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## Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE USE

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### **Sheed calls for improvements in sharing COVID-19 information in regional Victoria**

Independent Member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed says she is extremely concerned about the potential spread of the coronavirus in our own local communities and calls for more direct information to be made available to everyone.

“I have noticed that on at least couple of occasions when important interviews are being given on ABC 774 in Melbourne with the Premier or the Chief health Officer that same interview is not being streamed through to our local regional ABC stations,” Ms Sheed said.

“It is important that people have the clearest and most up-to-date information at all stages just as occurred during the bushfires. I am concerned that this is not currently happening in some of our regional areas. I have now raised the matter with the Minister for Health’s adviser requesting that communication be increased in regional areas.

“We have all been told that the coronavirus is spreading rapidly and that the major impacts will be on the older and more vulnerable members of our communities. These people are our parents and grandparents, they are people that we love and care for and every step should be taken to ensure their protection. I am concerned that some of the messaging has been confused, delayed and lacking in clear direction for the community. We can take little comfort from the fact that we live in a rural community. We all travel as do our families and now all non-essential travel has been recommended against.

“We must now be vigilant in terms of following the health advice that is out there and taking even more precautions if you feel that it is necessary in your case.

“We must also look out for others in our community who we know maybe alone or more vulnerable and who may need some additional assistance with shopping and otherwise being prepared for quarantine periods or shutdowns.

“In country communities we know each other and now is the time for acting rationally and carefully to ensure the minimum level of risk to everyone we connect with and indeed for ourselves.”

ENDS

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