



Media Release

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Elaine Carbines to step down as G21 CEO

G21 Chief Executive Officer Elaine Carbines AM has advised the G21 board she will not be seeking an extension of her contract when it expires later this year.

G21 chair Bill Mithen said Elaine has been a strong community leader for the region, strengthening G21's voice on behalf of the region and driving significant social, cultural, infrastructure and economic achievement.

"The board has accepted Elaine's decision with great sadness, but we have strong optimism for G21's next chapter," Mr Mithen said.

"On hearing Elaine's decision today the board took the opportunity to congratulate Elaine on her work and achievements during 10 years at the helm of G21.

"As CEO Elaine oversaw development of the G21 Regional Growth Plan and its companion implementation plan, which are the high-level documents guiding the region's growth into the future.

"The growth plan was ground-breaking and the state government subsequently adopted the model to roll-out across all regions of Victoria.

"Elaine's passion to assist the disadvantaged in our community was a key factor in G21 teaming up with the Give Where You Live Foundation to develop the GROW (G21 Region Opportunities for Work) program.

"This too is a ground-breaking program. It encourages businesses to spend locally to create local jobs and opportunities, especially in areas of high unemployment.

"The GROW program has also received state government support and is being rolled out to other regions.

"More recently, Elaine has driven G21's successful advocacy in Canberra and Spring Street for a ground-breaking City Deal for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road. The \$370 million City Deal will drive investment in the regional economy for years into the future.

“Elaine spearheaded G21’s successful campaign for much-needed joint state/federal maintenance and upgrade funding for the Great Ocean Road. As a result, federal government maintenance funding flowed for the road for the very first time. The works we are now seeing along the road are a direct result.

“Elaine has been instrumental in fostering many business and other opportunities across the region. Her networks and connections within the region and beyond are unsurpassed.

“Importantly, Elaine’s leadership has always been driven by integrity and strong values that have been matched by her dedication, skill and passion for the region.

“The board will have an opportunity to fully acknowledge Elaine’s many significant contributions to the region before her departure later in the year.”

Ms Carbines will conclude her time with G21 on Friday 7 August, to coincide with the annual G21 Stakeholder Forum.

Mr Mithen said the board would immediately begin a wide recruitment process with a view to having a new CEO in place for a suitable transition period.

Ms Carbines said she was honoured to have headed G21 through a challenging period of significant change for the region.

“The region has seen unprecedented population growth, an economic transitioning from reliance on big manufacturers to a more innovative, clever form of manufacture and a wide range of new service industries. The economy has transitioned in so many other ways too,” Ms Carbines said.

“At G21 I have always tried to consider the impacts that such big changes inevitably have on people’s lives. For a region to be truly prosperous it must care for all of its people and bring all of its people along. That has been a focus for me at G21.

“Calling an end to my time at G21 was an especially hard decision. I have loved every minute of this job. However, having achieved much at G21 during the last 10 years I feel comfortable in handing over the reins.

“G21 and the region are in a strong position. I am confident that whoever succeeds me has a solid foundation from which to take G21 forward,” Ms Carbines said.

Elaine said she planned to continue to sit on a number of boards after leaving G21. She is already planning travel and greater time with her family.

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