2.5m for each regional city per annum over the four year period, in order to deliver these important projects.

“Victoria's regional cities are key to the sustainable growth and economic success of our state. The provision of cultural and social support to regional and rural communities, and regional city centres play an important part in this,” Cr Neoh said.

Other priorities discussed at the meeting included greater investment in transport infrastructure, including road and passenger rail; the future of higher education facilities in regional cities, to resource re-skilling and training to enable people to remain in their regional communities as industries transition; and continuing to expand Victoria's agricultural export markets.

“RCV has been grateful for the opportunity to discuss our pre-election priorities frankly with both sides of politics. We look forward to continuing to work constructively in the months ahead,” Cr Neoh concluded.

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