



Sean Coley
Executive Officer
Outer Suburban Interface Services Development Committee
Level 3, 157 Spring Street
Melbourne 3000

NORTH Link/NIETL SUBMISSION

Dear Sean

As discussed previously, I write on behalf of NORTH Link/NIETL, seeking to make a submission in person to the Committee.

NORTH Link/NIETL is a regional economic development network incorporated as a community association comprising industry, education and local government representatives.

NORTH Link/NIETL is focussed on stimulating economic development in Melbourne's northern region, a region encompassing the cities of the Cities of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik , Whittlesea and Yarra.

NORTH Link/NIETL provides the framework within which key stakeholders in the northern region can work together towards the economic development of the region.

NORTH Link/NIETL was established in August 1995 with a Board of Management comprising local government, industry and education and the Northern Area Consultative Committee (NACC) and has provided many regional economic development initiatives for the region in that period.

The outer suburban interface councils will play a crucial role in the economic development of the seven northern region of Melbourne municipalities due to their complementarities and critical mass when considered as a whole.

NORTH Link/NIETL is particularly interested in addressing the Committee on the following aspects likely to impact on future economic development and employment in the northern region of Melbourne:

1. the need to maintain the existing strength of the region's manufacturing base whilst at the same time diversifying the economic base and employment opportunities
2. lack of sufficient office commercial accommodation
3. addressing skills shortages
4. the need to provide up to date socio-economic data on the region as it undergoes a critical period of change as a result of the changes that economic development in the outer suburban municipalities will bring to the region
5. cross municipality transport linkages to facilitate employment opportunities

We have been actively involved in addressing many aspects of the seven Terms of Reference of your Committee and would be most pleased to present these in more detail if offered the opportunity to do so.

I have attached the following documents produced by NORTH Link/NIETL for your information:

- **"Growing Melbourne's North - developing an integrated economy", a socio-economic study of the region and which provides regional milestones for the 10 years to 2014**
- "Melbourne's North the Best for Business" regional prospectus
- Newsletters featuring some of our activities

Yours Sincerely

Mick Butera
Executive Director
NORTH Link/NIETL

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