

Rural Councils Victoria's Roadmap for the Future

Mayor, Councillor & CEO Forum

12 May 2016



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Focus of this Presentation

To inform member Councils of Rural Councils Victoria's 'Road Map for the Future' and the RCV work plan to achieve this direction.



RCV Goal

To represent the issues and interests of its 38 member Councils and work to implement programs that can support and sustain rural Councils and rural communities.



Recap on RCV Activities

- * 'Networking Rural Councils Program' (NRCP) implemented between 2011 – 2015 under the auspice of the MAV
- * RCV commissioned an independent evaluation of the 'Networking Rural Councils Program' in 2015. 94.5% or 36 of 38 rural Councils participated in this evaluation.
- * Three key findings stemming from the evaluation feedback and informing RCV's priorities in 2015/16:
 - That rural member Councils wanted to see more RCV programs delivered in rural Victoria.
 - That RCV should direct more funding to building the capacity rural Councils and that this might include projects actually delivered by rural Councils.
 - That RCV needed to become an independent organisation with serious consideration given to establishing its base and secretariat in rural Victoria.

Work Stream 1: Continuing effective governance, networking and communication

- ✓ **Becoming an independent organization** = Kate Oliver, Maddocks
- ✓ Establishing the **RCV secretariat in a rural Member Council** = Helen Anstis, RCV Exec & CEO, Baw Baw Shire
- ✓ **Continuing the RCV networking and communication activities:**
 - ✓ Rural Summits
 - ✓ Mayors, Councillors and CEOs Forums
 - ✓ Maintaining the RCV Website
 - ✓ Regular RCV Newsletters
 - ✓ Other RCV events
- ✓ **Developing the RCV governance capacity and utilising the expertise of the RCV member Councils**

Work Stream 2: Sustainable rural Councils

Priorities in the 2015 RCV Member Councils survey:

- * **Supporting elected representatives**
- * Developing rural council management capacity
- * Fostering Community Governance
- * Developing Capacity for Service Planning and Delivery
- * Improving asset and financial management
- * **Supporting shared services, collaboration and procurement**



Work Stream 2: Sustainable rural Councils

Immediate Actions

- * **Supporting elected representatives**

- * Inclusion of accessible and appropriate ‘rural content’ in training programs for rural Mayors and Councillors provided by MAV, VLGA and other relevant organisations.

- * **Supporting shared services, collaboration and procurement**

- * Establishing a ‘Shared Service Collaboration Working Group’ involving representatives from RCV, RDV and LGV



Work Stream 3: Sustainable rural communities – Immediate Actions

- * **Undertaking a Sustainable Rural Communities foundation project** – based on our collective knowledge and expertise
- * Working with all rural member Councils to implement a **strategic advocacy program** = David Hawkins, SOCOM
(funded by Member Councils' subscriptions)

Questions / Discussion



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- * **Undertake a Sustainable Rural Communities foundation project** – based on our collective knowledge and expertise
- * Work with all rural member Councils to plan and implement a **strategic advocacy program** = David Hawkins, SOCOM (*funded by Member Councils' subscriptions*)



Work Stream 3: Sustainable rural communities – Immediate Actions

- * **Undertake a Sustainable Rural Communities foundation project considering:**
 - * Key insights from the Networking Rural Councils Program
 - * RCV members' priorities and current initiatives for sustainable communities
 - * RDV's review of regional plan priorities, including LGV's sense of state policies and programs for rural communities
 - * Knowledge of other regional, state and national organisations
 - * The potential for collaboration with other organisations that have a parallel interests in rural communities.

Work Stream 3: Sustainable rural communities – First Step

- * Establish a working group of RCV Executive members and interested member Councils to define the scope of the project and prepare a consultant brief. This is may become the project reference group.
- * The new RCV secretariat will then take the lead project management role and progress a ‘Request for Quotation’ process in July 2016.

Questions / Discussion



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