Leanne Rosewall

Acting Regional Director Loddon Mallee RDV

56-60 King Street

BENDIGO VIC 3550

Dear Leanne,

6 March, 2015

# RE: Review of DEDJTR’s Regional Service Delivery Model and Strategic Directions for Regional Policy

I refer to the Minister for Regional Development’s recent correspondence regarding the above Review and inviting input thereto, and provide the following:

## Regional Service Delivery Model

* + - Council values having access to decision makers in regional areas. The key is that the personnel are sufficiently skilled and senior to lead and make decisions. We currently enjoy this with RDV.
    - The Regional Management Forum (RMF) continues to act as a collaborative point of reference for the region and is a valued resource/model.

## Regional Policy

* + - Policy should be broad enough and interrelated enough to respond to issues such as poorer health outcomes and lower levels of educational attainment in rural areas.

Maryborough has in recent years achieved success in attracting new industry; which has in turn accentuated a workforce-ready challenge. The Go Goldfields program was initiated by Council and implementation commenced in late 2011. Go Goldfields is service delivery reform in action – with desired community outcomes around Children; Language & Literacy; Parenting; Family Violence; Youth; and, Work Readiness.

Independent evaluation shows Go Goldfields is achieving real success. One structural reason for that success has been the administration of the program within RDV. Flexibility within the program has seen adherence to broad agreed principles with a capacity to reorient resources; to deliver on evidence based social and economic outcomes across the community.

Implemented outside the traditional model, the method of delivery has been key to Go Goldfields success.

Council looks forward to continuing to work with RDV and to viewing Review outcomes.

Yours Sincerely



Mark W Johnston

**Chief Executive Officer**