Gayle Tierney Member for Western Victoria Ground Floor 1 Yarra Street Geelong Vic 3220

SURF	COAST SHIRE
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27th April 2016

To the Honourable State Member for Western Victoria, Gayle Tierney,

On behalf of the Moriac and surrounding district, I would like to draw your attention to the important issue of the need for public transport in our region.

A rural bus service for the district from Winchelsea via Wensleydale, Wurdibuloc, Modewarre, Paraparap, and Moriac terminating at the Waurn Ponds train station is needed. An alternate route terminating in Torquay is also required. An increase in transport options will significantly benefit the residents of these areas and give greater scope to employment and education opportunities.

There is an existing train line and platform in Moriac which is not currently in use. The station has been decommissioned, however, the community would like to see it revitalized as an additional stop for the trains travelling to and from Winchelsea on the current service. Alternatively, this station could also be utilized for the public bus service.

The population of the district for which we are seeking assistance (Winchelsea, Winchelsea South, Bambra, Wurdibuloc, Wensleydale, Buckley, Gherang, Modewarre, Moriac and Paraparap) is approximately 4200 (Extracted from 2011 census data), and of those residents, the average age is 40 years old. It must be noted that these statistics are 5 years old, and many changes have occurred in that time with the coming and going of residents and the increase of young adults and school aged children.

We currently have no public transport in Moriac, Paraparap, Wensleydale, Buckley nor Wurdibuloc, aside from school bus routes to transport students to certain schools and this is a significant disadvantage for those who live a rural lifestyle.

A recent subdivision approved by the Surf Coast Shire and plans for further expansion in the Moriac area (as viewed on the council website) will see the population significantly increase in coming years. This growth in housing, population and light industrial infrastructure leads to a greater need for public transport for commuters travelling to and from work in Geelong, Melbourne and Torquay. The need for public transport in Torquay for students and the public is paramount.

Our community have discussed the need for at least a bus service and many in the district have signed the attached petition calling for public transport in our ever growing district. Public transport would improve energy efficiency, reduce road congestion and emissions and alleviate rural isolation and enabling our communities to connect for the purposes of employment, education, socialisation and purchase of household basics.

We have approached our Ward Councillors, Heather Wellington and Carol McGregor, both of whom have given us their full support and the full Surf Coast Shire Council has recently noted our petition and support for our cause at their April Council Meeting.

We would like to make a time to meet with you and our Ward Councillors in the near future, to discuss this important matter and look forward to your response.

Kylie Richter-Cools on behalf of the Moriac community and surrounding district

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Specifically, we petition Surf Coast Shire to facilitate an initial meeting between interested Moriac residents and representatives of Public Transport Victoria, to gain PTV's support to investigate the feasibility of a regular public transport service for Moriac.

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## Petition to Surf Coast Shire to Support the Community in its Efforts to Achieve Public Transport for Moriac

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We, the undersigned, respectfully petition Surf Coast Shire to support the Moriac community in its efforts to gain a public transport service for Moriac.

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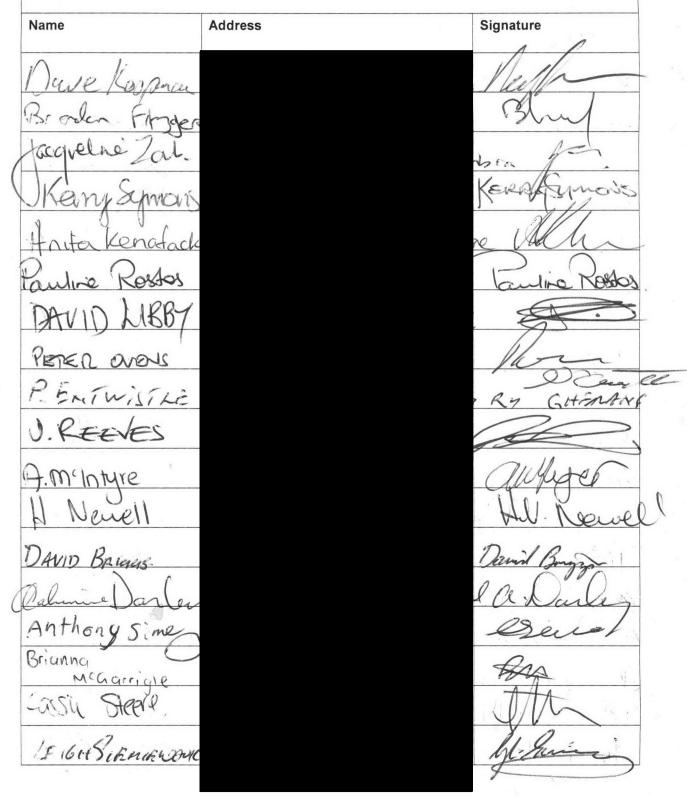
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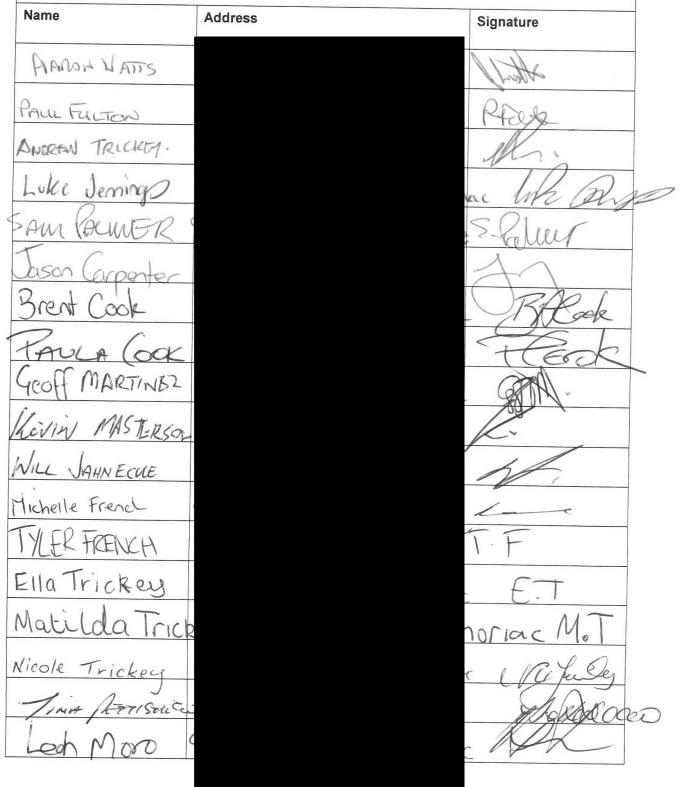
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