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Dear Kevin

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## **SUBMISSION TO VICTORIA'S DRAFT 30-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY**

Surf Coast Shire Council is pleased to provide this submission to Victoria's Draft 30-Year Infrastructure Strategy, released 4 October 2016. Council has been supportive of the development of a long term plan for the provision of infrastructure across the State of Victoria and has made submissions to previous stages of the development of the strategy. Council is pleased that consideration of previous submissions is reflected in the draft strategy.

### A commitment to the current asset base

Council supports the recognition that it is important to continue to invest in existing infrastructure where this plays an ongoing role in community prosperity and wellbeing. In combination with the principle to 'consider non-build solutions first' this approach will assist in achieving financial sustainability of the broader asset base.

Council is particularly supportive of recommendation 2.1.4 (Regional local road maintenance) which is seen as critical to ongoing infrastructure maintenance for the community and the economy.

### Land Use Planning

It is considered appropriate that option CPS1 from *All Things Considered* has not progressed to the draft strategy. Council would oppose a move to a Centralised Planning Scheme as outlined in previous documents.

### Public Transport

Council supports the variety of recommendations outlined in the draft strategy that are aimed at improving infrastructure planning, delivery and management. In particular it is pleasing to see the following recommendations included:

- 12.3.1 (Geelong/Werribee/Wyndham rail)
- 12.3.2 (Torquay transport links)
- 10.4.1 (Public transport real-time information)
- 10.4.2 (Train timetabling)

It is however important to note that the notion of a rail connection to Torquay has yet to be canvassed with the Torquay community and extensive consultation would be required.

### Transition to lower carbon energy use

The Surf Coast Shire Council and its community is committed to demonstrating leadership in relation to achieving the State Government target of 25% of energy coming from renewable sources by 2020.

Council is supportive of the recommendations in Section 18 of the draft strategy, however it would like to see these recommendations go further, particularly in relation to consideration of small-scale community energy systems and increased research, development and deployment of battery systems. Without this, wind and solar will continue to be challenged by the intermittent nature of their production, as is recognised in the strategy.

### Community Facilities

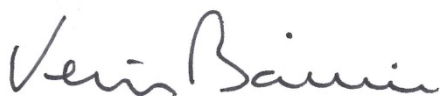
Council supports the variety of recommendations in section 4 of the draft strategy and is pleased to see the following recommendations included in particular:

- 4.3.1 (Major cultural/sporting infrastructure)
- 4.3.2 (Community sport/recreation facilities)

While Council is generally supportive of the principles, content and direction of the draft strategy, it is disappointed that the strategy is silent on infrastructure that it is critical to the Surf Coast Shire and broader region, notably an absence of comment on Avalon Airport and the Great Ocean Road. Council will continue to advocate for investment in this important infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback to the draft strategy. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 5261 0600 should you wish to discuss any aspect of Council's submission.

Yours sincerely



**Keith Baillie**  
Chief Executive Officer