

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Treasurer

Minister for Industrial Relations

Minister for Regional Development



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COMMITTEE CHAMPIONS CROSS-REGIONAL GROWTH

The Allan Labor Government's appointment of a new independent Chair and members to support economic growth across Victoria's regions will unite voices from every part of the state to drive lasting benefits for local communities.

Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes today announced the appointment of Margaret O'Rourke OAM as Chair for the Regional Development Advisory Committee (RDAC) alongside the appointment of members represented by the Chairs of Victoria's nine Regional Partnerships.

Ms O'Rourke brings strong leadership and business experience from current and former roles in regional Victoria.

Currently Head of La Trobe University's Bendigo Campus and former Chair of Bendigo Kangan Institute, she also sits on the V/Line Advisory Board, with previous roles as Mayor and Councillor at the City of Greater Bendigo, Chair of Regional Cities Victoria and former senior positions with Telstra and Bendigo Telco.

RDAC was established in 2002 alongside the state's lead agency for regional economic development – Regional Development Victoria (RDV) – to provide independent advice to Government on cross-regional matters.

The committee consists of an independent Chair and the Chairs of the nine Regional Partnerships as committee members. Together, they provide a coordinated, state-wide voice to Government on the issues and opportunities impacting Victoria's regions.

The committee also plays a vital role in identifying emerging issues that may impact regional development across multiple regions and advocates for policy and investment opportunities championed by the Regional Partnerships.

RDV's nine Regional Partnerships bring together local leaders with strong connections to local community, industry and business groups who work together to set priorities, make the case for investment, and ensure regional voices shape Government decision-making.

For more information visit rdv.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes

"RDAC brings together deep local insights and a statewide perspective to help shape policies that genuinely work and gives regional communities a stronger voice in the decisions that impact their future."

Quote attributable to RDV CEO Xavier Csar

"RDAC ensures Victoria's regional policies and opportunities are shaped by people who understand the local challenges and strengths and that means our initiatives can be targeted, effective and locally responsive."

Quote attributable to RDAC Chair Margaret O'Rourke

"It's an honour to Chair RDAC and to continue to lead the Committee's work in connecting local priorities across the regions - ensuring the voice of regional and rural communities are heard directly at the heart of Government."

Media contact: Marcus Tainsh 0427 713 891 | marcus.tainsh@minstaff.vic.gov.au