



REGIONAL **CITIES** VICTORIA

Planning for the future of Victoria's regional cities

April 2010

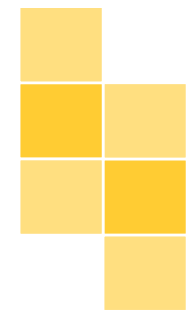


Regional Cities Victoria:

- 10 largest municipalities in Regional Victoria:
 - Ballarat;
 - Greater Bendigo;
 - Greater Geelong;
 - Horsham;
 - Latrobe;
 - Mildura;
 - Greater Shepparton;
 - Wangaratta;
 - Warrnambool; and
 - Wodonga.

Regional Cities Victoria:

- Formed in 2000;
- We seek solutions to the issues that matter in regional Victoria;
- Focused on:
 - Increasing the liveability of regional cities;
 - Increasing economic investment in regional cities; and
 - Sustainably growing our population.

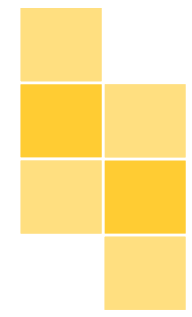


Victoria's regional cities:

- Are large contributors to the State's economy;
- Are population attractors;
- Have ↑ levels of liveability; and
- Are true service hubs for small regional towns.



A growing challenge



- A growing Melbourne;
- Growing regions;
- An ageing population; and
- Rural towns in decline.



A growing solution



The regional cities are a solution to the state's growth challenges:

- People want to call the regions home;
- The regional cities have the capacity to accommodate ↑ population;
- Congestion and greenhouse gas emissions are 60 % ↓ in regional cities making them ↑ productive;

The regional cities are a solution to the state's growth challenges:

- Regional cities have established, essential and lifestyle infrastructure; and
- Regional cities act as service hubs for smaller towns.



The Regional Cities Victoria Plan



The Regional Cities Victoria Plan

- We have three objectives:
 1. Increases the productivity and efficiency of the regional cities;
 2. Increase workforce participation in the regional cities; and
 3. Attract and retain a greater share of a growing population in the regional cities.



Objective 1 - Increase the productivity and efficiency of the regional cities through enabling infrastructure:

- **Broadband and ICT:**
 - Create competitive regional cities where broadband access and speeds are equal to any major urban centre.



- **Asks:**
 - Work with the RCV to increase understanding of exact service gaps in the regions; and
 - Work with the RCV on Federal engagement activities that may increase the speed in which broadband can be rolled out in regional Victoria.



Objective 1 - Increase the productivity and efficiency of the regional cities through enabling infrastructure:

- **Transport:**
 - Create competitive and connected regional cities that have world-class integrated, intra-regional transport networks that meet current and future needs.



- **Ask:**
 - Standardise 100% of the state's rail network;
 - Fast-track the all regional freight action plans;
 - Match public and freight transport investment to growth rates; and
 - Work with the regional cities to increase understanding of public transport service gaps.



Objective 2 - Increase the productivity of regional cities through workforce participation:

Workforce planning, employment and skills development:

- Create liveable regional cities with a diverse range of employment and training opportunities that generate innovation and drive economic growth.

- **Asks:**
 - A regional settlement strategy to assist skilled migration arrivals.
 - Expand the parameters and flexibility of RIDF to include the full spectrum of lifestyle infrastructure required to attract skilled workers to the regional cities;
 - Match education investment to growth rates; and
 - Continue to work with the regional cities to increase understanding of short and long-term skills gaps.

Objective 3 - Attract and retain a greater share of the growing population to the regional cities

Lifestyle:

- Create regional cities with high quality services and lifestyle infrastructure, so they are considered liveable alternatives to metropolitan Melbourne.

- **Lifestyle - Asks:**

- Expand the parameters and flexibility of regional development funding to include the full spectrum of lifestyle infrastructure;
- Increase regional development funding to support a regional population that is based on regional Victoria holding at least 30 per cent of the state's population; and
- Assist RCV in Federal engagement activities that are focused on lifestyle infrastructure investment.

Objective 3 - Attract and retain a greater share of the growing population to the regional cities

Land-use and planning:

- To have land-use planning frameworks and funding streams that enable a response to growth to create attractive, affordable, sustainable, well-serviced regional cities.



- **Land-use – Asks:**

- Work collaboratively with Local and Federal governments to plan future land-use;
- State government funding and staff involvement in regional cities structure planning;
- Improvement of online access to planning information from state agencies;



- **Land-use – Asks:**

- Simplification of developer contribution plans and flat charge per hectare; and
- Resources to respond to key environmental challenges in areas experiencing growth such as coastal vulnerability assessments, flood studies, landscape and environmental assessments.



Key asks...



1. Adopt a policy that regional cities are a future driver of growth and prosperity for Victoria;
2. Formalise the role regional cities play in managing the state's growth through a strategic plan entitled Regional Cities of the Future;
3. Expand the parameters and flexibility of regional funding to include the full spectrum of lifestyle infrastructure and services required to support growth in regional Victoria;



Key asks...



3. Increase regional funding to support a regional population that is based on regional Victoria holding at least 30 per cent of the state's population;
5. Encouraging your colleagues to work with RCV; and
6. Encourage your Federal colleagues to partner State and Local Governments in supplying lifestyle infrastructure.