



Rural Councils Victoria Annual Report 2020-21

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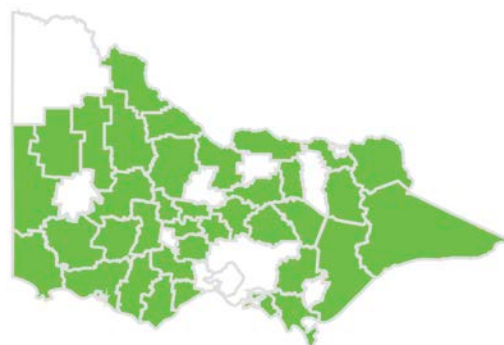
Rural Councils Victoria

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About RCV

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) represents Victoria's rural councils, supporting and promoting sustainable, liveable, prosperous rural communities.

We believe that liveable, sustainable and prosperous rural communities are fundamental to the ongoing success of Victoria.

Representing the 1 in 9 Victorians who live in rural communities, RCV has 37 member councils right across the state.

In Victoria, 38 of the 79 councils are classified as 'rural'. Victoria's rural councils are responsible for 79 per cent of Victoria's land area (June 2011), and have a combined population of approximately 745,000 people (Census 2016). Our rural areas and communities are critical to the liveability of Victoria. They are also key to a thriving state economy.

We work to:

- Heighten awareness and understanding of issues that impact on rural communities
- Use policy, strategy, advocacy and evidence-based research to secure better outcomes for rural councils and in turn, for the whole of Victoria
- Promote a collective voice and act as an

avenue of communication and liaison between our member councils and state and federal governments

- Enable local solutions and facilitate networking, learning and external communication
- Contribute to the development of evidence-based policy and strategy
- Build the resilience and capacity of councils to support economic development and increase the sustainability of rural communities
- Develop strategies and initiatives to improve the attraction and retention of residents and businesses to rural areas
- Assist with building the capacity of rural councils to meet the challenges they face.

RCV's activities fall into two main categories:

- advocating for the needs of member councils, and supporting the growth and development of member councils and their communities.
- Together, these activities help us work towards a sustainable, liveable future for rural Victorians.



Chair's message

Following the bushfires that marred the 2019-20 summer, the 2020-2021 financial year presented another 12 months of challenges and opportunities for rural communities.

The main challenge was the global COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses, the economy and rural Victoria as a whole. From shutdowns to lockdowns to border closures, it was a trying time.

But it was also a time when rural Victorians came together remarkably to manage outbreaks, eliminating the virus from our communities on a number of occasions. It was also a year in which our population grew, as the pandemic and the trend towards working from home made rural Victoria more appealing to those seeking to leave the cities.

At RCV, we amped up our advocacy on behalf of the community, pressing our message that “one size does not fit all” to state and federal governments in relation to the pandemic, housing, jobs, health and a range of other issues.

RCV commissioned research into the Working for Victoria program, which found that participants and councils rated it a great success.

We also held many Community Engagement workshops and produced a Community Engagement Toolkit to support rural councils as they adapt to the Local Government Act 2020.

To encourage investment and job creation in rural Victoria, RCV created a website and an advocacy campaign aimed at food and beverage manufacturers. Though it is early days as this is written, the site has had hundreds of visits.

RCV also provided media and social media training across the state to help CEOs and mayors manage reputation risks and develop media strategies. This training was well received.

RCV expanded its media coverage considerably,

with our message appearing across print, online, radio and TV news outlets more than 140 times.

We also focused on improving communication and engagement with our member councils, councillors and staff, using a variety of strategies, which we will continue to build on.

Throughout the year, RCV had virtual meetings with Ministers, MPs and bureaucrats.

RCV hosted the RCV #ThrivingRuralVic summit at Nagambie in May 2021. This was a great opportunity to meet newly-elected and returning councillors, present updates and findings on RCV's research program and hear from State Government representatives on the latest policy developments.

It was also a great opportunity to hear about all the fantastic initiatives taking place across our member councils to advance their communities.

Keynote speaker Bernard Salt AM – a proud rural Victorian – left us with an uplifting message. “Now is the time for rural Victoria to shine”.

RCV has a busy time ahead. We are completing a project on rural housing, continue to roll out information on the Food Manufacturing investment attraction project and the long-term financial planning tool for our member councils.

We are undertaking a review of the Fixing Country Roads program and have engaged the Regional Australia Institute to undertake a review of our research, programs and projects that were funded through the Stronger Rural Councils Initiative as well presenting a five-year Blueprint for our organisation.

We will also develop platforms for the state and federal elections, so we can continue to advocate strongly on behalf of rural Victoria.

Cr Mary-Ann Brown
Chair
Rural Councils Victoria

RCV Committee

Rural North West Region



Cr Rob Gersch
Councillor, Hindmarsh
Shire Council



Mr Anthony Judd
CEO, Buloke Shire
Council

Rural North East



Cr Jenny O'Connor
Councillor, Indigo Shire
Council (**Deputy Chair**)



Mr Dom Testoni
CEO, Benalla Rural City

Rural North Central Region



Cr Jane Ogden
Councillor, Gannawarra
Shire Council



Mr Darren Fuzzard
CEO, Mount Alexander
Shire Council

Rural South Central



Cr Robert Vance
Councillor, Pyraneees
Shire Council



Mr Eric Braslis
CEO, Golden Plains Shire
Council

Rural South West



Cr Mary-Ann Brown
Councillor, Southern
Grampians Shire (**Chair**)



Mr Andrew Mason
CEO, Corangamite Shire
Council (**Treasurer**)

About the Committee

The Committee is made up of an elected official and a CEO from each of the six rural regions as designated by the Municipal Association of Victoria.

Committee changes

In 2020-2021 there were a several committee changes, too numerous to do justice to in this limited space.

The full list of changes in the committee is on the next page.

Rural South East (Gippsland) Region



Cr Sonia Buckley
Councillor, East
Gippsland Shire Council



Mr David Morcom
CEO, Wellington Shire
Council

Committee changes

As per RCV's rules of incorporation, the Committee was dissolved in the lead up to the Local Government elections held on 24 October 2020. A nomination and ballot process was held in November and December 2020 to form a new Committee.

The new Committee commenced in February 2021.

Cr Mary-Ann Brown returned to the position of Chair.

Other Committee office holders elected were Cr Jenny O'Connor, Deputy Chair, Mr Andrew Mason, Treasurer, and Mr Anthony Judd, Secretary.

As part of this process we **farewelled** and **welcomed** a number of committee members:

- Ms **Juliana Phelps**, CEO of Towong Shire and RCV Secretary representing the rural North East region. In her place we welcomed Mr **Dom Testoni**, CEO of Benalla Rural City Council. We extend our thanks to Juliana for all the hard work, guidance and leadership she provided to the Committee over many years, and we recognise her considerable legacy of advocacy for rural communities and their councils.
- Cr **Gavan Holt**, Loddon Shire Council. Cr Holt was another long-standing RCV Committee member, representing rural north Central since RCV's inception in 2005. He was replaced by Cr **Jane Ogden** of Gannawarra Shire.
- Mr **Evan King**, CEO of Hepburn Shire. Mr King was appointed as CEO to Ballarat City Council in early 2021, and was replaced as the CEO representative for the rural South Central region by Mr **Eric Braslis**, CEO of Golden Plains Shire.
- Cr **Marianne Pelz**, East Gippsland Shire Council. Cr Pelz was replaced by Cr **Sonia Buckley**, also of East Gippsland Shire, representing the rural south east/Gippsland region.

Training

RCV continued to build capacity across rural councils over 2020-21 by providing media and social media training for CEOs, mayors, councillors and staff

Traditional media

For the traditional media training sessions, Em'mett Communications was contracted to arrange and deliver a program of 12 media training sessions across the six RCV regions.

Venues were provided by councils in Bannockburn, Camperdown, Sale, Warracknabeal and Castlemaine with the sessions conducted for the Rural North-East region arranged outside of the council network at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre.

Over 41 participants attended the scheduled sessions that took place throughout April and the first half of May 2021.

More than 90 per cent of the participants said the course met their objectives to a high degree, and all participants said they found the training relevant to their professional development.

Comments on the training made from attendees after sessions included "an eye opener", "excellent", "extremely relevant to my current role", "very relevant, should have done it years ago" and "some fantastic new ideas".

Social media training

In terms of the social media training, Social Media Knowledge [SMK] delivered on line training modules that were then edited into on-demand tutorials, which were subsequently made available to councillors and Council staff

Once again the sessions were well attended with a positive response from attendees.

Due to the demand and popularity of the sessions, the RCV Committee will look to offer similar training programs in the future.



Media

The 2020-2021 financial year was a great year for media coverage of Rural Councils Victoria's advocacy on behalf of rural communities

The major news of the year was the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic and Rural Councils Victoria's designated spokespersons – Chair Mary-Ann Brown and Deputy Chair Jenny O'Connor – worked very hard and took every opportunity to advocate for a nuanced and appropriate approach in rural and regional areas.

Over the year we were able to increase RCV's media presence across all platforms considerably.

Our enhanced and growing media profile, together with the tireless activity by the Chair and Deputy Chair, now means that RCV has become the go-to organisation for comment about rural Victoria.

Statistics provided by media monitoring agency Meltwater show that RCV achieved 114 mentions in print and online news outlets. There were also 32 further appearances by RCV on radio and on television.

The Secretariat has a record of 17 appearances on ABC radio, including metropolitan programs such as the Virginia Trioli morning show and Raf Epstein's afternoon show, Statewide and regional ABC stations.

There were also a further six appearances on commercial radio stations.

In all, there were nine television appearances by RCV, including on Nine's Today Show, ABC TV News, WIN TV News, Sky News and 7News.

RCV achieved coverage in The Australian Financial Review, The Australian, The Age, The Herald Sun, The Weekly Times, commercial television news, ABC television news, ABC radio news, ABC talkback and local newspapers and radio stations across the state.

The lifting of COVID lockdown allowed the RCV

#ThrivingRuralVic Summit to go ahead in May, but the sudden reinstatement of lockdown saw the summit end early and overshadowed media coverage of the event.

Nevertheless, the summit gained widespread coverage by the end of May, including in The Geelong Advertiser, The Herald Sun and several other News Corporation titles.

According to Meltwater coverage of the event reached more than seven million people.

Other issues commented on by RCV that attracted media attention over 2020-21 included:

- More appropriate COVID emergency mitigation measures called for in rural and regional areas (September 2020).
- An RCV call for a long weekend in the spring to help rural economies recover from the pandemic (June 2021)
- Rural jobs and the RCV food manufacturing investment website

New resources for staff

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV) provided significant member value to councils across the state, conducting a series of seminars based on our new toolkits to be used by council staff

Community Engagement toolkit

In 2020-21 RCV produced a free community engagement and consultation tool specifically designed for use by councils with rural communities across the state.

The RCV Community Engagement Toolkit was developed to support rural councils as they adapt to changes initiated in the Local Government Act 2020.

Community engagement and consultation in rural councils is inherently different to approaches used in metropolitan and regional city municipalities. In 2020-21 we engaged Projectura to develop the Community Engagement Toolkit giving practical guidance for council staff preparing community engagement strategies and plans, as well as providing case study examples on Victorian community engagement best practice.

In addition to the toolkit, Projectura conducted a series of community engagement training sessions to our members. Over 200 participants from 23 Councils attended the sessions, as well as representatives of the Local Government Victoria implementation team. In all, seven training sessions were delivered including three introductory sessions, and one practice-based session each for: community and social planning; infrastructure and assets; service design, review and delivery; and governance, finance and policy.

The RCV Community Engagement tool is available as a free download from the Rural Councils Victoria website.

Population Attraction toolkit

Drawing on the findings of previously commissioned research into population issues facing rural communities, RCV published the Population Attraction and Retention Toolkit in September 2020.

Rural communities across the world will continue to face challenges posed by urbanisation and centralisation – many residents will move to larger urban areas for employment, education or lifestyle reasons. Rather than seeking to ‘stop the tide’, research indicates that best practice is to identify and design actions which are targeted, ongoing, easily monitored and collaborative.

RCV conducted an online seminar on the toolkit’s release, with Paul Schipp of Urban Enterprise outlining the key findings of the population attraction and retention research RCV previously commissioned, as well as detailing the key aspects of the toolkit for council officers to reference and use when developing their own tailored strategies and plans.

The toolkit is available on the RCV website.

Read more:

Visit: ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au to download both toolkits



Workforce capacity

In 2020-21 RCV commissioned an independent assessment of the Victoria Government's Working for Victoria program

Working for Victoria

The \$500 million Working for Victoria program was launched by the Victorian Government in April 2020 as a response to COVID emergency, creating employment opportunities for people who lost their jobs due to the pandemic.

Hundreds of people who would otherwise never have considered a job in local government, were employed in councils across rural Victoria under the **Working for Victoria** program, which was rolled out in record time.

RCV commissioned Nous Group to undertake an evaluation of the program over the first half of 2021.

Their report found that councils participating in the program experienced an influx of new blood, new ideas and renewed energy as a result of the additional staff. Unlike many State-Local Government funding arrangements, the Working for Victoria scheme allowed councils themselves to implement the State Government-funded scheme, appointing people into roles requiring specialised skills and knowledge that were specific their to local communities, as well as being responsive to local needs.

The evaluation report found Working for Victoria program provided an ideal funding and delivery model for both State and Local Government sectors to build on and recommended that a similar approach be used for State government funded programs for the local government sector into the future.

The report also found that for workers introduced to rural councils through the program:

- 71% of participants learned new skills
- 92% felt proud of the work they were doing
- 88% felt their work was helping the community
- 71% said the experience would help them secure another job in the future
- 85% enjoyed their time working with council
- 75% saw potential for career growth in rural councils
- 89% said they would consider working for a rural council again in the future
- 58% said they were surprised by the breadth of work that councils do

Read more:

Visit: ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au to download the report

Investment attraction

RCV commissioned a new website to make it much easier for food and beverage manufacturers to invest in rural Victoria, bringing the jobs and prosperity rural communities need

Previously RCV commissioned Dench McLean Carlson and RMCG to undertake an assessment of the existing investment attraction capability of rural councils, identifying gaps and developing investment attraction tools and strategies to assist council economic development managers build further capacity in this area.

The investment attraction seminars conducted last year across our six member regions consistently identified food manufacturing as a key growth industry for rural Victoria, and an ideal one for a targeted promotion campaign bringing together businesses looking to relocate out of Melbourne, and rural councils that have the necessary zoned industrial land and available workforce.

The project team's research found Victoria's food and beverage manufacturing sectors experienced \$4.8 billion in revenue growth between 2016 and 2020, and \$1.9 billion, or 38 per cent, of this revenue growth was based in rural Victoria.

In order to assist food and beverage manufacturers take advantage of these opportunities, RCV commissioned the Dench McClean Carlson team to create a dedicated website with information about industrial assets across rural Victoria, including:

- **Location** (town and council)
- **Type** (land, greenfield, brownfield)
- **Value:** relative sales prices from the Victorian Valuer-General
- **Contact** details for the councils in which the assets are located
- **Informative** interactive maps of locations

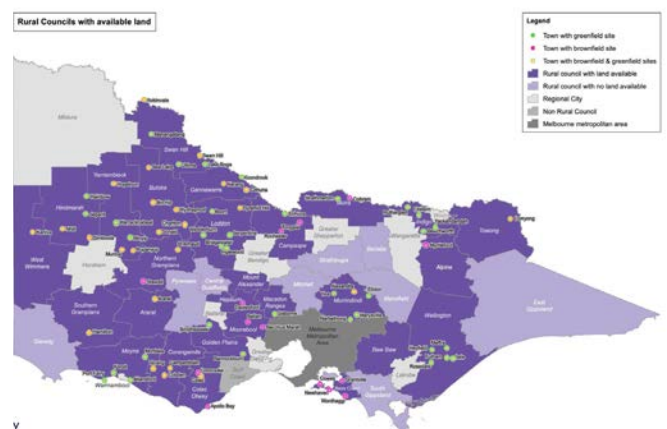
- **Information** on economic trends for food and beverage manufacturing in rural Victoria

The website also includes a downloadable database of all assets across rural Victoria and information on economic trends for food and beverage manufacturing in rural Victoria.

Contact details of the relevant council Economic Development Officers are available on the webpage to assist and guide food and beverage businesses that show further interest.

The launch of the website was accompanied by a media and communications campaign, including a mailout to 3,336 Melbourne-based food and beverage businesses.

The promotion of the website is continuing throughout 2021-22.



Read more:
Visit: ruralcouncilsvictoria.rezme.com

#ThrivingRuralVic Summit

RCV's #ThrivingRuralVic Summit was scheduled from 26 to 28 May 2021 in Nagambie. Cut short by a day due to COVID-related restrictions, it was still a great success



"Rural Victoria's time to shine": Demographer Bernard Salt AM delivers an uplifting message at the Summit.

The RCV **#ThrivingRuralVic** was scheduled to take in Nagambie over three days in May 2021.

Though cut short by a day due to a COVID-related lockdown, it was a great success. Presenters showed immense goodwill by changing plans at the last minute to either present in person at short notice or via video link.

There was a great sharing of ideas and attendees came away with many fresh ideas and new energy to help make their communities better and more prosperous.

To know more visit: ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au



Good news: The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Regional Development announces a \$500,000 grant for RCV.

#ThrivingRuralVic



Guest speaker: The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Regional Development (centre), with RCV Committee members Mr Anthony Judd, Cr Sonia Buckley, Cr Mary-Ann Brown (Chair), Cr Rob Gersch and Cr Jane Ogden.



Taking note: Cr Karine Haslam of Murrindindi Shire Council.



Community engagement: Karina Bonnitcha from Projectura outlines the group's work with RCV.



Full house: The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP, Minister for Regional Development addresses the Summit.



Deputy and mayor: Cr Michael Whelan (Deputy Mayor) and Cr Brett Tessari (Mayor) from Bass Coast Shire Council.



Rural Councils Victoria Financial Report 2020-21

Income statement

For year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue from operations			
Grant income		60,000	-
Membership income		111,675	111,000
Summit Fees		17,040	
Total revenue from operations	3	188,715	111,000
Expenses from operations			
Materials and services		726,400	773,218
Total expenses from operations	3	726,400	773,218
Surplus/(deficit)		(537,685)	(662,218)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		(537,685)	(662,218)

The above income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		430,860	919,724
Trade and other receivables		66,000	200,000
Total current assets		496,860	1,119,724
Total assets		496,860	1,119,724
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		16,335	100,523
Other payables	2	(23,567)	(22,576)
Total current liabilities		(7,232)	77,947
Total liabilities		504,092	77,947
Net assets		504,092	1,041,777
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		504,092	1,041,777
Total equity		504,092	1,041,777

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 Retained earnings \$
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		1,041,777
Deficit for the period		(537,685)
Balance at the end of the financial year		504,092

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

	Note	2020 Retained earnings \$
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		1,703,995
Surplus for the period		(662,218)
Balance at the end of the financial year		1,041,777

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2021

		2021 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$	2020 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from operating activities (inclusive of GST)		341,586	1,235,461
Payments to suppliers and employees (inclusive of GST)		(830,450)	(934,555)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	5	(488,864)	300,906
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(488,864)	300,906
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		919,724	618,818
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		430,860	919,724

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes

Introduction

The Financial Statements cover Rural Councils Victoria Incorporated as an individual entity which was incorporated on 30 June 2016. Rural Councils Victoria Incorporated is an incorporated association under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis of preparation

a) Statement of compliance

These general purpose financial statements – reduced disclosure reporting requirements have been prepared in accordance to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

b) Basis of measurement

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

Note 1: Accounting policies

a) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised at the time of the provision of the service to the customer.

Grant funding where there are no specific obligations is recognised at the time of receipt of funding or when the Association has the unconditional right to receive funding in accordance with AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities*.

Council contributions are recognised at the time membership invoices are raised to member Councils.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

b) Income tax

The Association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

c) Employee provisions

The Association has no employees.

d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.



e) **Accounts receivable**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from grants from government departments. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

f) **Goods and services tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

g) **Accounts payable and other payables**

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the Association during the reporting period which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

h) **Critical accounting estimates and judgments**

There were no material estimates made during the preparation of this report.

i) **Accounting standards**

A number of Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been issued or amended since the last reporting date and are applica-

ble to the entity but are not yet effective.

The Committee has assessed the impact of these amendments and they are immaterial to the Association. They have not been adopted in the preparation of the Financial Statements at balance date.

Note 2: Other payables	2021 \$	2020 \$
GST liability/(refundable)	(28,367)	(27,376)
Other payables	4,800	4,800
Total other payables	(23,567)	(22,576)

**Note 3: Comprehensive income statement - Member detail
(2021)**

	Government funding	Member funding	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Income			
Grant funding - Stronger Rural Councils Initiative (SRCI)	60,000	-	60,000
Council membership fees (2020/21)	-	111,675	111,675
Summit Fees (2020/21)	-	17,040	17,040
Total income	60,000	128,715	188,715
Expenses			
Workstream 1: RCV governance, networking and communications			
- Rural summit	47,769	-	47,769
- Secretariat services	164,000	-	164,000
- Governance costs	13,875	-	13,875
- Financial Management	14,850	-	14,850
- Professional Development	13,425	-	13,425
- Consulting	73,103	-	73,103
	327,022	-	327,022
Workstream 2: Sustainable rural councils			
- Community Engagement	18,840	-	18,840
- Traineeship Pathways	30,000	-	30,000
- Working for Victoria	37,337	-	37,337
	86,177	-	86,177
Workstream 3: Sustainable rural communities			
- Rural Population Growth Policy	4,842	-	4,842
- Growing the Food Manufacturing Sector	113,600	-	113,600
- Demographic Destiny	35,000	-	35,000
- Long Term Financial Plan	54,425	-	54,425
	207,867	-	207,867
Advocacy			
- Consultants - advocacy	9,334	96,000	105,334
	9,334	96,000	105,334
Total expenses	630,400	96,000	726,400
Deficit for the year	(570,400)	32,715	(537,685)

**Note 3: Comprehensive income statement - Member detail
(2020)**

	Govern- ment fund- ing	Member funding	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Income			
Grant funding - Stronger Rural Councils Initiative (SRCI)	-	-	-
Council membership fees (2019/20)	-	111,000	111,000
Total income	-	111,000	111,000
Expenses			
Workstream 1: RCV governance, networking and communications			
- Rural summit	40,000	-	40,000
- Mayors, CEOs and Councillors Forum	15,776	-	15,776
- Secretariat services	173,432	-	173,432
- Governance costs	9,774	-	9,774
- Committee expenses	5,353	-	5,353
- Communication tools	17,434	-	17,434
	261,769	-	261,769
Workstream 2: Sustainable rural councils			
- Capacity Building	102,090	-	102,090
	102,090	-	102,090
Workstream 3: Sustainable rural communities			
- Rural Population Growth Policy	11,298	-	11,298
- Rural Workforce Development Plan	6,818	-	6,818
- Rural Investment Attraction Program	111,135	-	111,135
- Services that Contribute to Livability	29,920	-	29,920
- Older Persons Services Accommodation	85,330	-	85,330
- Capacity Building for Young People in Rural Areas	30,000	-	30,000
- Understanding social enterprise workshops	29,559	-	29,559
	304,060	-	304,060
Advocacy			
- Consultants - advocacy	-	105,299	105,299
	-	105,299	105,299
Total expenses	667,919	105,299	773,218
Deficit for the year	(667,919)	5,701	(662,218)

Note 4: Related party transactions	2021 \$	2020 \$
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a) Key management personnel

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the company, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) is considered key management personnel.

Key management personnel compensation:

- Short term benefits	-	-
- Post-employment benefits	-	-
- Other long-term benefits	-	-
	-	-

b) Other related parties

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel, individually or collectively with their close family members.

Transactions between related parties:

Expenditure transactions

- Services rendered from Towong Shire Council	-	173,432
	-	173,432

All related party transactions above are with Councils that are members of Rural Councils Victoria Incorporated. Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other persons unless otherwise stated.

The Association conducted an Expression of Interest for a member Council to provide Secretariat services to the entity. As a result of this process, Towong Shire Council was appointed Secretariat for a three year period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019. In March 2019 an Expression of Interest was conducted. As a result of this process, Towong Shire Council was appointed Secretariat through to 30 June 2020.

The secretariat services have been outsourced in the 2021 financial year to The Agenda Group, and therefore fees for secretariat services are no longer considered related party transactions.

**Note 5: Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities
with net current year surplus/(deficit)**

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Net current year surplus/(deficit)	(537,685)	(662,218)
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase)/decrease in accounts receivable and other debtors	134,000	1,040,964
Increase/(decrease) in accounts payable and other payables	(85,179)	(77,840)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities	(488,864)	300,906



Note 6: Financial risks management

The Association's financial instruments consist of deposits with banks, receivables and payables.

The carrying amounts for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 9: *Financial Instruments* as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

Credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk by classes of recognised financial assets at the end of the reporting period is equivalent to the carrying value and classification of those financial assets (net of any provisions) as presented in the statement of financial position.

Accounts receivable and other debtors that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of high credit quality. The Association's financial assets and liabilities are all non-interest bearing.

Interest rate risk

As there are no investments or borrowings, there is no interest rate risk applicable to RCV.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the Association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations in relation to financial liabilities.

The Association manages this risk by monitoring the total inflows and outflows expected on a

monthly basis. The Association ensures that sufficient liquid assets are available to meet all the short-term cash payments.

The Association's contractual maturity for financial assets and liabilities are all due within 3 months or less.

Entity details

The registered office of the entity is:

181 Manifold Street
Camperdown VIC 3260

Note 7: Events occurring after reporting date

There were no material matters or circumstances which have arisen between 30 June 2021 and the date of this report that have significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the result of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in subsequent financial periods.

Note 8: Contingent assets or liabilities

The Committee are not aware of any contingent assets or liabilities at balance date.

Note 9: Commitments

The Committee are not aware of any commitments at balance date.

Committee declaration

In accordance with a resolution of the Committee of Rural Councils Victoria Incorporated, the Committee declare that:

The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 18 to 25, are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association during and as at the financial year ending 30 June 2021.

In the opinion of the Committee there are reasonable grounds to believe that Rural Councils Victoria incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.



Cr Mary-Ann Brown (Chair)

Dated this day Wednesday 20 October 2021



Mr Andrew Mason (Treasurer)

Dated this day Wednesday 20 October 2021





Rural Councils Victoria

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