



Minister for Regional and Rural Development

1 Treasury Place
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002

- 4 JUN 2014

Mr Gavin Cator
Chief Executive
City of Greater Shepparton
Locked Bag 1000,
Shepparton VIC 3632

Dear Mr Cator 

I write regarding the proposal under consideration by Council to close Andrew Fairley Avenue in Shepparton.

As you are aware, under the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council has the authority to make a decision on the closure of Andrew Fairley Avenue. I am advised that Council has initiated this process, has advertised its intention, sought submissions and is currently considering these submissions, with a decision on the closure of the road to be made shortly.

I understand media reports may have left those following this issue with the impression that the State Government may use powers available to it to step in and in effect "force" the closure of the road.

I believe it is important that Council understands in its deliberations that the consideration of SPC Ardmona's request to close Andrew Fairley Avenue under the *Local Government Act 1989* is solely the responsibility of Council and the State Government is not intending to intervene in this decision.

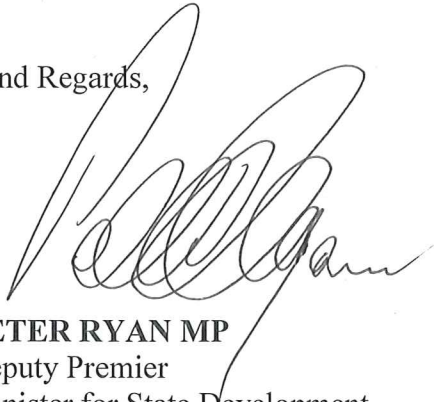
I also note media reports over the weekend that quote SPC Ardmona's Managing Director, Peter Kelly, suggesting that without a decision by Council to close Andrew Fairley Avenue, the investment program that will see the company transform its operations, modernise food processing and increase its global and domestic product range would be halted. This would also cause the future of SPC Ardmona's operations in Shepparton to again come before the Coca Cola Amatil (CCA) Board.

As you would no doubt appreciate, the Victorian Government went to significant lengths earlier this year to influence the CCA Board to reinvest in the plant at Shepparton. It would be unfortunate in the extreme if the uncertainty surrounding this remaining issue were to cause the Board to reconsider its very positive decision this year.

I note that, on behalf of Council, you have requested state government funding to assist in delivering the required road works should Council decide to close Andrew Fairley Avenue.

I can confirm that the Victorian Government will consider a funding request from Council towards the required road works associated with the closure of Andrew Fairley Avenue. As such, I have requested officials from my department to contact you directly to discuss and review the proposed works program and associated costs.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Ryan', written in a cursive style.

PETER RYAN MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development
Minister for Regional and Rural Development