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Your Ref:

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25 February 2009

Mr Paul Slape
Chairman
Victoria Grants Commission
Department of Planning & Community Development
Level 8,
55 Collins St
Melbourne 3000

Dear Mr Slape,

GRANTS COMMISSION SUBMISSION

Council wishes to make a submission in relation to the allocation of the 2009-10 general purpose and local roads grants.

Council proposes that the population dispersion cost adjustor be included in the business and economic services expenditure function, and the regional significance cost adjustor be reduced accordingly.

One of the main functions in Council's economic development strategy is the development of industry cluster groups. Industries within the Golden Plains Shire are not centrally located, which discourages collaboration on the shared challenges and opportunities. In response, Council actively supports the formation and maintenance of industry cluster groups by providing staff to facilitate industry collaboration in order to support industries that are growing and sustainable, and assist those that are not with transition.

While the Golden Plains Shire rates relatively low in the dimension of regional significance, it contributes strongly to the high regional significance of major regional centres such as Geelong and Ballarat. This is predominantly driven by the large amount of primary production in Golden Plains Shire, driving employment in regional centres in value adding activity such as food production and meat processing, as well as logistics and distribution activities.

In this context, Council proposes that the cost adjuster of regional significance is appropriately redistributed to reflect a greater emphasis on the population dispersion cost adjuster in the area of Business and Economic Services.

Yours sincerely

ROD NICHOLLS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

