



MEDIA RELEASE

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RCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Following the conclusion of Victoria's local government elections, Regional Cities Victoria has welcomed newly appointed mayors to its membership – including a record number of women.

In a first for RCV, six of the nine mayors represented on the influential advocacy body are women, further boosting Victoria's claim as the state with the highest percentage of female councillors in Australia.

Several new faces have joined the regional leadership group, including new mayors from Bendigo, Ballarat, Wangaratta, Latrobe and Horsham. Geelong remains under administrators following the State Government's Commission of Inquiry.

Acting Chair of RCV, Cr Anna Speedie, congratulated new members and reiterated RCV's commitment to growing and developing Victoria's regional centres.

"RCV is delighted to have a talented crop of new mayors joining our group and helping to shape policy outcomes that benefit regional Victoria. Having such strong female representation is reflective of our standing as a modern, future-focussed organisation" Cr Speedie said.

"We look forward to working together as a collective voice for regional Victoria, providing strategic advice, coordination and advocacy to both the state and federal governments.

"Although our membership may have changed, we remain committed to advancing the interests of regional Victoria across our key strategic areas: population attraction, infrastructure investment, tourism, regional further education and promoting regional product to world markets," Cr Speedie said.

RCV will elect a new Chair and Deputy Chair at its upcoming December meeting.

Council	2016-17 Mayor
Bendigo	Margaret O'Rourke*
Ballarat	Samantha McIntosh*
Shepparton	Dinny Adem
Wangaratta	Ken Clarke*
Geelong	N/A (Administrators)
Warrnambool	Kylie Gaston
Latrobe	Kellie O'Callaghan*
Wodonga	Anna Speedie
Horsham	Pam Clarke*
Mildura	Glenn Milne

**Newly appointed*

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