27 June, 2007

Mr. Damian Drum MLC
Chairman
Rural and Regional Committee
Parliament House
Spring Street
Melbourne 3002

Dear Mr Drum

RE: PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO RURAL AND REGIONAL TOURISM

Please find attached our submission to the above.

We apologise for the delay and trust this submission will still be acceptable.

Yours faithfully

Peggy Rudge
Hon. Secretary
Mallacoota Golf & County Club
This submission is made on behalf of Mallacoota Golf and Country Club. Our Club has approximately 200 members. We have an 18 hole golf course all with grass greens. The course is maintained entirely by voluntary labour which in itself is a huge commitment by a small number of members. Our clubhouse has a kitchen and bar and is a source of good revenue for the club over the busy tourist periods.

Mallacoota is situated in Far East Gippsland and has a permanent population of approximately 1200 people. Tourism and fishing are the main industries of the town. The area is reliant upon the tourist industry for its economic survival and without its flow-on effect vital businesses and services would not be sustainable.

The Mallacoota Golf and Country Club provides recreational and hospitality services to the tourist industry. Visitors are encouraged to play golf on our highly regarded course with extensive ocean views and native wildlife. Other services include hire equipment, carts, courtesy bus and full catering facilities.

Mallacoota is an isolated and remote community. Its sustainability and growth is impaired by its location and lack of an agricultural base normally existing in rural towns. Although it is considered by many to be a unique coastal area with magnificent natural resources within the surrounding Croajingalong National Park and Wilderness Coast, it fails to grow and prosper. This is evident by comparing Mallacoota to the thriving NSW coastal towns of Merimbula, Pambula and Eden.

Mallacoota Golf Club requires ongoing Government support and assistance in order for the Club to continue providing sporting and recreation facilities to visitors and the community. In our view the exceptional circumstances that exist at Mallacoota require special consideration by State Government departments when assistance to rural and regional country towns are being considered.

P. Rudge
Hon. Secretary
Mallacoota Golf & Country Club