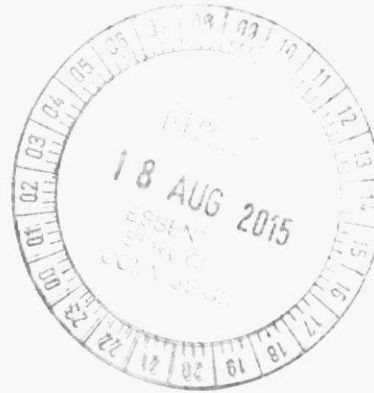




GREATER  
SHEPPARTON

14 August 2015



Essential Services Commission  
Level 37  
2 Lonsdale Street  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

To Whom It May Concern

**LETTER OF SUPPORT – WATER PLAN 2016-2020**

Please be aware that Greater Shepparton City Council is very supportive of Goulburn Murray Water's newly proposed Water Plan 2016-2020.

The Greater Shepparton Local Government Association features a significant agricultural footprint which is well recognised throughout Australia and overseas for delivering high quality produce. It is crucial that the operators within Greater Shepparton's various agricultural commodities are in a sustainable position moving forward to enable them to capitalise on the opportunities that are presented to them both domestically and abroad. It is also pertinent that Greater Shepparton operators can remain competitive on a global scale.

It is understood that Shepparton customer costs will reduce as a result of the Water Plan being adopted. Council is supportive of this as it will result in medium to larger operators having less of a financial burden. This will assist Council in attracting investment within the agricultural sector to the Greater Shepparton region and will also allow for customers to consider expansions and other business development opportunities due to the reduced water related fees.

It should be mentioned that water is a valuable resource that is increasingly in demand and it is crucial for Goulburn Murray Water to be in a sustainable position to best manage its pricing and operations. The adoption of the Water Plan will enable this to occur and will ensure costs are shared appropriately throughout the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District.

Should you wish to discuss this letter of support further or require additional support from Council, please don't hesitate to make contact with Council's Acting Director Sustainable Development, Geraldine Christou on (03) 5832 9873 or via email [geraldine.christou@shepparton.vic.gov.au](mailto:geraldine.christou@shepparton.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

**Cr Dennis Patterson**  
**MAYOR**

M15/56508

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