Regional Capitals Australia

ANNUAL STATEMENT // 2020

Regional Capitals Australia

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What a year it has been for the Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) members and our nation. The start of a new decade has delivered bushfires and a global pandemic; both have brought devastating outcomes for our regions.

Despite the challenges of 2020 some light is now emerging from the lockdown tunnel(s). It seems we have a regional resurgence on our hands. The news is definitely out – regional capital cities are the best place to live, work and play. To this end I am pleased to present our 2020 Annual Statement that provides an overview of achievements and our plans for the future.

Embracing all manner of technologies, this year we have conquered distance and limits on our movement to continue to make case for targeted COVID-19 stimulus and investment to aid in the recovery process.

I would like acknowledge the hard work done by the Executive Board in championing our ongoing advocacy and thank them for their dedication throughout this challenging year. To our members, we appreciate your support as we continue to advocate on your behalf for new opportunities for our regional cities.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our newest member, Broken Hill City Council. We couldn't be more pleased to have the 'unofficial capital' of the NSW Outback on board. This will ensure that RCA is well represented in far west New South Wales.

RCA is now in its ninth year of operation. With the regional resurgence that we have recently seen as a result of the pandemic, there has been no greater time for RCA to continue to advocate for the priorities of our regional capital cities. We will continue to work towards making our regional capitals liveable, connected and productive places.

With the next election approaching, RCA will still work to ensure the policy priorities are recognised and incorporated into national policy. I very much look forward to collaborating with our members to ensure we represent our regional capitals, which has never been so important.

Mayor Shane Van Styn
Chair of Regional Capitals Australia

"...there has been no greater time for RCA to continue to advocate for the priorities of our regional capital cities."

# Key Activities and Achievements

Despite the difficulties associated with COVID-19, RCA has risen to the challenge and continued to grow the agenda for regional cities. This has been achieved through new strategic relationships, important stimulus and new policies that will strengthen our cities today and into the future.

The COVID-19 Stimulus Packages and the 2020-2021 Federal Budget included billions in new investments in road, rail, aviation and local community projects that will help support recovery in our regions. The budget reflected RCA's advocacy efforts in championing the development of our regional members.

I am pleased to share with you RCA's contribution to the following:

## Local Government Investment

### $1.5 Billion Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program

As part of the government's COVID-19 stimulus package a line of direct funding was provided to local government.

RCA made the case that this funding should include the capability for our members to fund both local roads and also local community projects to support a range of new and ongoing jobs.

The fund initially received $500 million however as part of the Budget an extra $1 billion was added, taking the total investment to $1.5 billion (over two years).

### Advanced Payments of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants

The Government's COVID-19 stimulus package also included fast-tracking $1.3 billion of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grant payments to Local Government.

*Barraba Queen Street, Tamworth*
*Credit: Peter Dwyer*

"...The budget reflected RCA's advocacy efforts in championing the development of our regional members."

## Partnerships

### Regional Recovery Partnerships

The *Regional Recovery Partnerships* program was announced as part of the Budget to support regions most impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. The program allocated $100 million over 2 years for 10 regions. The Partnerships will assist in coordinating investments with other levels of Government to support recovery and economic growth. The following RCA member regions were included in the program:

- Mackay-Issac Whitsunday Regions (Mackay Regional Council);
- Western Australia's South West Region (The City of Busselton); and
- Gippsland Region (Latrobe City Council).

## Regional Connectivity – Roads

Increasing the connectivity of regional capitals through improved regional roads is a key component of RCA's connectivity platform. Our advocacy contributed to investments being allocated to the following programs:

### Roads of Strategic Importance Initiative

The Federal Government allocated $4.6 billion over ten years from 2018-19 to the Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI). The funds will be used to support essential upgrades to key freight roads in regional Australia and increase connectivity to mining regions to ports, airports and other transport hubs.

### Roads to Recovery Program

The 2020-21 Budget committed a further $400 million towards Roads to Recovery funding in 2029-30, to assist in maintaining annual funding at existing levels on an ongoing basis. The aim of the program is to support the construction and maintenance of local roads to facilitate greater access for Australians and improve safety economic and social outcomes.

### Black Spot Program

A further $60 million in additional Black Spot Program funding was committed in the 2020-21 Budget. The program aims to fund safety works in places where there have been serious crashes or where serious crashes are likely to occur.

### Small Scale and Road Safety Projects

$2 billion over two years from 2020-21 was announced to assist in the delivery of small-scale road projects to provide short-term economic stimulus. The road safety projects include road widening, centre lines and barriers, to both improve the safety of Australians on the road and additionally stimulate local economies.

## Regional Connectivity – Rail

Increasing the connectivity of regional capitals through rail upgrades and new projects is a key component of RCA's connectivity platform. Our advocacy contributed to investments being allocated to the following programs:

### Regional Rail Investment

The *Regional Rail Revival* is a joint initiative between the Federal and Victorian Government. The investment saw $178.2 million allocated to upgrades to rail infrastructure on the Ballarat, Geelong, Gippsland, Shepparton and Warrnambool lines.

In addition to this, further investments have been announced for regional rail initiatives that benefit RCA members:

- $320 million for Shepparton Rail Line Upgrade;
- $208 million for the Warrnambool Rail Line Upgrade;
- $4 million Perth to Bunbury Faster Rail Corridor Investigation;
- $7.5 million Improving Passenger Rail Services from Northern Victoria to Melbourne; and
- $605.0 million allocated for the South Geelong to Waurn Ponds Rail Upgrade.

## Regional Connectivity – Air

Increasing the connectivity of regional capitals through airport and air service upgrades is a key component of RCA's connectivity platform. Our advocacy contributed to investments being allocated to the following programs:

### Regional Airports Program

The Government committed $100 million over four years (until 2022-23) to the Regional Airports Program as part of the 2019 election. The Regional Airports Program aims to improve the safety of regional airports, facilitate the delivery of goods and services, improve connectivity of Australia's regions to domestic and global markets, and meet the operational requirements of emergency services in the region.

In June 2020, Round One of the program was launched with $41.2 million in funding allocated for 61 projects across regional Australia.

RCA members that benefited from Round One of the program included:

- Greater Shepparton City Council;
- Tamworth Regional Council;
- Ballarat City Council; and
- City of Greater Geraldton.

Round Two of the program was announced open for applications from 3 November until 15 December 2020. $58.8 million in funding is available for projects that enhance the safety and accessibility of aerodromes in regional areas of Australia.

*V/Line Service connecting regional Victoria*

*Kalgoorlie Boulder Airport*

### Regional Aviation Programs

Travel restrictions put in place as a result of COVID-19 placed significant pressure on the aviation industry. The Australian Government established the following aviation support programs in April 2020.

- Domestic Aviation Network Support Program (DANS); and
- Regional Airline Network Support Program (RANS).

These two programs aimed to ensure airlines can operate a minimum domestic network that can service the most critical metropolitan and regional routes in Australia. Support is provided by underwriting the costs of the specific flights that ensure connections for important services in regional areas.

## Regional Connectivity – Broadband

Increasing the connectivity of regional capitals through digital and mobile upgrades is a key component of RCA's connectivity platform.

RCA's advocacy over many years brought success in 2020 as NBN Co Limited (NBN Co) responded to the demand for faster digital connections. This need for increased capacity became clear when a growing number of Australians worked from home during the COVID-19 restrictions a trend that is supporting ongoing flexible working conditions and leading to the growth of regional capitals. This year the following investments were announced:

### NBN Network Investment Plan

NBN Co is investing $4.5 billion to deliver better broadband outcomes around Australia, $2 billion of which has been dedicated to increasing capability in regional areas.

Investments for regional Australia include:

- The **$300 million co-investment fund** to boost regional connectivity and expand fixed line services to more regional area; and
- **$700 million Business Fibre Initiative** will offer wholesale symmetrical speeds up to 1 Gbps on-request at no up front build cost.

From this investment, NBN Co are expecting the following benefits for regional cities:

- Around **950,000 Fibre-to-the-Node** (FTTN) premises in regional areas with access to speeds up to 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) on demand by 2023;
- **250,000 regional businesses** located in Business Fibre Zones with access to ultra-fast broadband capability and metro-equivalent wholesale pricing;
- **$50 million Fibre-to-the-Node** (FTTN) line speed uplift program to resolve in-home wiring issues; and
- **$50 million Business Fibre co-investment fund** to create more regional business fibre zones by encouraging local business and Local Governments to co-invest with NBN Co.

## Regional Tertiary Education

This year RCA partnered with the Regional University Network (RUN) to jointly advocate for the need to increase investment in tertiary institutions and attainment outcomes for regional students.

In June 2020, The Hon. Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education, announced a number of measures to support regional and remote tertiary education, in response to the recommendations of the Napthine Review (Established 2018).

These measures included the following initiatives:

- **Research Package:** $1 billion investment to safeguard Australia's research sector against the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Higher Education – Additional Support:** $903.5 million to provide more places and support for students and to establish new quality protections for the higher education system as it recovers from COVID-19.
- **Higher Education Reform — additional support for regional Australia:** $400 million to increase higher education access and attainment for regional Australia and to support higher education providers in regional Australia to grow their local economies.
- **Higher Education Reform – more job-ready graduates:** A reformed based announcement aimed at strengthening the higher education system. This reform was tabled in parliament in August, 2020, as part of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Job-Ready Graduates and Supporting Regional and Remote Students) Bill 2020, and passed both houses on the 19th, October 2020.

## Small Scale Regional Initiatives

### Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF)

The *Building Better Regions Fund* (BBRF) supports building stronger regional communities through the creation of jobs and driving economic growth. The $841.6 million program is available through two funding streams:

- The Infrastructure Projects Stream; and
- The Community Investments Stream.

RCA members that benefited from the latest round of the Building Better Regions Fund (Round Four) included:

Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 4

- Coffs Harbour City Council;
- Fraser Coast Regional Council;
- Greater Shepparton City Council;
- Griffith City Council;
- Tamworth Regional Council; and
- Wagga Wagga City Council.

Community Investments Stream Round 4

- Griffith City Council

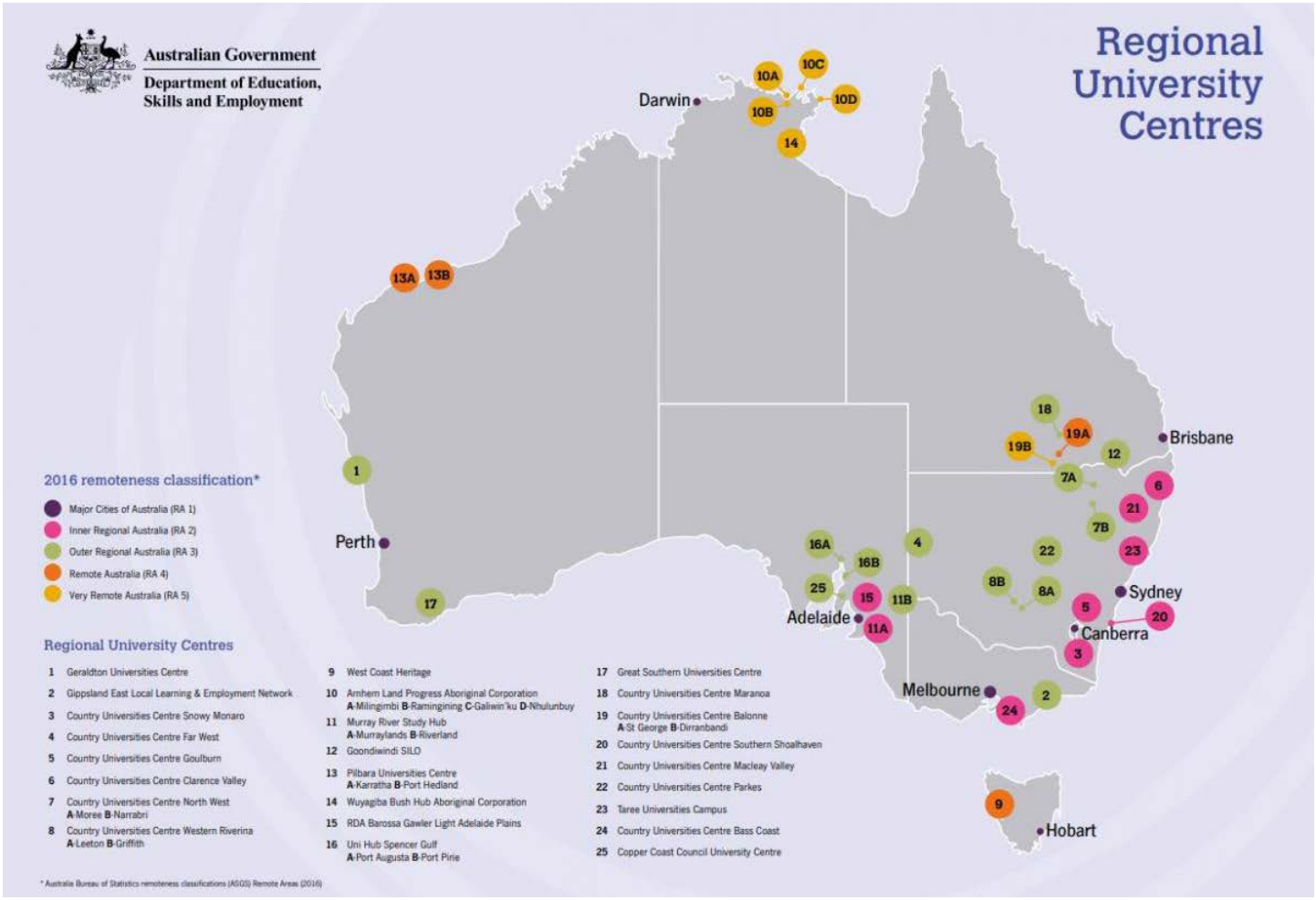
In the Federal Budget 2020-21, the Building Better Regions Fund received a $200 million top up for a fifth round. This round aims to support regional and remote communities by funding investment-ready community and infrastructure projects. Of this $200 million, $100 million has been allocated for tourism related infrastructure, and $100 million for broader community infrastructure and investment.

## Regional Research Initiatives

Data collection in Australia's regions has long been underfunded. The lack of reliable data creates a challenging task for those who seek to develop evidence base for policy and project investments in regions.

A small investment in the budget named "*Better Data Use to Support Delivery for Regional Australian Program*" allocated $13.7 million over four years to provide Government and community decision-makers with better economic and demographic data on regional Australia.

RCA has long advocated for regional research and this program will assist in addressing the essential need for more coordinated data on regional Australia.




*A map of all Regional University Centres*

*Source: Australian Government, Department of Educations, Skills and Employment*

## Parliamentary Inquiries and Submissions

RCA continued to inform and shape Government policy and decision-making by representing members' views in the following parliamentary inquires:

- Inquiry Into Regional Australia;
- Future of Australia's Aviation Sector; and
- Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2020-21.

These submissions can be viewed on our website: http://regionalcapitalsaustralia.org

Regional Capitals Australia Chair, Mayor Shane Van Styn also presented at a hearing of the House of Representatives, Select Committee Inquiry into Regional Australia via teleconference.

Mayor Shane Van Styn highlighted RCA's key priority of building strong regional capitals that continue to be the liveable and affordable alternative to congested metropolitan capitals.

The following areas were highlighted as key to future success of regional capital cities:

1. Population Growth;
2. The Hub and Spoke Model of Regional Development;
3. Regional Capital Cities in Urban Policy; and
4. Investment Priorities.

*Parlimentary inquiries, policies and submissions*

## Strategic Relationships

RCA has also continued to collaborate with key advocacy bodies that contribute to the development of regional capital's including:

**Regional Australia Institute (RAI):** Regional Capitals Australia re-signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Regional Australia Institute. This MoU is intended to strengthen our collaborative efforts as both RCA and RAI continue to work to highlight the potential of our regional capitals and our broader regions.

**Regional University Network (RUN):** Joint advocacy to increased tertiary education access and attainment for those living outside of the major metropolitan cities.

**Australian Airports Association (AAA):** RCA and the Australian Airport Association share the same call to Government of increasing investment in regional airports. RCA will continue to look for ways to collaborate on projects that build air travel opportunities to and from regional capital's cities.

**National Farmers Federation:** Joint calls for regional deals and collaboration on regional priorities.

**Business Council of Australia:** Joint calls for regional deals and collaboration on regional priorities.

**Australian Local Government Association (ALGA):** Information sharing in regard to the financial impacts of COVID-19 on Local Government in order to advocate on Local Government financial assistance and population policy.

"RCA has also continued to collaborate with key advocacy bodies that contribute to the development of regional capital's..."

*Boardwalk, Busselton, Western Australia*

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Advocacy and Delegations

In spite of unprecedented restrictions and through the help of Zoom, RCA has still been able to advance the interests of our members. RCA has met with a long list of Ministers, Senators and MP's along with Ministerial Advisors and Chiefs of Staff, including:

### Government:

- **The Hon Michael McCormack MP**: Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Nationals Party and Minister for Infrastructure Transport and Regional Development;
- **The Hon David Littleproud MP**: Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management;
- **The Hon Mark Coulton MP**: Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government;
- **The Hon Alan Tudge MP**: Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure;
- **The Hon David Coleman MP**: Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs;
- **The Hon Dan Tehan MP**: Minister for Education;
- **The Hon Andrew Gee MP**: Minister for Decentralisation and Regional Education;
- **The Hon Ken Wyatt MP**: Minister for Indigenous Australians;
- **The Hon Nola Marino MP**: Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories;
- **Mr Tony Pasin MP**: Member for Barker South Australia and Chair of Select Committee on Regional Australia, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network;

### Opposition and Cross Bench:

- **The Hon Anthony Albanese MP**: Leader of the Opposition;
- **The Hon Jim Chalmers MP**: Shadow Treasurer;
- **Senator The Hon Kristina Keneally**: Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship;
- **The Hon Catherine King MP**: Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development;
- **The Hon Jason Clare MP**: Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government, Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness;
- **Mr Andrew Giles MP**: Shadow Minister for Multi-Cultural Affairs, Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Shadow Minister for Cities and Urban Infrastructure;
- **Senator The Hon Don Farrell**: Shadow Special Minister of state, Shadow Minister for Sport, Shadow Minister assisting the Leader of the opposition, Shadow Minister for Tourism;
- **Senator Carol Brown**: Shadow Assistant Minister for infrastructure and Regional Tourism Shadow Assistant Minister for Tasmania; and
- **Senator Pauline Hanson**: Leader of Pauline Hanson's One Nation, Deputy Chair of Joint Committee on Australia's Family Law System.

*From left to right: Cr Tony Herbert - Warrnambool City Council; Ms Angelique Lush - City of Ballarat; Cr Greg Conkey - Wagga Wagga City Council; Cr Grant Henley - City of Busselton; The Hon, Nola Marino MP, Mr Peter Schneider – CEO, Warrnambool City Council; Cr Samantha McIntosh, City of Ballarat, Mayor Shane Van Styn - City of Greater Geraldton; Mr Peter Thompson - Wagga Wagga City Council.*

*Cr Greg Conkey, Wagga Wagga City Council receiving a surprise birthday cake from The Hon. Michael McCormack MP*

*RCA presents at Hearing*

# Media Engagement

## Communications

RCA is continually aiming to keep all stakeholders informed as we continue to work to influence the national conversation on regional cities. This has been achieved over the past year through:

- 'The Week That Was' Newsletters;
- Member alerts;
- Media releases; and
- Opinion Pieces.

We do this to keep our members up to date and to participate in the national conversation on how to grow and develop our regions. Our newsletters are opened and engaged with by the offices of key stakeholders such as Government Minister's, Senators and regional MP's.

This year RCA penned various Opinion Pieces on topics including, regional rail and aviation, regional deals and the opportunities that lie within the regions. Some of our Opinion Pieces have been included in the following publications:

- Busselton Mail;
- Harvey Reporter;
- Kalgoorlie Miner;
- Kimberly Echo;
- Manjimup Bridgetown Times;
- Midwest Times;
- Narrogin Observer;
- North West Telegraph;
- South Western Times;
- The Daily Mercury;
- The Morning Bulletin;
- The Northern Daily Leader; and
- The West Australian.

"RCA is continually aiming to keep all stakeholders informed as we continue to work to influence the national conversation on regional cities."

*RCA Twitter post featuring a photo from a meeting with Senator Pauline*

*An example of 'The Week That Was'*

*Interview with The Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Education*

## Chair's Op-ed: You are Invited

As we count down the days to a new financial year and start the inevitable scratching around for (many, many) tax receipts, I suspect many will be reaching the conclusion that the benefits of working from home have stretched well beyond a larger tax return.

The jury is in on the logistics. COVID-19 restrictions have proved that if your job is based in an office, you don't need to be in the company office to do it. Sure there may be some kinks in the system – but let's face it those kinks were there before COVID, and will remain long after the pandemic subsides.

For those who have sat for hours on end, week after week, in a soul-crushing commute perhaps you are reaching a new conclusion – is a city postcode really the determinate of a prosperous life?

The idea of escaping the city lights for a sea or tree change is far from a new concept but has again been highlighted by the Regional Australia Institute's recent report, *The Big Movers.*

This time the Regional Australia Institute has found there has been 'secret exodus' with many millennials packing their bags and departing Sydney and Melbourne in droves, long before COVID-19 hit our shores.

As Chair of Regional Capitals Australia, an organisation that represents regional cities from around the country, and a millennial sea changer myself, I am extending an invite.

Come and check us out, let us show you what 'regional living' has to offer. You probably know about the relaxed lifestyle, 10-minute commute and a quarter-acre block that will mean you can still afford that an annual trip to 'where you would rather be'.

Did you know that we also have award-winning art galleries, state of the art sporting facilities, world-class wineries, banging breweries, hatted restaurants and coffee so good you will think it was made by a Brunswick barista (without the attitude).

If you are up for real adventure, you could explore beyond the train line. In smaller regional cities like Wagga Wagga, Shepparton, Alice Springs, Busselton or Rockhampton the commute is so short you will get to work or play in the same time it takes to move between a set of traffic lights in the city. Who wouldn't want to live like this?

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. Now is the time to invent that new work-life balance and experience all the benefits that regional capital city living has to offer.

**Regional Capitals Australia Chair, Mayor Shane Van Styn, Mayor City of Greater Geraldton.**

*Op-ed from RCA Chair: You Are Invited*

# Member Engagement

## Membership Engagement Meetings

While RCA was unable to meet in Canberra due to COVID-19 restrictions, the board commissioned a Membership Engagement Lead, Cr Samantha McIntosh from the City of Ballarat. During the year members and potential members have had the opportunity to speak directly to RCA to advise us of their current priorities and advocacy objectives.

All calls began with:

1. An introduction of attendees where required;
2. Overview of the purpose of the call (to gain feedback from members on views of membership and key policy issues); and
3. An update on RCA, key activities and achievements over the last 12 months.

Cr Samantha McIntosh opened up the call for comment and discussion on issues from members.

*Cr Samantha McIntosh, City of Ballarat*

## Bushfire Survey

RCA welcomed feedback from its members in relation to the impacts they experienced in their regional capitals as a result of the Summer 2019-20 bushfires.

The results of the survey indicated what was seen as a priority for action, with these being the basis for the development of RCA' Bushfires Issues Paper.

## Annual Policy Survey

RCA welcomed feedback from our annual policy survey. The survey results revealed that 100% of members still have a strong growth agenda and consider initiatives that will support regional growth as a key advocacy platform for RCA.

In light of international border closures expected to impact migration, 95% of members are now seeking to attract residents from Australia's capital cities.

Members see a strong opportunity for this to occur due to the renewed interest in the regions as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Whilst population growth is a key area of priority for RCA members, other areas of Government policy that would support the development of our member cities were:

- Connectivity, including Broadband, Rail and Air;
- Decentralisation; and
- Local Infrastructure.

## COVID-19 Impact Survey

RCA welcomed feedback from members earlier this year that detailed expected financial impacts due to COVID-19. This information clearly outlined the difficult financial situation our members found themselves in and was used to advocate for federal funding to assist in managing these challenges.

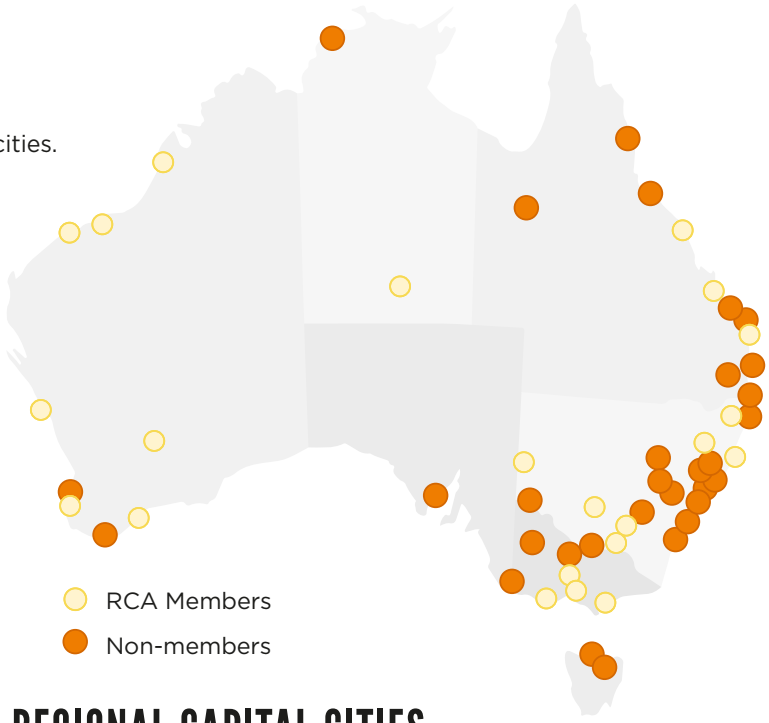
Following this advocacy work, the advanced payments of the 2020-21 Financial Assistance Grants and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, was announced.

## Membership

Australia is home to 51 regional capital cities.
RCA's membership currently includes 22 regional capital cities.

**51 Regional Capitals**

**22 Members**




# AUSTRALIA HAS 50 REGIONAL CAPITAL CITIES

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **NSW** | Albury | **NSW** | Wollongong | **QLD** | Sunshine Coast |
| **NSW** | Ballina | **NSW** | Wyong | **QLD** | Toowoomba |
| **NSW** | Bathurst | **VIC** | Ballarat | **QLD** | Townsville |
| **NSW** | Broken Hill | **VIC** | Greater Bendigo | **SA** | Port Lincoln |
| **NSW** | Cessnock | **VIC** | Greater Geelong | **WA** | Albany |
| **NSW** | Central Coast | **VIC** | Greater Shepparton | **WA** | Broome |
| **NSW** | Coffs Harbour | **VIC** | Wodonga | **WA** | Bunbury |
| **NSW** | Dubbo | **VIC** | Wangaratta | **WA** | Busselton |
| **NSW** | Griffith | **VIC** | Warrnambool | **WA** | Greater Geraldton |
| **NSW** | Gosford | **VIC** | Mildura | **WA** | Kalgoorlie/Boulder |
| **NSW** | Lismore | **VIC** | Horsham | **WA** | Port Hedland |
| **NSW** | Maitland | **VIC** | Latrobe | **WA** | Karratha |
| **NSW** | Newcastle | **QLD** | Bundaberg | **TAS** | Burnie |
| **NSW** | Shoalhaven | **QLD** | Cairns | **TAS** | Devonport |
| **NSW** | Orange | **QLD** | Gladstone | **TAS** | Launceston |
| **NSW** | Port Macquarie-Hastings | **QLD** | Fraser Coast | **NT** | Alice Springs |
| **NSW** | Tamworth | **QLD** | Mackay | **NT** | Palmerston |
| **NSW** | Tweed | **QLD** | Mount Isa | | |
| **NSW** | Wagga Wagga | **QLD** | Rockhampton | | |

*The table is accurate as of November 2020.*

# A Welcome to our New Members

## Broken Hill City Council

BROKEN HILL CITY COUNCIL

Broken Hill, the 'city in the desert' is a mining city located west-central of New South Wales, and has approximately 17,000 residents. Sometimes known as the Silver City, Broken Hill is positioned on one of the world's richest deposits of silver, lead, and zinc ores. The Wiljakali people traditionally occupy the lands around Broken Hill. Some say that Broken Hill is similar to a living museum with the streets full of beautiful old historic buildings.

Unsurprisingly, Broken Hill's top industry of employment is Silver-Lead-Zinc Ore Mining with 6.7% of the population working in this sector, followed by Hospitals and Aged Care Residential Services.

"Broken Hill, the 'city in the desert'..."

# Governance

Regional Capitals Australia (RCA) is a national forum of Mayors and CEOs, which is governed by a board of nine councils and led by a Chair and Deputy Chair.

**Chair**: Mayor Shane Van Styn, City of Greater Geraldton.

**Deputy Chair**: Cr Tony Herbert, Mayor, Warrnambool City Council.

**Secretary**: Cr Col Murray, Mayor, Tamworth Regional Council.

**Treasurer**: Cr George Seymour, Mayor, Fraser Coast Regional Council.

## RCA Executive Board

| State | Representing Local Government |
|---|---|
| Victoria | Ballarat City Council |
| Western Australia | City of Busselton |
| New South Wales | Wagga Wagga City Council |
| Queensland | Rockhampton Regional Council |
| Northern Territory | Alice Springs Town Council |

*Mayor Shane Van Styn*

*Cr Tony Herbert*

*Cr Col Murray*

*Cr George Seymour*

# A Plan to Grow Regional Capital Cities

As we head into 2021, there is a strong possibility of a Federal Election. This means RCA will need to continue to build positive relationships with both sides of politics and crossbenchers while ensuring the growth and development of regional cities remains a high priority for all parties.

RCA will continue to advocate for policies and funding that reflect the importance of regional cities to the Federal Government. Specifically, we will continue to advocate for:

## National Population Plan

Ensuring the Federal Government remains committed to growing regional cities through international and domestic migration initiatives, and matching the infrastructure needs of our members to ensure they grow sustainably.

## Regional Development

RCA will continue to work with the Federal Government to improve economic outcomes and grow the regions, with a view to improving access to services, digital connections and education, allowing for long-term planning.

RCA will also seek the continuation of funding of the Building Better Regions Fund and Regional Growth Fund, which are vital infrastructure funding sources for regional cities.

## National Infrastructure

The alliance will also continue to advocate for a larger focus on:

- Regional rail in the National Rail Authority;
- More a strategic focus on the development of regional airports; and
- Ensuring the Roads of Strategic Importance is spent in regional areas first.

We will do this while encouraging Infrastructure Australia to place more regional infrastructure projects on their priority list.

"...the growth and development of regional cities..."

# Audit Report 2019/20

MWF
MidWest Financial

*Accountants and Business Advisors*

**A.B.N.: 16 112 842 994**

PO Box 99, Geraldton WA 6531
66 Chapman Road, Geraldton WA 6530
**Phone: 08 9964 4700**
reception@midwestfinancial.com.au

21 September 2020

The Committee Members
Regional Capitals Australia Inc.
Level 24, 570 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Committee Members

**MANAGEMENT LETTER FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2020**

We advise that we have recently completed the audit of Regional Capitals Australia Inc for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. While our procedures are designed to identify any material weaknesses and detect misstatements from fraud and error, there is an unavoidable risk that even some material misstatements may remain undiscovered. This unavoidable risk is due to the test nature and other inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of any accounting and internal control system.

During the review, we noted no matters that we believe; need to be brought to your attention.

If you have any queries for the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance provided during the course of our audit.

Yours sincerely

**JIM DILLON**
**CPA AUSTRALIA 699724**
**Director**
**Midwest Financial**

Tax agent 78404006

CPA

# Balance Sheet

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC.

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

## AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

| | Note | 2020 | 2019 $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | | | |
| **BANK** | | | |
| Regional Capitals Australia Inc | | 1,623 | 1,690 |
| Regional Capitals Saver | | 20,088 | 15,031 |
| **TOTAL Bank** | | 21,711 | 16,721 |
| **CURRENT ASSETS** | | | |
| Prepayments | | 560 | 560 |
| Trade Receivables | | 173 | |
| GST | | 4,968 | |
| **TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS** | | 5,701 | 560 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | | **27,412** | **17,281** |
| **LIABILITIES** | | | |
| **CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | | |
| Accounts Payable | | 11,552 | 298 |
| GST | | | 445 |
| Income in advance | | | |
| Income Tax Payable | | | (5493) |
| **TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES** | | 11,552 | (4,750) |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES** | | 11,552 | (4,750) |
| **NET ASSETS** | | **15,860** | **22,031** |
| **EQUITY** | | | |
| Current Year Earnings | | (6,173) | 18,585 |
| Opening Bal Equity | | 3,310 | 3,310 |
| Retained Earnings | | 18,723 | 136 |
| **TOTAL EQUITY** | | **15,860** | **22,031** |

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation

# Profit and Loss

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC.

## PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

| | Note | 2020 | 2019 $ |
|---|---|---|---|
| **INCOME** | | | |
| Interest Income | | 56 | 323 |
| Memberships | | 204,000 | 187,500 |
| | | 204,056 | 187,823 |
| **LESS EXPENDITURE** | | | |
| Accounting & Bookkeeping Fees | | 3,278 | 2,379 |
| Audit Fees | | 800 | 800 |
| Bad Debts | | 32,000 | |
| Bank Fees | | 139 | 130 |
| Delegations & Representatives | | 36,096 | 37,301 |
| Events | | 4,786 | 2,165 |
| Member communications & media | | 39,587 | 38,286 |
| Policy & Research | | 27,380 | 31,440 |
| Rent | | | 138 |
| Reports & Publications | | 10,929 | 5,991 |
| Secretarial & Advocacy Services | | 53,954 | 49,648 |
| Subscriptions | | 454 | 182 |
| Telephone & Internet | | 826 | 778 |
| | | 210,229 | 169,238 |
| **NET OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS)** | | (6,173) | 18,585 |

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Regional Capitals Australia

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