



Media Release

5 December 2016

G21 municipal council CEOs head to Canberra

A delegation of the G21 region's municipal council CEOs to Canberra on Thursday (8 December) will advocate for key infrastructure and community development projects.

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

G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said departmental heads were the principal policy advisers to ministers and were therefore important influencers.

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

"The delegation follows on from the full G21 Board delegation in March this year, which met with the Prime Minister and Opposition Leader and a range of ministers and shadow ministers.

"The delegation is part of a long-term G21 strategy to reinforce the merits and importance of key projects with decision makers at all levels in Canberra.

"The CEOs of G21's member municipal councils will be advocating for G21's key priority projects. They will also advocate for their municipalities' current projects in the context of various federal government grant and assistance schemes," Ms Carbines said.

Advocacy discussions will include:

- Avalon Airport
- Land 400 project
- Great Ocean Road
- NBN rollout
- Geelong Convention Centre
- Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct
- Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour
- GPAC redevelopment

- Environmental issues, including LED street lighting, renewable energy and climate change mitigation
- East West traffic in Geelong
- Opportunities under various current federal grant schemes
- Status of the election-promise of a \$20m Corangamite-Geelong investment fund.

“Realistically, we aren’t expecting commitments on projects while in Canberra. The aim is to ensure the 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 responsible for matters such as communications, infrastructure, regional development, trade, the arts, the environment, industry, innovation, science and social services.

The G21 delegation will include: Keith Baillie, CEO, Surf Coast Shire; Kelvin Spiller, CEO, City of Greater Geelong; Lenny Jenner, CEO, Borough of Queenscliffe; Rod Nicholls, CEO, Golden Plains Shire; Sue Wilkinson, CEO, Colac Otway Shire; and Elaine Carbines, CEO, G21.

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