



Media Release

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G21 region to benefit from \$14+ billion state budget investment

The G21 region will benefit from commitments of more than \$14 billion in today's state budget, reinforcing the Government's belief in the region and confirming the effectiveness of G21's advocacy work, G21 CEO Elaine Carbines said.

"G21 on behalf of our members, including the five region municipalities, has been advocating strongly for priority projects across the region. We have taken every opportunity with local state parliamentarians, the premier and his ministers to push for projects of value to this region," Ms Carbines said.

"The effectiveness of advocacy work on behalf of the region by G21 and others can be seen, in part, in today's Budget. We know that Government's are more inclined to fund big projects close to an election, but these announcement's have exceeded our expectations.

"We are especially pleased that funds of \$8-10 billion has been allocated to complete Stage two of East West Link, which will run between the port area and the Western Ring Road.

"For the past year we have strongly advocated for the timing and staging priorities of the East West Link to be reviewed. Congestion on and around the West Gate Bridge and in the western suburbs is already a major hindrance to commuter and business traffic between Melbourne and Geelong. The acceleration of western access to this Link will hugely benefit the region's business growth, investment and socio-economic health.

"We are also strongly support the development of Barwon Health North, which will strengthen health care in our northern suburbs. Barwon Health and others have worked hard to achieve this important expansion in health services to this socially disadvantaged part of our region," Ms Carbines said.

"Funds have also been confirmed for previously announced projects, or ongoing projects, such as the Regional Rail Link, the Princes Highway West duplication to Colac, the Great Ocean Road upgrade and the establishment of the National Disability Insurance Agency."

Budget commitments to the G21 region include:

- \$8-10 billion for East West Link (Stage 2) completing the western section of the project
- \$220 million to build the Mildura to Geelong rail standardisation link
- \$28 million for Barwon Health North, an urgent care centre and co-location of GP services in Northern Geelong
- \$13 million for the Pioneer Road duplication to Meadowvale Road

- \$5 million to improve disability access at Geelong Rail Station
- \$1.3 million for continued planning of the Avalon Airport Rail Link
- \$400,000 to upgrade bus interchanges at North Shore and Moorabool Street
- \$8.5 million to upgrade Geelong High School
- \$5.7 million to upgrade Portarlington Primary School
- \$4.8 million to upgrade Montpellier Primary School
- \$2.2 million to upgrade Roslyn Primary School
- \$1.1 million to upgrade Clifton Springs Primary School
- Funding for new Bannockburn Primary School, Torquay North P-6 School and North Geelong Special Development School
- Funding for the Regional Connectivity program, providing free public wi-fi on the Geelong V/Line rail service
- Funding to continue a community finance hub in Geelong
- Continued funding of major infrastructure projects including the Regional Rail Link, duplication of Princes Highway West between Winchelsea and Colac and upgrade of the Great Ocean Road
- Continued funding to establish the National Disability Insurance Agency

“The State Government’s strong financial commitment to the G21 region is a tangible acknowledgement of the region’s standing in Spring Street,” Ms Carbines said.

“G21 and its member municipalities look forward to continuing to work with the State Government, including its local parliamentarians, to ensure effective implementation of the projects funded in the Budget.”

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