



MEDIA RELEASE

Airport Rail must include regional cities

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Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has called on both the State and Federal Governments to ensure the Airport Rail Link provides connections to regional Victoria.

RCV Chair Cr Margaret O'Rourke said the project is a unique opportunity to unlock faster and more frequent services to regional cities.

"RCV has long advocated for an Airport Rail Link and we welcome the Federal Government's recent funding commitment towards the project.

"The Airport Rail Link has the potential to be a truly transformative project for Victoria.

"It must be seen as much more than just a connection between Tullamarine and the Melbourne CBD – it's a project that can bring enormous benefits for the whole of Victoria, particularly regional cities" she said.

Cr O'Rourke called on both the State and Federal Government to ensure the route of the Airport Rail Link incorporates connection to regional cities.

"Delivering high speed rail to regional Victoria is achievable through the Airport Rail Link. We must capitalise on this once-in-a-generation project by ensuring airport rail is connected to the wider V-Line network," Cr O'Rourke said.

"We've seen a number of options put forward regarding potential routes, including direct tunnels under Melbourne.

"Let's be clear: the route must connect into the regional network and the best way to do this is via a new train hub at Sunshine, which would link to our major regional centres.

"If the right route is selected, this project has potential to change the way people live and work in regional Victoria. It will go a long way to helping rebalance the state's population from Melbourne to our regions," Cr O'Rourke said.

Media Contact: Joe Fennessy (0499 500 086)

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