



MEDIA RELEASE

Federal Government funding will help regional Victoria respond and recover from COVID-19

Friday 22 May 2020

Regional Cities Victoria welcomes the Federal Government's announcement today of \$1.8 billion for road and community projects through local governments across Australia.

Regional Cities Victoria comprises the 10 largest regional cities in Victoria – Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham, Latrobe, Mildura, Shepparton, Wangaratta, Warrnambool and Wodonga.

Chair of Regional Cities Victoria, Cr Margaret O'Rourke said these funds will help support jobs and businesses in regional Victoria, which have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're very pleased to see this significant infrastructure investment and the bringing forward of the Financial Assistance Grants, which will help regional Victoria to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 crisis," Cr O'Rourke said.

In announcing the funding, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack said "supporting councils to improve local roads and community infrastructure would have lasting economic and social benefits for communities, particularly those in the regions".

The funding will be available from 1 July 2020, for local road and community infrastructure projects that involve the construction, maintenance and/or improvements to council-owned assets that are generally accessible to the public, and that deliver benefits to the community such as improved accessibility, visual amenity and safety benefits.

The funds allocated to each of the Regional Cities Victoria member cities are:

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| City of Ballarat | \$1,532,905 |
| City of Greater Bendigo | \$2,245,916 |
| The Greater Geelong City Council | \$2,183,504 |
| City of Greater Shepparton | \$2,033,496 |
| Latrobe City Council | \$1,700,085 |
| Horsham Rural City Council | \$1,428,396 |
| Mildura Rural City Council | \$2,704,817 |
| Rural City of Wangaratta | \$1,554,045 |
| City of Warrnambool | \$425,024 |
| City of Wodonga | \$541,081 |



“As individual councils, we have each taken a series of steps to help reduce the financial burden to our communities, by waiving fees on a range of permits and registrations, or offering free parking; while also increasing our support for delivery of services such as FoodShare and Meals-on-Wheels,” Cr O’Rourke said.

“We believe the funding announced today will provide regional local governments with the financial support they need to help their communities now, as well as the ability to plan for the recovery phase and direct spending where it will deliver the most benefit to their local economies.”

Today’s announcement by the Federal Government follows the Victorian Government’s Building Works package announced earlier this week, of \$2.7 billion for shovel-ready projects across the state, including a number of projects in regional Victoria.

“We’re pleased to see these government investments to help grow regional Victoria,” Cr O’Rourke said.

The Prime Minister’s media release is available at www.pm.gov.au/media/1-8-billion-boost-local-government.

The Victorian Premier’s media release from 18 May is available at www.premier.vic.gov.au/building-works-more-jobs-for-victorians/.

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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.