

30 April 2026

Mr Steven Kingshott
Chair
Victorian Local Government Grants Commission
1 Spring Street
MELBOURNE 3000



Via email – steven.kingshott@dgs.vic.gov.au

Dear Mr Kingshott

I would like to pass on my thanks to the members of the Grants Commission who met with Warrnambool City Council recently. The fact that the Commission makes the effort to visit regional Councils such as Warrnambool City Council is appreciated.

As discussed at our meeting, Financial Assistance Grants are vital for our financial sustainability and our ability to deliver vital services and infrastructure to our community. We believe that changes to the cost adjuster currently applying to WCC are justified, in particular:

Regional Servicing – while the cost adjuster for Regional Servicing is high for WCC, we do not believe that it sufficiently accounts for the fact that our Council is surrounded by rural populations that heavily rely on our services. For example, we provide a regional library, indoor aquatic centre, theatre and art gallery at a cost of \$2.8 million. These services are not available in the surrounding region and are heavily used by this population.

Tourism – Warrnambool experiences significant tourism demand for services and infrastructure especially during the summer. Council bears significant costs in providing services and infrastructure required by visitors, for example waste management, visitor information, summer activities and events and beach cleaning.

Environmental Risk – the cost adjuster for environmental risk currently shows WCC having below average environmental risk. Council has recently undertaken flood mapping which is showing significant flood risk as a result of coastal inundation and increased rain fall intensity. An investigation into coastal resilience is also showing that Warrnambool will experience significant environmental risks associated with sea level increases and storm surges, we have recently experiences significant damage and cost to coastal infrastructure during storm surges.

Road – the cost modifiers for roads that show Warrnambool having below average impacts for Freight, Material and Sub-grades are hard to understand given the high freight loads associated with agriculture and recognised issues with sub-grades and access to high quality stone. We would welcome the opportunity to contribute to a review of these modifiers and would note that much work has already been done on this issue eg dairy and wheat supply chain studies.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Mason
Chief Executive Officer

C.C. Colin Morrison, Executive Officer, VLGCC