**Melton City Council Submission**

Please find below dot point submission for Panel consideration in response to the attached Terms of Reference and would welcome the opportunity to present to the Panel in more detail.

Melton City Council is one of the fastest growing Cities in Australia and Melbourne’s West including the Cities of Melton & Wyndham is the fastest growing Region in Victoria and Australia. The City of Melton with a current population of 130,000 and forecast to grow to 390,000 by 2041 also has one of the lowest local jobs per household in Victoria at 0.3 local jobs per household with an aspiration of 1 local job per household.

Current employment statistics show the highest growth sectors of Construction, Retail Trade, Property & Business Services, Education, Health & Community Services and Personal Services. Refer attached presentation on Melton City Council.

The greatest inhibitor to local job creation is accessibility and connectivity. The next greatest barrier is access to quality, timely and relevant tertiary and higher education within the City.

Policy drivers that need to be addressed include:

1. A commitment to higher and tertiary education provided within the local community by a variety of modes including virtually through high-speed broadband and video conferencing;
2. A commitment to upgraded and increased public transport capacity, that includes duplication of the Ballarat Rail Line from Melton east to Caroline Springs and increased rolling stock;
3. A full rollout of high-speed broadband/NBN to all new communities and then retrofit to existing communities as a matter of priority;
4. A review of current regional groupings to provide Economic Development Areas (EDA’s) rather than groupings of either like Councils (Growth, Regional Cities, etc) or geographic regions. This could also be considered along transport routes such as major freeways/highways or rail lines.
5. Partnership approach into major economic development infrastructure and programs such as previous Federal Government Suburban Jobs Program and the Melton City project Western Business Accelerator & Centre for Excellence (Western BACE)
6. Outer Suburban Growth Areas such as Melton City becoming the ‘gateway’ to EDA’s such as Ballarat, Bendigo and potentially Geelong
7. Government Departments such as DEDJTR supporting business attraction, trade missions and major employment opportunities into growth areas that have available land, enabling infrastructure and employee supplies
8. Support Local Governments to encourage research and studies to identify new and emerging industries, current employment skills & competencies and gap analysis between current skills and emerging industries

Again, Council would be pleased to present at a future Panel Hearing to further expand upon our submission.

Michael Tudball

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