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The Hon. Catherine King, MP

Minister for Infrastructure

PO Box 6022

Parliament House Canberra

ACT 2600

Via email: Minister.King@mo.infrastructure.gov.au

Dear Minister,

Re:        Urgent attention – Road Sealing Funding

I am writing to you to request that you reconsider the decision to significantly reduce the funding for the “Sealing the Hills" and "Roads for our Community" programs.

As a local community member, I know first-hand the significant environmental, social, and economic benefits these unsealed road programs would have provided our area. Unfortunately, I also know the damaging repercussions that cutting unsealed roads funding will have on my community.

These works are vital to the development of the existing townships in and around the Hills and will greatly improve our community’s safety and access, while reducing dust, pollution, and wear and tear on our vehicles.

Our community has been severely impacted by major storms, our roads are littered with potholes, and we are one of the highest-risk bushfire areas in the state. A dangerous network of unsealed roads adds another layer of complexity that our community just doesn’t need or deserve.

Sealing our local roads would have improved the liveability and connectivity of my community; providing emergency services improved road access and supporting regional tourism to thrive.

This funding was originally announced by the Australian Government in 2019 with support from both sides of government.

My community and I are understandably devastated that funding has been cut.

We’re outraged that the safety, wellbeing, accessibility, growth and future development of the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding townships has not been prioritised, supported, or even considered by the federal government.

The decision to strip funding from these vital infrastructure programs has been a massive blow locally, as it was made without any consultation or explanation and despite significant work already being underway.

I support and believe in the work being undertaken as part of the Sealing the Hills program.

I want to see my local roads sealed and upgraded; I know many members within my community also do.

We deserve to have the federal government’s promises of funding for unsealed road upgrades upheld.

I urge you to immediately reinstate the previously committed funding for the ‘Sealing the Hills’ and ‘Roads for our Community’ programs in their entirety.

To further understand the severe impact that this cut will have on my community, I would like to invite you to come and visit the Hills area to witness the state of our unsealed roads first-hand.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Insert name