



MEDIA RELEASE

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RCV's federal priorities for May's election

Addressing critical workforce shortages, upgrading local roads, and fast-tracking construction of more homes are priorities for Regional Cities Victoria heading into this year's federal election.

RCV Chair Cr Shane Sali, Mayor of Greater Shepparton, said with the right investment and policy settings regional Victoria can house a greater proportion of the state's population and contribute to the nation's economic prosperity.

"Victoria's regional cities are 'hubs' that underpin region-scale economies, liveability, and support regional Australia's economic growth," Cr Sali said.

"Local government is at the forefront of responding to the stronger-than-expected population growth we're seeing and maintaining the liveability for which regional Victoria is renowned.

"RCV cities have got the space to grow and prosper – what we need is equitable and sustainable investment in our cities to fast-track construction of more homes, fill critical jobs, improve resilience to natural disasters and ensure councils are financially sustainable so we can deliver the services and facilities that people rely on."

RCV's priorities for federal investment include:

- \$1 billion annually through the Growing Regions Program and the Regional Precincts and Partnership Program, together with a commitment that 25 per cent of all infrastructure funding allocated to Victoria will be spent on projects in regional Victoria.
- \$1.5 billion annually through the Housing Support Program to connect essential services (water, power, sewerage) and upgrade local roads and intersections.
- return of the flexibility for regional councils to determine local priorities under a non-competitive four-year Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund, supporting maintenance of both roads and important community facilities.
- indexing Roads to Recovery funding once it reaches \$1 billion from 2027-28, to reflect the increasing costs of building and maintaining local roads.
- inclusion of infrastructure betterment provisions within Category B and Category C of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, because building community infrastructure resilience is not an exceptional circumstance.
- investment in a new Safer Regional Cities initiative to fund CCTV and other crime prevention initiatives in Victoria's largest regional centres.

Further information regarding RCV's regional priorities can be found [here](#).