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MEDIA RELEASE

Regional connectivity key to Suburban Rail Loop

29 August 2018

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) has called on the State Government to ensure regional connectivity is at the forefront of the Suburban Rail Loop project.

The State Government announced it will deliver \$300 million for a business case supporting the project, which plans to connect every major railway line across Melbourne and include three new 'regional super hubs' at Sunshine, Broadmeadows and Clayton.

RCV Chair Margaret O'Rourke welcomed the announcement, calling on the Government to engage with regional cities through the planning and development process.

"This is an ambitious, long-term vision that has the potential to greatly improve connectivity between regional Victoria and suburban Melbourne.

"Much like the Airport Rail project, it must be developed as a project integrating the rail network across the whole of Victoria, not just suburban Melbourne. It's vital that the government works closely with local government and regional representatives to ensure the potential benefits of this project are fully realised.

"RCV welcomes the inclusion of 'regional super hubs' as a means to connect regional passengers to key suburbs in Melbourne. This would have huge benefits for regional passengers in all corners of the state.

"Ensuring all regional cities are supported by modern, dependable passenger rail remains a key focus for RCV. Ongoing investment is required across all regional passenger train lines to deliver fast and efficient services to regional Victorians," Cr O'Rourke said.

Regional rail connectivity is a key priority of RCV's advocacy plan, *Growing Regional Victoria*. View the platform here.

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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