

Tuesday 12 April, 2022

Mr John Watson  
Chair  
Victorian Local Government Grants Commission

Dear John,

I would like to thank you and members of the Victorian Grants Commission for the recent meeting with Corangamite Shire, the session was most informative.

Council would like to take this opportunity to make a submission to the Commission in relation the Local Road Grant. The cost modifiers used in determining Local Road Grants rely on a report from GHD prepared in 2011. Given the age of this report we believe that it is due for an update.

For example, in Corangamite Shire there have been significant changes in freight movements and strategic routes as a result of increased grain production in the north of the Shire. The Great South Coast Dairy Supply Chain study has highlighted the size and growth potential of freight supporting the dairy sector. The availability and quality of road making material has also changed significantly in the last 11 years in part due to wind farm construction.

More specifically Council requests that the cost modifiers for the sub-grades for Corangamite Shire be reviewed.

In the calculation worksheet for Corangamite (pages 12 and 13 of the individual report). Our subgrades are rated as 1.01 for urban and 1 for rural. Therefore, Corangamite Shire does not get a positive cost modification for our rural road subgrades.

However, in the roads summary sheet. 1,438 km (65%) of our rural roads are rated as having highly reactive or extremely reactive clay soils. Our lived experience shows that the poor quality of sub-grade soils in the Shire contribute significantly to the cost of construction of roads due to the need to bring in additional road base material, undertake dig out or use lime stabilisation on heavily trafficked roads.

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Mason**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Corangamite Shire Council