



Regional Capitals Australia

ANNUAL STATEMENT // 2018





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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

This has been a game-changing year for Regional Capitals Australia (RCA), and I am pleased to share with you what we have planned for the future and the significant strides made in recent months to ensure our regional capital cities are supported in national policy.

We offer a warm welcome to our new members, Fraser Coast Regional Council and City of Busselton – thank you for joining us as we work together to create a united voice for our regional capitals.

RCA is now in its seventh year of operation and we remain the sole national alliance dedicated to regional capital cities.

Our work over the past year signifies how RCA is leading the conversation on regional development issues and encouraging constructive conversations around national infrastructure policy to include regional capital cities.

It has been rewarding to see these efforts acknowledged and rewarded, with additional funding in the 2018/19 Federal Budget for the Regional Growth Fund and the Regional Study Hubs, along with half of all current City Deals being awarded to regional cities.

Despite this progress, more needs to be done if we are to solidify our role as a 'go-to' regional development body and ensure all regional cities have a place in national policy.

If we are to encourage Australians to move out into our regional capital cities and to continue to ensure our cities are strong service hubs then we need the connecting and liveability infrastructure as well as health and education facilities.

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

As we all know the federal election is fast approaching and we have much work left to do, if we are to ensure the policy priorities of RCA are to be incorporated into national policy. I look forward to collaborating with our members to ensure we continue to represent all regional Australians to the absolute best of our ability.

This statement has been issued October 2018 for context.



Mayor Shane Van Styn
Chair, Regional Capitals Australia

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



Geraldton foreshore



Key Activities and Achievements

The advocacy efforts of RCA have caused the regional cities agenda to grow with new relationships formed, further funding announcements and additional programs made available to member councils.



Regional Australia Institute CEO Jack Archer with the Regional Capitals Australia Board



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull signs the Geelong City Deal memorandum of understanding with Acting Victorian Premier James Merlino. Image sourced from Department of Infrastructure, City Deals webpage

Roads of Strategic Importance

The Federal Government allocated \$3.5 billion in the May 2018 budget to the new Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI). The funds will be used to support upgrades to key road freight corridors in regional Australia and increase network reliability and connectivity. This will ensure our key freight roads will adequately connect the regions to ports, airports and transport hubs.

Regional City Deals

Geelong has joined Launceston and Townsville on the list of deals to be done in regional cities. RCA advocated for the population threshold of 85,000 for deals to be dropped and this year through our advocacy it has been confirmed that population is no longer a restriction for access to this important program.

Half of all City Deals signed to date are in the regions, with all regional cities nominated for a deal being RCA members at the time of deals being done. We will continue to advocate for all members to be eligible for this vital initiative through RCA's seat on the Cities Reference Group.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Smart Cities and Suburbs Fund

The Smart Cities and Suburbs Program was created to encourage innovative smart city projects that improve the liveability, productivity and sustainability of cities and suburbs. Successful applicants for the \$50 million program were announced on 17 November, 2017, 50 per cent of which were submitted by RCA members.

RCA advocated for new funding to be allocated in the May 2018 budget and was consulted on the creation of the program guidelines. \$21.7 million in funding was announced for the second round of Smart Cities and Suburbs funding in the 2018/19 budget.

Regional Growth Fund

Guidelines and applications for the \$272 million Regional Growth Fund were released on 2 March, 2018. RCA advocated strongly for the fund, particularly for the ability to package work, include projects and for the two-stage application process.

With these specific guidelines in place, the fund will also be a new source of funding for regional City Deals. The May 2018/19 budget revealed \$272 million had been allocated to funding successful infrastructure projects in the regions. RCA will continue to advocate for this funding to be made available for our members.



Aerial shot of Geelong CBD





Indicators of, and impact of, regional inequality in Australia



Regional Capitals Australia attended the Senate Economics Committee Regional Inequality hearing to discuss our inquiry submission in a panel with Senator Chris Ketter, and Senator Amanda Stoker, pictured with Rockhampton Regional Council's Councillor Neil Fisher.

Building Better Regions Fund

After significant advocacy efforts from RCA, it was announced that the Building Better Regions Funding (BBRF) would only be available to stakeholders based in regional Australia. The BBRF was created to replace the National Stronger Regions Fund. In the May 2018/18 budget, an additional \$200 million was allocated for the third round of the BBRF, bringing the total funding amount to \$697.7 million.

Regional Study Hubs Funding Update

An additional \$1.7 million was allocated to the establishment costs of the regional study hubs in the 2018/19 budget, along with \$14 million for 500 Commonwealth supported bachelor degree places for students undertaking further education at the study hubs.

The Department of Education released guidelines on 9 March 2018 for the \$15 million regional study hubs, with funds used to establish and maintain up to eight regional study hubs. These regional study hubs assist Commonwealth supported students in at least one undergraduate course offered by a higher education course provider.

Parliamentary Inquiries and Submissions

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

- Standing Economics References Committee Inquiry into Indicators of, and impact of regional inequality in Australia
- Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation - Inquiry into Regional Development and Decentralisation
- Productivity Commission Inquiry into Transitioning Regional Economies Interim Report
- Regional Growth Fund guideline development
- Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2018-19.

Regional Australia Institute

Regional Capitals Australia signed a research memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Regional Australia Institute (RAI) in 2017. This MoU has strengthened our collaborative efforts as both RCA and RAI work to shine a light on the potential of regional cities.

To this end, RCA and RAI will continue to work together to undertake research that will further support our policy positions and advocacy activities.

RAI Report: Regional City Hubs and Hinterland Spokes

The Regional City Hubs and Hinterland Spokes report was released with the updated 2016 Census data in partnership between RCA and RAI. The report which now has both 2011 and 2016 Census information will now form the basis of a baseline on the development of our member cities as well as an evidence base for engaging with the Australian government on investment decisions for the regions.

The report aims to investigate the role of regional cities as service hubs for their region. The report has found that when regional cities do well on a range of health, education and service level outcomes so do the smaller rural towns in the same region. Equally when the cities perform poorly on these indicators so do those in the surrounding region. The report clearly shows strong regional cities mean strong regions.

Regional University Network

RCA has collaborated with the Regional University Network (RUN) over the last three years to identify and promote policy solutions to encourage access to education for regional Australians. RUN and RCA will continue to collaborate over the next year to further highlight the importance of tertiary education in the regions through future advocacy efforts.



Technical Report:

Regional city hubs and hinterland spokes

July 2018



REGIONAL
AUSTRALIA
INSTITUTE



Regional Capitals
Australia

Regional city hubs and hinterland spokes report



Stakeholder Engagement

Advocacy and Delegations

To advance the interests of our members, last year RCA had over 60 meetings with Ministers, Senators, and MPs, along with ministerial advisors and chiefs of staff, including:

- The Hon. Michael McCormack, MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Nationals Party and Minister for Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport
- The Hon. Barnaby Joyce, MP, (former) Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Nationals Party
- Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash, MP, (former) Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Regional Communications
- The Hon. Angus Taylor, MP, Minister for Energy, (former) Assistant Minister for Cities and Digital Transformation
- The Hon. Dr John McVeigh, MP, (former) Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government
- The Hon. Darren Chester, MP, (former) Deputy Leader of the House, Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- The Hon. Damian Drum MP, Chair of Select Committee on Regional Development and Decentralisation
- The Hon. Sussan Ley MP, Chair of Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network
- The Hon. Anthony Albanese MP, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development
- The Hon. Mark Coulton MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment
- The Hon. Melissa Price, MP, Assistant Minister for the Environment
- The Hon. David Gillespie MP, Assistant Minister for Children and Families
- The Hon. Keith Pitt MP, (former) Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister
- Michelle Landry MP, Chief Nationals Whip
- Andrew Broad MP, Chair of Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy
- Nola Marino, MP, Chief Government Whip
- Stephen Jones MP, Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Territories and Local Government
- Cathy McGowan, MP
- Andrew Gee MP
- Lisa Chesters MP
- Senator Nigel Scullion, Leader of The Nationals in the Senate, Minister for Indigenous Affairs
- Senator Janet Rice, Chair of Environment and Communications Reference Committee
- Senator Peter Georgiou, and
- Senator Peter Whish-Wilson.

Department meetings:

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Mayor Col Murray; Tamworth Regional Council, Senator Brian Burston, Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton, Mayor Denise Knight; Coffs Harbour City Council and Mayor Greg Conkey; Wagga Wagga City Council

(Top row) General Manager Paul Bennett; Tamworth Regional Council, General Manager Steve McGrath; Coffs Harbour City Council, Mayor Greg Conkey; Wagga Wagga City Council, Mayor Col Murray; Tamworth Regional Council.

(Bottom row) Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party; Michael McCormack MP, Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton and Mayor Denise Knight; Coffs Harbour City Council.



Mayor Col Murray; Tamworth Regional Council, Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton, Stephen Jones MP; Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Local Government, Territories and Regional Communications, Mayor Denise Knight; Coffs Harbour City Council and Mayor Greg Conkey; Wagga Wagga City Council.





Patience Harrington; City of Wodonga; the hon Sussan Ley MP; Assistant Minister for Regional Development and Territories; Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton, Mayor Col Murray; Tamworth Regional Council.



RCA Chair Mayor Shane Van Styn being interviewed at Parliament House about the alliance's delegation to Canberra



Mayor Col Murray; Tamworth Regional Council, Senator Peter Georgiou; Mayor Peter Long; City of Karratha, Mayor Greg Conkey; Wagga Wagga City Council, Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton.

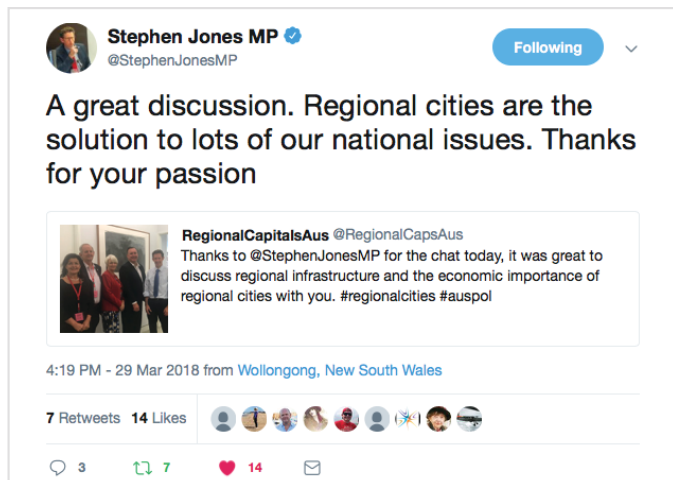


Mayor Shane Van Styn; City of Greater Geraldton and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Anthony Albanese

Media Engagement

Communications

RCA is striving to keep stakeholders informed of our media activities as we work to help influence the national conversation on regional cities. This has been achieved over the last year through the distribution of The Week That Was newsletters, member alerts, newsletters, media releases and op-eds to express the importance of consistently incorporating regional cities into national policy.



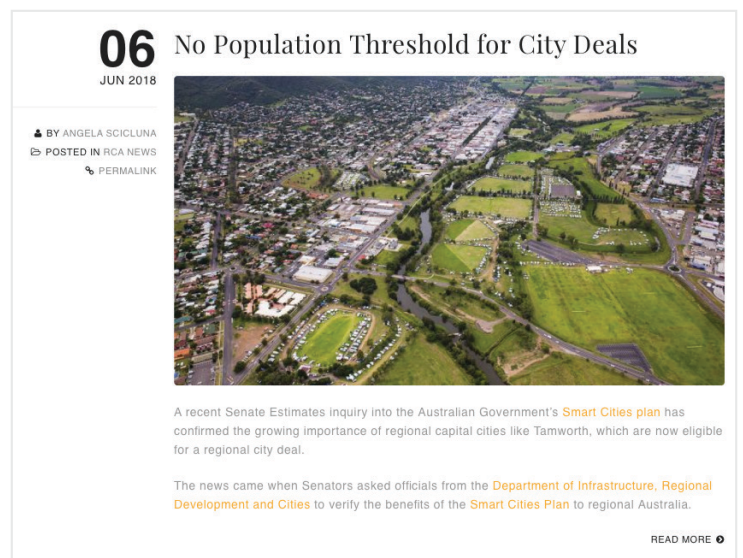
Stephen Jones MP tweet after RCA's March delegation



Hon. Michael McCormack's tweet of the RCA delegation



RCA June bimonthly newsletter



Mayor Shane Van Styn Op-ed regarding City Deals



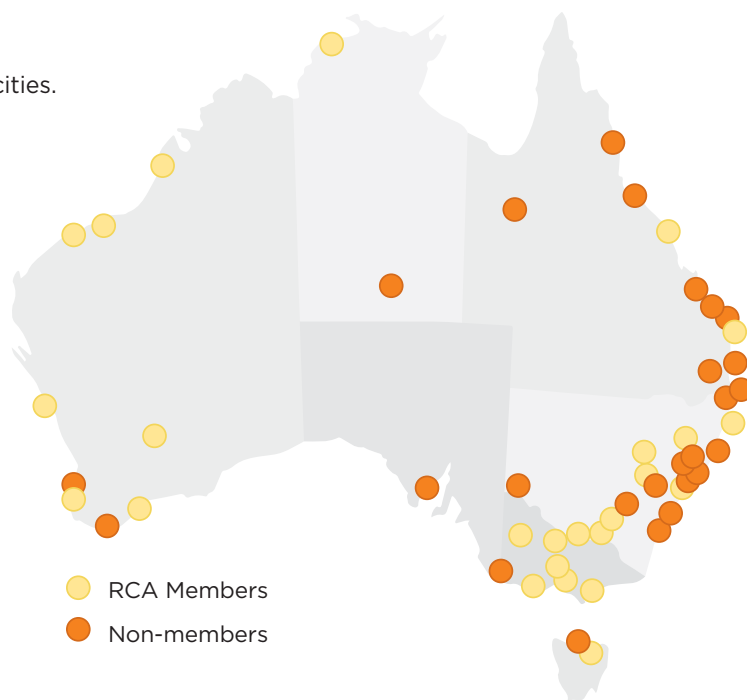
Membership

Australia is home to 50 regional capital cities.

RCA's membership currently includes 27 regional capital cities.

50 Regional Capitals

27 Members



AUSTRALIA HAS 50 REGIONAL CAPITAL CITIES

● NSW Albury	● NSW Wyong	● QLD Toowoomba
● NSW Ballina	● VIC Ballarat	● QLD Townsville
● NSW Bathurst	● 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	
● NSW Wollongong	● QLD Sunshine Coast	

The table is accurate as of October 2018.

A Welcome to our New Members

Fraser Coast Regional Council, QLD



Located three hours north of Brisbane, the Fraser Coast includes Fraser Island, Hervey Bay and Maryborough. It has a population of more than 101,000, and an annual growth rate of about 3.8%. The Fraser Coast has a strong focus on entertainment, sport, community and culture. The region boasts a number of stunning natural attractions, ranging from beaches and unspoilt coastlines to stunning hinterlands. The Fraser Coast is also home to the world's largest sand island, known as K'gari by the local Butchulla people. The region is known world-wide for its ancient rainforest, the brilliant blue hues of Lake McKenzie, the heritage-rich streets of Maryborough and the best place in the world to go whale watching. Industries of particular importance for the region include health (Hospitals, aged care and allied health), timber and sugar production.

City of Busselton, WA



Busselton is located in the beautiful South West region of Western Australia, with a population of approximately 38,000 and an average annual growth rate of around three percent. The iconic Busselton Jetty is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Western Australia, extending out an impressive 1.8km to sea, it's the longest wooden piled jetty in the southern hemisphere. The City also boasts an abundance of world class natural attractions, with pristine white sand beaches, superb whale watching and surf breaks, and also includes a significant number of the Margaret River Region Wineries. Busselton has a bursting calendar of events, which has earned it the title of 'Events Capital of WA'. Important industries include construction, agriculture, forestry & fishing, education & training and manufacturing.



Governance

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

Chair: Mayor Shane Van Styn, City of Greater Geraldton

Deputy Chair: Cr Col Murray, Tamworth Regional Council

Treasurer: Ross McKim, CEO of City of Greater Geraldton

RCA Executive Board

State	Representing Local Government
Victoria	City of Wodonga City of Greater Geelong
Western Australia	City of Greater Geraldton
New South Wales	Tamworth Regional Council City of Wagga Wagga
Queensland	Mackay Regional Council



Mayor Shane Van Styn



Cr Col Murray



Ross McKim

A Plan to Grow Regional Capital Cities

In the lead up to the election, RCA will continue to build positive relationships with both sides of politics and cross benchers, to ensure growth and development of regional cities are a high priority for whom ever takes office in 2019.

The alliance will also continue to advocate for policies and funding which demonstrate the importance of regional cities to the Federal Government.

Specifically, we will continue to advocate for:

Smart Cities Plan and City Deals

- A transparent application process to enable regional cities to nominate for a regional city deal.
- Smaller regional cities to be included in the National Cities Performance Framework

Regional Growth and Building Better Regions Fund

- The reallocation of funding beyond 2018/2019 for large and small regional infrastructure projects in both funds

National Rail Program

- A funding announcement for regional rail projects that will increase connectivity for regional cities.



Rockhampton Regional Airport



Growing our Agenda

RCA will increase its advocacy efforts as part of its growing agenda to these areas:

National Infrastructure

- Call for Infrastructure Australia to release an analysis of the infrastructure required to increase growth in regional cities as part of Infrastructure Australia's Reform Series.
- Advocate for a review into the assessment process for business cases to create the list of investments requiring federal funding due to their national significance.
- Call for a review of the way business cases are assessed to develop the list of nationally significant investments requiring federal funding

Tertiary Education

- Advocate with the Regional University Network for the creation of a National Tertiary Education Framework, with the availability and prevalence of tertiary education places in regional cities given priority over their metropolitan counterparts



Jilalan Rail Yards



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AUDIT REPORT

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA

SCOPE

I have audited the accompanying 30th June 2018 financial statements for Regional Capitals Australia. The City of Greater Geraldton is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the statements and the information contained therein. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial statements in order to express an opinion to the Members of the Regional Capitals Australia so as to comply with the association's constitution.

These Statements have been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Regional Capitals Australia's reporting requirements under the terms of the constitution. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the statements to which it relates to any person other than the Members of the Regional Capitals Australia, or for any other purpose other than that for which it is prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards to provide a reasonable level of assurance as to whether the statement is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the conditions of the constitution.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, the attached financial statements are to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and fair, and are in agreement with proper records and accounts of the Regional Capitals Australia.

Jim Dillon, CPA

Dated at Geraldton WA this 7th day of September 2018



REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC

Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2018

	<u>Jun 30, 18</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Cash at Bank	
RCA Cheque Account	111.89
RCA Savings Account	11,257.71
Total Cash at Bank	<u>11,369.60</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	11,369.60
Accounts Receivable	
Trade receivables	8,250.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>8,250.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>19,619.60</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>19,619.60</u>
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Accrued charges	14,165.70
Income in advance	7,500.00
Tax Payable	-5,493.09
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>16,172.61</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>16,172.61</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>16,172.61</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>3,446.99</u>
EQUITY	
Opening Bal Equity	3,310.00
Retained Earnings	45,145.54
Net Income	-45,008.55
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>3,446.99</u>

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REGIONAL CAPITALS AUSTRALIA INC

Profit & Loss

July 2017 through June 2018

	<u>Jul 17 - Jun 18</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Interest received	390.68
Memberships 2017/18	167,000.00
Memberships 2018/19	0.00
Total Income	<u>167,390.68</u>
Gross Profit	167,390.68
Expense	
Audit Fees	800.00
Miscellaneous / Sundry	539.24
RCA Meeting Cost	2,215.91
Secretariat & Advocacy Services	
Administration	48,424.30
Annual Report	3,896.90
Delegations & Representation	30,057.43
Events	11,833.03
Meetings	439.00
Member Communication & Media	37,757.92
Policy & Research	70,764.00
Report & Publications	5,000.00
Website	671.50
Total Secretariat & Advocacy Services	<u>208,844.08</u>
Total Expense	<u>212,399.23</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-45,008.55</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-45,008.55</u></u>





ANNUAL STATEMENT // 2018

Contact

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