

4<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dr Sharman Stone MP  
**Electorate Office**  
426 Wyndham Street  
SHEPPARTON VIC 3630

Dear Ms Stone,

**Re: Tax free threshold - working holiday makers**

The local Fruit Growers have raised concerns with Moira Shire Council about the proposed tax increase on working holiday makers in Australia, and the impact this will have on their seasonal labour force.

Moira Shire Council writes to bring these concerns to your attention. The agricultural sector is dependent on these working holiday makers during harvest (peak season). They also boost the local economy by spending in the local shopping centres, contributing to the local accommodation facilities and assisting the local producers.

It is feared that any increase in tax to these holiday makers will adversely affect the agriculture sector and limit the number of them coming to the region. This will increase the strain on the industry, threatening the sectors ongoing viability and success.

As you would be aware, Moira Shire's agricultural industry is the largest employer in the region, employing 1,762 FTE employees (19.2%). The sector is also the second largest in output at \$378.524 million (14.3%).

Moira Shire Council has long supported the agricultural sectors in the region and is concerned about the increased impost on the agricultural sector at a time when the industry already faces skills and labour shortages.

Please don't hesitate to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Kind Regards,

Mayor Councillor Gary Cleveland  
Moira Shire Council