



MEDIA RELEASE

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Regional Cities Victoria congratulates Andrews Government on re-election

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) congratulates Premier Daniel Andrews and the Victorian Labor Party on their success in the 2022 state election.

RCV Chair Cr Andrea Metcalf said the re-election of the Andrews Government for a third term would enable policy continuity for the regions at a time of great growth and development.

“Victoria’s regional cities are growing at a faster rate than metropolitan areas and the policies Regional Cities Victoria has advocated for will ensure liveability in our regions is protected through investment in essential services and civic infrastructure,” said Cr Metcalf.

RCV represents Victoria’s 10 biggest regional cities and called for three key priorities ahead of the 26 November election:

- A \$200 million Regional Living Fund to allow cities to invest in civic, community, and cultural infrastructure and open spaces to enhance the liveability of regional cities and boost the visitor economy.
- A \$500 million Growing Regions Development Fund to ensure utilities and services like stormwater, sewerage, water, gas and electricity can be provided across the regions in a timely manner.
- A ‘regional spend guarantee’, ensuring at least 20 per cent of public agency and government entity investments are regionally-based.

In the lead up to the state election, RCV met with representatives from the major parties to discuss the concerns and priorities of regional Victoria.

Significant election commitments made by the Andrews Government, welcomed by RCV include:

- \$1 billion package for the regional rail networking including cheaper fares, more VLocity trains and extra weekend services.
- One full page of Victorian Government advertising in every regional newspaper.
- \$125 million to deliver Stage 2 of the Barwon Heads Road upgrade.

RCV acknowledges the willingness of Opposition Leader Matthew Guy and Nationals Leader Peter Walsh MP, and their parties, to engage with regional cities and discuss the RCV’s policy platform.

“We would like to congratulate former RCV Chair Cr Kim O’Keefe as the new member for Shepparton and wish her success representing her regional community in the 60th Parliament,” Cr Metcalf said.

“We look forward to continuing our productive and robust working relationship in the next term of the Andrews government,” Cr Metcalf concluded.

For media enquiries, please contact Anne Wright – 0411 035 695

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