



Media Release

6 December 2018

G21 municipal council CEOs Canberra bound

G21 region's municipal council CEOs are heading to Canberra on Monday (10 December) to meet high-level department officials on key infrastructure and community development projects.

The G21 delegation will explain the challenges facing the region and promote opportunities to invest in key region-building projects.

G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said departmental secretaries and senior executives were principal policy advisers to ministers and therefore important influencers.

"It's in our region's interests to ensure department heads and senior officials fully understand our region's issues," Ms Carbines said.

"The delegation is especially timely, with work on the coming budget already underway in Canberra departments and an election due in the new year.

"The delegation follows on from a G21 Board delegation in May this year, which met with senior ministers and shadow ministers.

"The delegation is part G21's long-term strategy to reinforce the merits and key projects with decision makers in Canberra.

"The CEOs of G21's five member municipal councils will be advocating for G21's key priority projects.

"A particular focus will be on gaining clarification around the projects, and the next steps, for a City Deal for Geelong and Great Ocean Road.

“The CEOs will also advocate for their municipalities’ own local projects, in the context of gaining federal government grant assistance.”

Discussions on regional priorities are expected to include:

- A *City Deal* for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road
- Rail connections, including fast-rail to Geelong
- Geelong Convention Centre
- Relocation of Comcare to Geelong
- Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct
- Geelong Gallery extension and GPAC redevelopment
- Northern Arc and addressing disadvantage
- Avalon Airport
- NBN rollout
- Geelong Economic Futures proposal

“We aren’t expecting commitments on projects while in Canberra. The aim is to ensure our region’s needs are top-of-mind as Canberra’s most senior bureaucrats provide advice to their ministers,” Ms Carbines said.

The delegation expects to meet with the heads of departments or senior executives responsible for infrastructure, regional development, the environment, energy, industry, innovation, communication, the arts and social services.

“It will be a whirlwind one day visit of wall-to-wall meetings, however past experience tells us that these meetings are invaluable for their insights, which will pay dividends to the G21 region in the future,” Ms Carbines said.

The G21 delegation will include: Lenny Jenner, CEO, Borough of Queenscliffe; Eric Braslis, CEO, Golden Plains Shire; Peter Brown, CEO, Colac Otway Shire; Martin Cutter, CEO, City of Greater Geelong; Anne Howard, Acting CEO, Surf Coast Shire; and Elaine Carbines, CEO, G21.

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