**Macedon Ranges**

Shire Council

6 March 2015

Regional Development Victoria Level 1, 56-60 King Street

BENDIGO VIC 3550

Dear Sir/Madam

# Re: Review of the Regional Service Delivery Model and Strategic Directions for

# Regional Policy

I refer to recent correspondence from the Hon Jaala Pulford, Minister for Regional Development inviting input into the review of the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources regional service delivery model and the development of strategic directions for regional policy in Victoria. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the review.

Regional Victoria and the surrounding cluster towns are vital for a vibrant Victoria. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is part of the Loddon Mallee region. We have strong links with both metropolitan Melbourne and the Bendigo region.

Local jobs are a critical part of our economy. Local employment supports a strong local economy, and also supports the social/community fabric of providing opportunities including CFA volunteers, junior sports coaches, quality family time and personal health and wellbeing activity.

Delegation of some decision making to the regional office would assist quicker response times for both grant projects with local government and "full funding applications" for business expansion/sustainability and similar private sector projects.

I am meeting with Ben Hubbard, Regional Review Consultant on 20 March 2015 to further discuss the review.

Yours sincerely

Peter Johnston

Chief Executive Officer