



Media Release

25 May 2018

City Deal to be a G21 focus in Canberra

Meetings in Canberra next week (Tue/Wed 29 & 30 May) will be among the most important G21 has had in recent years, aimed at ensuring the long-term prosperity of our region.

G21 board members will talk with ministers, shadow ministers and key advisers about priorities for Geelong and the G21 region, including aspects of a potential City Deal, G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said.

“Next week’s meetings come at a crucial time,” Ms Carbines said.

“A federal election must be held within the next 12 months and an historic City Deal funding package for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road is at an advanced stage of negotiation.

“We will be reminding Canberra that the State Government in its Budget earlier this month allocated \$153.2 million over coming years in readiness to lock down a deal.

“While the Federal Government has yet to announce specific funding it has indicated its intention to make announcements in coming months.

“We want to ensure future federal announcements are informed, relevant to the region’s needs and funded.

“A City Deal would align three tiers of government investment to accelerate economic growth and job creation, stimulate infrastructure renewal and drive business opportunity.

“Discussions to date about the central themes for a City Deal have focused on enhancing the economic benefits to flow from visitors to our region, new-wave manufacturing opportunities and fostering communities of professional excellence.

“A Geelong convention centre, facility upgrades for the Shipwreck Coast on the Great Ocean Road, innovative advanced manufacturing such as at Deakin University and revitalisation of central Geelong have all been flagged as potential City Deal investment projects.

“We’ll impress on both the Government and the Opposition that firm commitments are needed from both sides in the lead-up to the election.

“Regardless of the outcome of the next election, Geelong and Great Ocean Road must have a City Deal to drive our economy to the next level.

“Expectations of gaining a City Deal have been raised. Let’s hope disappointment is not on the menu.”

In addition to a City Deal, G21 board members will raise the full range of G21 Priority Projects for the region. Project details are at: g21.com.au

Among others, the G21 board will meet with:

- Deputy Prime Minister and Infrastructure Minister, Michael McCormack;
- Prime Minister Turnbull’s Chief of Staff, Peter Woolcott;
- Urban Infrastructure and Cities Minister, Paul Fletcher;
- Regional Development and Local Government Minister, John McVeigh;
- Environment and Energy Minister, Josh Frydenberg;
- Social Services Minister, Dan Tehan;
- Health Minister, Greg Hunt;
- Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities & Regional Development and Shadow Minister for Tourism, Anthony Albanese;
- Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry Science & Innovation, Kim Carr;
- Shadow Minister for Regional Services, Local Government and Regional Communications, Stephen Jones;
- Shadow Minister for Families & Social Security, Jenny Macklin; and
- Shadow Minister for Climate Change & Energy, Mark Butler.

Media contact:

***G21 CEO Elaine Carbines
(03) 5227 4000 office or 0437 202 300 mobile***