

Regional Cities Victoria Growth Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Regional Cities Growth Framework?

The Growth Framework is a guide to help Regional Cities plan for future growth and development and to prioritise investment in services and infrastructure.

It creates an ordered structure for the priorities that Regional Cities need to consider and provides a logical approach for Regional Cities to develop their own flexible growth plans. The framework has three core components:

- A resource paper explaining the economic theory underlying Regional City growth
- A set of growth indicators enabling each Regional City to determine its current position and to set measureable benchmarks
- A Diagnostics Tool each Regional City can use to set targets and priorities in achieving aspirational growth and development outcomes.

Why do regional cities need a Growth Framework?

Victoria's Regional Cities are forecast to grow by more than 740,000 in the next 20 years and Regional Cities have the capacity to accommodate that growth.

The Growth Framework unlocks the growth potential of Regional Cities by identifying ways to coordinate investment in infrastructure and services that meet the needs of growing Regional Cities and their communities.

What are the outputs of a Diagnostics Tool and what will a council do with the outputs?

The Diagnostics Tool will produce performance targets for key indicators that are tailored to the aspirations of each Regional City.

For example, the Diagnostics Tool could draw on Census data to set key indicators for examining a Regional City's current health services profile.

The Regional City could then set aspirational targets for the short-term (1-5 years) and medium-term (5-10 years+). The targets clarify the city's position now compared to where it aspires to be in the given timeframes. This information equips the Regional City to develop action plans that leverage policy, regulation and investment in order to meet those targets.

How will the tool be used and by whom and when?

RCV members will use the Diagnostics Tool to identify current and future growth and investment priorities and the policy or regulatory responses required to meet growth targets.

The findings from using the Diagnostics Tool will give councils an evidence base to advocate for government or private investment.

Councils can assess how they are performing against their aspirational targets at regular intervals, which will be set by each council, according to their strategic planning timelines.

How will city-specific growth strategies work with other regional growth plans?

The Regional Cities Growth Framework will inform the development of Regional Growth Plans and the Metropolitan Planning Strategy, which are currently being developed by the State Government.

City-specific growth strategies prepared by RCV members will promote an integrated approach to whole-of-state planning that will ultimately lead to greater economic links between the regions as well as metropolitan Melbourne.

How does this project fit into the State Government's current policies for regional cities?

The RCV's Growth Framework supports the State Government's vision of Victoria as a 'State of Cities' that shares the benefits of population and business growth across the whole state.

The State Government's policies aim to foster prosperous, sustainable and liveable regional cities. The RCV's Growth Framework is a platform for delivering on these policy goals in ways that meet the unique needs of each city.

Won't it overlap with other State Government initiatives for regional cities/regional Victoria?

Regional Cities will continue to work co-operatively with the State Government to avoid overlapping on plans and projects and to ensure that resources are used efficiently in achieving mutually beneficial growth goals.

How will local and state governments work together on implementing this framework?

RCV and the State Government share a vision of a State of Cities that will lead to a more prosperous Victoria.

The framework gives both levels of government an evidence base to develop the right policy and planning settings as well as promote targeted investment in the infrastructure and services that communities need.

What differences will it make to regional Victoria?

The RCV Growth Framework aims to foster conditions that stimulate the economies within Regional Cities and their catchment areas, so the benefits would be shared more broadly across regional Victoria.

The Growth Framework will provide evidence – a business case – for investing in infrastructure that will tap regional Victoria's potential.

Who benefits most?

All Victorians will benefit from RCV's Growth Framework.

Current and future residents of Regional Cities will enjoy better infrastructure, like health, education, and other services, and diversified economies that lead to more employment opportunities. Investors will benefit from the attractive prospects for sustainable development.

And the Growth Framework will encourage a more even distribution of population growth across Regional Cities, which will ease the pressures of congestion in metropolitan Melbourne.

What support is the State Government providing for the Growth Framework program?

The State Government provided \$300,000 for the development of RCV's Growth Framework and will continue to offer advisory and other support through Regional Development Victoria.

How will councils measure the Growth Framework's success?

The Growth Framework's success will be measured at various levels. Regional Cities can monitor whether they have achieved the performance targets they set, using the growth indicators and the Diagnostics Tool.

They can chart their progress in reaching their growth indicators across a broad spectrum of targets, spanning transport, health, education, arts, recreation and other sectors.

That success is contingent on whether cities have effectively executed their action plans, which they would formulate after using the Diagnostics Tool.