



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## JOBS, INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT HEADLINE REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) is calling on the Victorian Government and Opposition to commit to supporting regional jobs, infrastructure and transport ahead of the 2018 Victorian Election.

Mayors and CEOs from Victoria's 10 largest regional cities are meeting in Melbourne on Friday as part of the RCV Annual Forum, where they will outline the group's regional priorities to both the Premier Daniel Andrews and Opposition Leader Matthew Guy.

The priorities are identified in RCV's new strategic document, *Growing our Regions. Growing Victoria.*, which details the key areas that will support the growth of regional cities.

"We all know that regional cities provide Victorians with a truly unique lifestyle alternative to Melbourne," said RCV Chair, Cr Anna Speedie.

"With greater investment in jobs, infrastructure and transport, we can boost our regional economies and ultimately draw a greater share of Victoria's population – alleviating pressure on Greater Melbourne," she said.

*Growing our Regions. Growing Victoria.* identifies four policy areas as key to driving economic growth in regional Victoria:

- **Jobs and Business Growth**
- **Population Growth and Liveability**
- **Transport and Connectivity**
- **Future Industries**

"These are the priorities that will shape RCV's advocacy efforts through to the election in November next year," Cr Speedie said.

"Jobs are our number one priority. Providing genuine incentives for new and existing businesses to create jobs in regional Victoria, and operate over the long term, is critical to our success as regional cities.

"Population growth and liveability are also key. We can do more to attract residents to live and work in our regions by boosting investment in infrastructure and delivering better local services.

"One of our highest priorities is the need for improvements to transport and connectivity across the state. Providing easier, faster transport corridors will reduce pressure on Melbourne, improve regional access to markets, and provide better access to jobs and housing in regional locations.

"As an established thought leader for regional Victoria, RCV has also identified future industries as a long term priority. Regional cities need to be prepared for the transition of industries such as mining and



manufacturing, the changes in agriculture, and the impact of technology and automation on our workforce,” Cr Speedie said.

Cr Speedie said RCV has a strong record of gathering evidence to inform policy options, and will undertake research in each of the priority areas to inform sound and logical proposals to both the Government and Opposition.

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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*

