



**STATE  
BUDGET**

# Media Release

27 April 2016

## Tangible budget benefits for G21 region

The G21 region has benefited in real and tangible ways from the state budget, G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said today.

“The Andrews Government’s second budget recognises a number of key needs across the G21 region, including several projects G21 has advocated for as regional priorities,” Ms Carbines said.

“It was pleasing to see confirmation of previously announced funding for the much needed Western Distributor to help alleviate traffic chaos for commuters to Melbourne across the Westgate Bridge,” Ms Carbines said.

“Confirmation of funds for other major transport infrastructure projects include construction of a Drysdale Bypass and planning for an extension of the Geelong Ring Road across the Bellarine Peninsula.

“New funds were allocated for overtaking lanes on the Midland Highway at Meredith. Funds were also allocated for planning an upgrade of the Midland Highway to Bannockburn and for planning the duplication of Barwon Heads Road. These are all G21 Priority Projects.

“These road projects will all be important for commuters, businesses and the growth of local tourism.

“G21 welcomes \$6m for planning for a rail track duplication between South Geelong and Waurin Ponds stations, and for planning a new service to Armstrong Creek. Both are G21 Priority Projects.

“G21 has long advocated for increased passenger services through Geelong to Colac and Warrnambool. We welcome funds for this, but wait to see the detail as to the frequency of services proposed.

“Each of these projects will help manage the increasing demand on our rail infrastructure inevitably resulting from the region’s economic and urban growth.

“Education of the region’s younger generation has been a strong Budget theme in announcements for the G21 region.

“A much needed new Tech School at The Gordon TAFE will bolster the delivery of critical employment skills in a range of practical fields. This will help ensure training of skilled young tradespeople to meet the demand of a growing G21 regional economy.

“The announcement of more than \$35m across the region to either refurbish or upgrade schools is a welcome refresh which will help ensure our schools keep pace with contemporary education expectations.

“The government’ confirmation of funding for a school to serve the fast-growing Armstrong Creek urban growth area is welcome. This is part of a G21 priority project.

“A new \$11.47m police station to replace the outdated Colac facility, and an upgrade of the Geelong police station, are both welcome announcements. Our police deserve to have facilities which allow them to effectively support our community.

“Pleasingly the budget also provided \$7m for project costs for redevelopment of GPAC as part of the revitalisation of Geelong’s cultural precinct.

“A \$5.5m allocation will help implement the early stages of the Geelong Action Plan, including work on outdoor spaces and street scapes, as part of a longer-term project,” Ms Carbines said.

Key projects funded across Geelong and the G21 region, or which otherwise benefit the region, include:

- A commitment to \$1.46b over forward estimates to ensure the Western Distributor can proceed (a G21 Priority Project)
- Confirmation of \$4m for planning an extension to the Geelong Ring Road across the Bellarine Peninsula (a G21 Priority Project)
- Confirmation of \$106.7m to build a six-kilometre Drysdale By-pass
- \$6.9m additional toward the redevelopment and operation of GPAC (a G21 Priority Project)
- \$5.5m for early stages of the Geelong Action Plan, including streetscapes and outdoor spaces (a G21 Priority Project)
- Funding for the Geelong Authority, which includes scoping funds for a Geelong convention centre (a G21 Priority Project)
- Funds for new overtaking lanes on the Midland Highway at Meredith (part of a G21 Priority Project)
- Funds for planning an upgrade of the Midland Highway to Bannockburn (A G21 Priority Project)
- Funds to plan the duplication of Barwon Heads Road to meet growth at Armstrong Creek (a G21 Priority Project)

- \$6m for planning rail track duplication between South Geelong and Waurn Ponds stations and for planning a new service to Armstrong Creek (both are G21 Priority Projects)
- Funds for increased passenger services to Geelong and through to Colac and Warrnambool (a G21 Priority Project)
- Funding of a new Tech School to be located at The Gordon TAFE
- \$11.47m for a new police station at Colac
- Funds to upgrade the Geelong police station
- A funding commitment for a new school at the Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Centre (a G21 Priority Project)
- \$35m of upgrades and rebuilds at across multiple G21 region schools, including:
  - \$1.18m for Bellarine Secondary
  - \$5m for Belmont High
  - \$7m for Grovedale College
  - \$660K for Manifold Heights Primary
  - \$7m for Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College
  - \$2.5m for Nelson Park
  - \$4.2m for North Geelong Secondary College
  - \$2.5m for Oberon High
  - \$4m for Ocean Grove Primary
  - \$1.6m for Whittington Primary
- Funds to “protect Kardinia Park Stadium”
- Funds to assist with the fit out of a new Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre in Geelong.

“G21 and its members look forward to working with the government as the various budget-funded projects are implemented,” Ms Carbines said.

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