



## The Hon Gayle Tierney MP

Minister for Training and Skills  
Minister for Higher Education

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Mayor Cr. Kathy Majdlik  
City of Melton | Cambridge Ward  
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Dear Mayor Cr. Kathy Majdlik

Thank you for your correspondence from 2 February 2021 regarding the 2021-2022 State Government Budget Submission. I have provided your submission to the Department of Education and Training.

The Department is aware the City of Melton has appointed Ernst & Young to deliver the *Melton Investment Attraction Strategy*. The strategy is designed to understand growth pressures and opportunities, and further guide a series of new investments across this rapidly growing region.

I note that Melton City Council calls on the State and Federal Governments to deliver TAFE and tertiary education within the City of Melton. The Department has undertaken preliminary thinking with regards to education provision in the area, and will continue to work on this.

The rapid population growth in Melton presents a future employment challenge with its population expected to be around 330,000 residents by 2036. If current growth rates were extrapolated, population could equate to between 575,000-630,000 residents by 2051.

As you have noted, the Andrews Labor Government has announced an additional \$75 million in this year's State Budget to secure a site and progress capital planning for a new Melton Hospital. The additional funding marks an important next step for the project, enabling further planning works, with preliminary designs, to achieve a 'shovel-ready' project for 2022. We understand that Victoria University is in preliminary discussions with the Victorian Planning Authority and Council to develop options around a hospital development.

From an investment perspective, the new hospital will aim to create 3,825 long-term jobs. Locating the hospital within the Cobblebank Metropolitan Activity Centre will trigger further investment and could help transform the Melton LGA into an economic centre of state-wide importance. Most importantly, it creates reliable public transport for those 3,825 long-term jobs.

These investments are an important consideration for education provision and its impact on leveraging training demand and employment opportunities in the new post-COVID-19 economy.

I am excited for the what the future holds at the Melton LGA and encourage Council to maintain contact with the Department.

If your officers would like to provide further information, they may contact Mr Phil D'Adamo, Executive Director, TAFE and Tertiary Institutions Division, Department of Education and Training, on (03) 7022 2077 or by email: [Phil.Dadamo@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Phil.Dadamo@education.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**The Hon Gayle Tierney MP**  
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26 March 2021