



Rural & Regional Committee

*A Joint Investigatory Committee of the Parliament of Victoria, under the
Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*

16 June 2008

MEDIA ALERT – for immediate release

REGIONAL CENTRES: THE FUTURE OF VICTORIA

The Parliament of Victoria is offering all Victorians the opportunity to outline their vision for the future look of their state.

The Rural and Regional Committee's new inquiry into Regional Centres of the Future will focus on how we grow regional Victoria in the wake of an expected influx of over one million people by 2020.

Committee chair, Damian Drum MLC, Member for Northern Victoria Region is thrilled to have the opportunity to investigate how State Government can encourage business and industry to locate their operations in regional Victoria.

The terms of reference require the committee to investigate what infrastructure is required, how industrial land might be developed and how we can support further population growth in the regions.

Mr Drum said it is critical that we find ways to promote strong social capital and high quality of life outcomes in growing regional centres.

Current projections are that 86 per cent of these expected new Victorians will locate within metropolitan Melbourne – which is way above the current city/country split.

“I am sure there are other issues that we need to consider as a committee and I am sure that these will come from representatives of rural and regional communities who are keen to be involved in this inquiry,” he said.

“I know from previous inquiries there are many regional Victorians who are passionate about the way the State of Victoria is developing as a whole.

“We need to get the focus off Melbourne and onto the state as a whole.

“We would like to hear from business, consumer and community groups, all levels of Government, students and private citizens.”

The Committee will advertise across the state for submissions. The closing date for submissions is **Monday 1st September 2008**.

The Committee will also be holding public hearings across Victoria before it reports to Parliament in late 2009.

A copy of the Terms of Reference and a guide to making submissions can be obtained from the committee's website www.parliament.vic.gov.au/rrc/, by e-mail: rrc@parliament.vic.gov.au or phone Jason Ngam, Committee Secretariat on 03 8682 2884 or 1300 787 202 or

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