



# Media Release

29 April 2016

## **Bill Mithen appointed new G21 Chair**

The G21 Board of Directors elected Give Where You Live Foundation CEO Bill Mithen as its new chairperson today.

Mr Mithen replaces the former City of Greater Geelong mayor, Darryn Lyons, whose appointment to the G21 board ended with the State Government's recent removal of the City Greater Geelong Council.

Mr Mithen has been an elected member on the G21 board since November 2014.

"I'm honoured by the appointment," Mr Mithen said.

"Since joining the G21 board I've come to fully appreciate the breadth and magnitude of G21's work.

"I've been especially pleased to help build the relationship between the Give Where You Live Foundation and G21 to implement the GROW (Geelong Region Opportunities for Work) project targeting entrenched place-based regional disadvantage.

"G21 has earned the respect of both sides of politics because it has demonstrated over time that it has the region's best interests at heart.

"Much has been achieved by G21 for the region over more than 12 years. I will work to ensure that record of achievement continues.

"The region has big challenges ahead of it, with equally big opportunities. Alongside G21 CEO Elaine Carbines, I'm looking forward

to helping lead G21 as we build on the positives for our region,” Mr Mithen said.

Prior to joining the Give Where You Live Foundation, Mr Mithen was Australian Operations Director at Save the Children Australia.

During his time there he worked in a number of regional and remote Aboriginal communities as well as in many metropolitan communities experiencing disadvantage.

As part of a commonwealth government committee he helped develop an intensive parenting support program in the Northern Territory, and he was part of a state government working group that established guidelines for partnership between business and the not-for-profit sectors.

Prior to moving to the not-for-profit sector Mr Mithen held a number of private company directorships and worked in senior management positions within the marketing services, beverage and oil industries.

He also currently sits on the boards of Gforce Employment Solutions and Australian Community Philanthropy.

Mr Mithen holds a Masters of Business Administration and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He is the 2015 recipient of the SACS Leadership Award in the ‘Not for Profit Sector – Executive Winner’, and the Regional Achievement & Community Awards – ‘Leadership and Innovation Award’.

G21’s five member councils are the City of Greater Geelong, the Borough of Queenscliffe, Golden Plains Shire, Colac Otway Shire and the Surf Coast Shire.

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