



Media Release

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G21 heads to Canberra on City Deal

The [G21 board of directors](#) will be in Canberra next week (Wed 20 Feb) seeking assurances that an apparent dead-lock in negotiations on a City Deal for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road is resolved before the federal election.

G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said that despite lots of promises the details of a City Deal for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road have yet to be locked down.

“G21 is concerned that as a federal election looms the state and federal governments have yet to agree on crucial elements of the City Deal, including what projects will be funded and when the deal will be signed,” Ms Carbines said.

“Discussions between the Canberra and Spring Street seem to have stalled, or at the very least they are moving at a glacial pace.

“That is a problem. We don’t want politics to threaten the significant economy-building projects a City Deal would bring to Geelong and the region.

“Voters deserve to go to the election knowing that a deal has been done between the state and federal governments.

“People also deserve to know that all projects flagged by the Coalition for the City Deal will be honoured and funded by an incoming Labor government, should Labor be successful at the election, whether through a City Deal or from elsewhere in the budget,” Ms Carbines said.

G21 board members will meet Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Minister Alan Tudge and Education Minister Dan Tehan, among other government MPs and advisers.

G21 will also meet with Opposition Leader Bill Shorten and Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities, Regional Development and Tourism Anthony Albanese, among others.

The state government in its [2018 Budget allocated just over \\$153 million](#) to negotiate a City Deal.

Prime Minister Morrison last October announced his government would contribute \$154 million to a City Deal funding package for [a list of specific projects](#) in Geelong and the wider region.

The Opposition has also committed to provide \$153 million to what it calls a 'City Partnership', if successful at the next election.

The City of Greater Geelong has committed \$15 million to a City Deal.

The state government has yet to publicly specify a funding breakdown for its three major preferred project areas:

- Geelong Convention & Exhibition Centre
- Shipwreck Coast Master Plan
- Revitalising Central Geelong.

Whereas the federal government has been specific on funding breakdowns for its preferred projects, with a number not aligning to the state's three preferred project areas.

"The mismatch in projects between the state and federal governments is concerning," Ms Carbines said.

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

"We can't as a region let this amazing opportunity be lost because of politics.

"G21 has also urged the state government to negotiate in good faith with the federal government to finalise the City Deal, as a matter of urgency.

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

In addition to a City Deal, G21 board members will pursue several other projects while in Canberra.

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