



# STUART GRIMLEY MP

Member for Western Victoria  
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

## MEDIA RELEASE



### Regional Victorians at least 11 per cent worse off than metropolitan counterparts

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State leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party, Stuart Grimley MP is lifting the lid on the inequity of government funding. A report requested by Mr Grimley by the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) has revealed that regional Victorians receive about 11 per cent less government asset investment than their metropolitan counterparts.

The report comes after Mr Grimley requested the PBO to investigate the asset investments of the 2021-22 State Budget. The report revealed that the current government is investing \$17,100 per person in assets for metropolitan residents and \$15,351 for regional residents.

This report investigated asset investment on projects that had a specified locality in the 2021-22 Budget. Mr Grimley believes there could be greater discrepancy of funding per capita, in government services, grants and other investments.

Mr Grimley has lobbied for regional equality of investment since his election, including on issues such as rail and public transport spending, family violence and social services access in regional and rural areas, equality in school and education upgrades and upgrades to public health facilities.

Mr Grimley would like to see the government investigate the total expenditure of government funding between metropolitan Victoria and regional Victoria to ensure equality for the whole state.

#### Quotes Attributable to Stuart Grimley MP:

"Regional Victoria is a fantastic place to live. We grow the food and fibre that provide our metropolitan counterparts with things to eat, drink and even wear. We pay our fair share of taxes and put up with drought, fires, floods and even lockdowns caused by Melbourne. It is a kick in the guts to see that regional Victoria gets less funding per capita than Melbourne, but it's something we probably all suspected.

This report only covers the 2021-22 Budget asset investment. How many years has regional Victoria fallen behind on funding? How much less do we get for services per capita? The questions are endless and we want answers and regional Victorians deserve answers.

If you were to exclude Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong in this report, I can only imagine that the difference between funding per capita would be much, much larger.

Recently I asked the government to at least look at undertaking a business case for the return of rail in the Wimmera. The response I received from the Minister was extremely disappointing, and the government have put this project in the too hard basket. If this was a metropolitan project, there would be at least an 11 percent more chance of it getting funded.

We'd also like to see seats that are 'safe' (rather than marginal) given their fair share of funding too."

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