



MEDIA RELEASE

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RCV advocacy pays off with Coalition's LRCIP commitment

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) welcomed today's \$1bn commitment from the Coalition for a revitalised Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (LRCIP).

RCV has consistently advocated for more autonomy for councils to fix roads and invest in community infrastructure through non-competitive grants programs like the LRCIP.

"RCV's persistence for greater, more flexible investment in regional Victoria in the lead up to the federal election is paying off," RCV Chair Cr Shane Sali said today.

"Safer roads are a priority for RCV councils and the communities they support to ensure everyone gets home safely," Cr Sali said.

Cr Sali said providing councils with a stream of funding for community infrastructure was vital for growing populations that rely on council-run facilities.

He said demand for services was placing an increasing burden on local government as population growth in regional cities outpaces all previous forecasts and the ability of councils to build and manage facilities – sporting, libraries, halls, parks, maternal health centres and kindergartens – was limited by revenue caps.

"Giving local councils the flexibility and the autonomy to direct funding where it's urgently needed is the most efficient and effective way to improve liveability in our regional cities," Cr Sali said.

"RCV's vision is for prosperity and enhanced liveability through sustainable growth in regional Victoria, and we will continue to advocate for policies that invest in our economies to support the entire nation," Cr Sali said.