



11 September 2017

Parliament of Australia
House of Representatives
Regional Development & Decentralisation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Members,

Re: Australian Government Inquiry into the Relocation of Government Bodies to Regional Areas

Warrnambool City Council, representing the six councils of the Great South Coast, thanks you for the opportunity to make submission into this inquiry. We commend the Government on any initiative designed to strengthen and grow regional centres, regional communities, and regional economies.

Please note that we have made multiple submissions to this inquiry. In early March we provided input to the Government's inquiry into *"The operation, effectiveness, and Consequences of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016"*, at the invitation of the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP and the Hon. Senator Fiona Nash. We also provided this detail to Senator Bridget McKenzie as a result of a separate invitation.

Please find attached our response submissions, providing real-time detail of the unique and significant strengths of the Great South Coast region. These strengths align very closely to the successful and synergistic relocation of specific, identified Government services.

The additional *Food & Fibre Animal & Aquatics* document is the result of constant development and refinement of the *Great South Coast Food & Fibre Strategy*. It is just one output resulting from the recent appointment of a dedicated officer to assist in the promotion of our region's significant food and fibre production capacity and the realisation of our region's enormous potential.

Whilst the Terms of reference under the initial invitation for submissions (the Hon. Barnaby Joyce) were confined to the potential for relocation of specific government services, we would also request consideration for relocation of services that might benefit from our region's emergence as a major producer of both food and fibre products and renewable energy.

Wind farms within our region with current permits for construction have a combined value of \$1.6 billion and generating capacity of 767 MW. Additional windfarms in the planning stage have a combined value of \$1.14 billion and the potential to generate a further 340MW. All existing and proposed wind farms are proximally situated near to the existing 500kV transmission line currently supplying the Portland Aluminium smelter and linked to the South Australian energy grid.

Geothermal, wave and hot-rock energy production options are also currently being utilised or under development within the Great South Coast.

We trust that you will find this information helpful in the final determination of where Government services and regional strengths can best be matched, to produce immense gains for our nation in terms of competitiveness and service delivery.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Paton
Director City Growth