

## Inquiry into the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Tourism and Events Sectors

Mr Martin Richardson

**Organisation Name:**Paynesville Business and Tourism Association

**Your position or role:** President

### YOUR SUBMISSION

**Submission:**

Paynesville and district is heavily reliant on tourism for our economic well-being and employment.

Following the 2019/20 bushfires, which had a devastating effect on the visitor economy in East Gippsland, the COVID-19 pandemic had a severe impact on local business that are reliant on visitors, primarily from Melbourne, regional Victoria and interstate.

Following the loss of the peak summer trade, the shutdowns created a stop-start effect for tourism, with many businesses (especially in accommodation and hospitality) losing most or all their customers. Recovery over the last few months has been strong but has not compensated for the impacts that were felt throughout 2020.

Due to the logistical difficulties imposed by COVID-19 restrictions, the annual Paynesville Music Festival (normally held in February) was cancelled in 2021. Restrictions on the number of patrons in restaurants and live music venues has also had a severe impact on trade for those businesses.

There have been many lessons learned and there are opportunities for continued support for business recovery.

Further detail is included in the attachment.

### FILE ATTACHMENTS

**File1:** [60791f0502a69-Inquiry into COVID-19 impacts on Tourism and Events - Submission by Paynesville Business and Tourism Association.docx](#)

**File2:**

**File3:**

**Confidentiality:**

{Confidential1:value}

**Signature:**

Martin Richardson