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Friday, 13 April 2007

Mr Sean Coley
Executive Officer
Outer Suburban/Interface Services & Development Committee
Parliament of Victoria
Parliament House
Spring St Melbourne
VIC 3002

Dear Coley

**RE: SUBMISSION TO THE VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT'S INQUIRY INTO LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
IN OUTER SUBURBAN AREAS**

On behalf of the BioMelbourne Network, I am delighted to provide the following submission to the Victorian Parliament's Inquiry into Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Areas.

Yours sincerely

Tim Murphy

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Attachments: 1. Organisational details; 2. Submission

Attachment 1

Organisation details

1 *Details of organisation providing the submission:*

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Tim Murphy Chief Executive Officer	

2 *Background to BioMelbourne Network*

The BioMelbourne Network provides strategic leadership, business development and industry promotion assistance to the biotechnology industry of Victoria. The Network fosters more innovation, collaboration and connectivity in the Victorian biotechnology sector.

Since the Network's inception in 2001, as a project of the Committee for Melbourne it has grown into Victoria's premier biotechnology leadership forum with current total membership of over 155 organisations including the leaders in academia, biotechnology companies and business service firms. The Network's current members represent over 40% of the market capitalisation of the ASX Health and Biotech index, and over 35% of all NH&MRC funding as well as all of the top tier legal, advisory and business services firms in Melbourne.

3 *Areas of consideration*

- Examine local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas
- Identify the barriers to local economic development and the ways in which these can be addressed
- Investigate and recommend incentive arrangements for industry and the respective responsibilities for each tier of government
- Investigate the role of council local economic development units and the types of assistance they provide
- Examine and report on ways in which councils and government at all levels can encourage economic development., enhance and promote employment opportunities and attract new investment
- Identify export based operations and opportunities in outer suburban areas and recommend options to encourage their growth
- Identify new and emerging sectors and how they can assist economic development in outer suburban areas, including innovative examples of business incubators, home based businesses and social enterprises

Attachment 2

Submission to the Victorian Government's Inquiry into the Local Economic Development in Outer Suburban Areas

The BioMelbourne Network believes that this inquiry is both timely and necessary. The future economic growth and prosperity of our country – particularly Victoria and the greater Melbourne region – depends on the development of more innovative, export oriented and technology-based industries.

Since 2004 two significant studies have been undertaken to review local economic development programs being carried out by municipalities in outer suburban areas as they relate to the emerging biotechnology industry.

Each of these reports addresses the Terms of Reference of this Inquiry.

The first of these studies ***Bioscience to Bioindustry - A role for local government in biotechnology in Victoria*** by Aoris Nova Pty Ltd and Advance Consulting & Evaluation Pty Ltd made recommendations in the following areas:

- Business Development
- State and Local Partnerships
- Promotion and Awareness
- Program Coordination

A key outcome of that study was the formation of the BioCouncils Alliance. This consortium of six councils [Hume, Knox, Melbourne, Monash, Whittlesea and Wyndham] focussed its attention on further understanding the economic development opportunities of the biotechnology industry. The Alliance commissioned Atholl Business Consulting to undertake a detailed analysis by ***Mapping the Life Cycle of Biotechnology Companies – How to create local jobs and investment from Victoria's biotechnology company activities***. This report made a number of recommendations in the following areas:

- Cooperate in areas of mutual interest
- Play an active role in biotechnology precinct and industry hub development
- Assist with specialist planning permits
- Work with community attitudes
- Provide information on suitable premises

A copy of each report is included in this submission.

The recommendations from these reports especially the Athol Business Consulting report are still highly relevant. I urge the Committee to consider these reports in its investigation of the issues relating to strengthening communities through local economic development initiatives in Melbourne's outer suburban areas.
