



12 January 2017

The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP  
 Minister for Revenue and Financial Services  
 Member for Higgins  
 PO Box 6022 House of Representatives,  
 PARLIAMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: [Kelly.O'Dwyer.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:Kelly.O'Dwyer.mp@aph.gov.au)

Dear Ms O'Dwyer,

**Re: City of Melton's 2017-18 pre-budget submission**

*BPD Chris Leggett*

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED	
Office of the Minister for Revenue & Financial Services	
Office Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Contact Adviser .....
<input type="checkbox"/> MRFS	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Adviser .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DLOs .....
Departmental Action	<b>16 JAN 2017</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge	<input type="checkbox"/> Briefing
<input type="checkbox"/> Substantive Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech/Talking Points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Refer to .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Information	<input type="checkbox"/> No Further Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Constituent Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Other .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Signatory .....	

As one of Australia's fastest growing municipalities, Melton is a City on the move. At the centre of Melbourne's growing western region, the City of Melton is a location of choice for those seeking a balance between lifestyle and opportunity. With thousands of new residents calling it home each year, the City of Melton offers something for everyone.

The City covers an area of 528 square kilometers and embraces a series of townships and communities. The larger suburbs include Caroline Springs (19km west of Melbourne's CBD) and Melton (35km west of Melbourne's CBD), with the City's current residential population split roughly halfway between the two locations.

The City of Melton considers the upgrade of the Western Highway from Caroline Springs to Moorabool Council to urban freeway standard is not only a key safety priority but is also important to ensure the long-term efficiency of a critical freight link on the national highway network. By replacing existing at grade intersections with flyovers and interchanges, along with the addition of a new interchange to serve the Melton West area, road safety within this section of the Western Highway will be greatly enhanced, for the benefit of both existing road users and future populations within the fast growing Western Growth Corridor. By investing now, the Commonwealth is investing in the future of the City of Melton, the western region and the State of Victoria, upgrading this major contributor to the local, state and national economy will boost jobs by improving freight efficiency.

Below is the City of Melton's top priority for the Commonwealth to consider. The funding of the upgrade to the Western Highway from Caroline Springs and through to Moorabool Council will provide safety benefits to the whole community and will provide freight efficiency gains on this important national freight corridor.

<b>Western Highway</b>	<p>The Western Highway is the major road corridor between Melbourne and Adelaide, providing for major freight transport both interstate and regionally. It is the second busiest national highway in Australia in terms of freight movements. It is critical that the Commonwealth increase funding for the Western Highway.</p> <p>The section of the Western Highway between Caroline Springs and Moorabool Council, is additionally a major transport corridor for residents to access education, employment, training and leisure within the western region.</p> <p>In addition to the upgrade to the section between Christies Rd to Ferris Rd, an additional interchange is required to service the Melton West area, relieving congestion in this area and</p>
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improving safety. The Commonwealth must consider an upgrade to the Western Highway between Caroline Springs and Melton to create a freeway link

We consider this to present a significant safety risk to all road users if not completed. Existing at grade crossings and direct access points must be replaced with fly-overs, interchanges and service roads.

Current traffic volumes on the Western Highway within the City of Melton are in excess of 50,000 vehicles per day in each direction.

Precinct Structure Plans for areas which are within the catchment of the Western Highway, will release land to provide for an eventual build out population for the City of Melton of over 400,000 exceeding the current population of Canberra.

The existing traffic volumes on the Western Highway, combined with the forecast population growth expected in the City of Melton Growth Corridor, and in the broader western region make the removal of at grade intersections not only key safety priority but also critical if the efficiency of this national route is to be maintained as the land on either side of the corridor is urbanized.

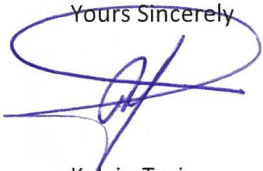
In addition to the immediate safety benefits of removing at grade crossings on a four lane national highway carrying 50,000 vehicles per day each way, with speed limits between 90 and 100-km/h, this project:

- Has a benefit-cost ration of 2.2, meaning that for every \$1 invested in capital, \$2.20 worth of benefits are generated;
- Completes the creation of a Freeway standard road between Melbourne and Ballarat; and
- Supports the development of the existing and planned communities in the Western Growth Corridor, enabling them to safely access opportunities both within and outside the City of Melton.

The City of Melton understands the budget pressures facing the Commonwealth, however, with limited time to improve freeway links in Melbourne's west before population growth outpaces infrastructure capacity, we recommend the above-proposed project be considered an immediate infrastructure priority. As a consequence of not undertaking this project, we have concluded that it will be an even larger financial outlay for the Commonwealth as noted above. By addressing the community sentiments for better freeway infrastructure, the Commonwealth will be supporting a better-connected community. For a comprehensive overview of the latest advocacy priorities visit <http://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/What-were-fighting-for>

Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on [KelvinT@melton.vic.gov.au](mailto:KelvinT@melton.vic.gov.au) or (03) 9747 7294.

Yours Sincerely



Kelvin Tori  
**Chief Executive Officer**

Cc. Mr Daniel Hogan, Manager Engagement and Advocacy  
Mr Kwabena Ansah, Executive Officer Advocacy

