



Media Release

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G21 municipal council CEOs off to Canberra

G21 region's municipal council CEOs are heading to Canberra on Monday (20 Nov) 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, including a proposed City Deal for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road.

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 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 in Canberra; both politicians and officials.

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

"They will also advocate for their municipalities' current projects in the context of various federal government grant and assistance schemes."

Discussions are expected to include:

- A *City Deal* for Geelong and the Great Ocean Road
- Avalon Airport
- NBN rollout
- Geelong Convention Centre
- Apollo Bay Harbour Precinct
- Geelong Waterfront Safe Harbour
- GPAC redevelopment
- Northern Arc
- Environmental issues, renewable energy and climate change implications and mitigation
- East West road traffic Geelong CBD bypass
- Geelong Economic Futures proposal
- Opportunities under various current federal grant schemes

“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 and senior executives at the Prime Minister’s department and departments responsible for infrastructure, regional development, trade, the environment, energy, industry, innovation 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 and will pay dividends to the G21 region in the future,” Ms Carbines said.

The G21 delegation will include: Keith Baillie, CEO, Surf Coast Shire; Lenny Jenner, CEO, Borough of Queenscliffe; Rod Nicholls, CEO, Golden Plains Shire; Robert Dobrzynski, Acting CEO, Colac Otway Shire; Brett Luxford, representing the CEO, City of Greater Geelong; and Elaine Carbines, CEO, G21.

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