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Committee Secretariat
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary,

RE: G21-GEELONG REGION ALLIANCE SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY

As CEO of G21 - Geelong Region Alliance, I am pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission into the Committee's inquiry into the future role and contribution of regional capitals to Australia.

I would also like to extend an invitation to the Committee to hold a hearing in Geelong in order to more fully gain an understanding of both the role and contribution that Geelong makes as a regional capital.

Background

The G21 - Geelong Region Alliance was established in 2002 by five Geelong region municipalities (Geelong, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast, Golden Plains and Colac Otway) with the support of the Victorian Government and a wide range of local organisations. Membership now spans all three levels of government, non-government organisations, businesses and community groups.

Under the G21 - Geelong Regional Alliance we have brought together our region's leaders to develop a regional plan (*The Geelong Region Plan*), determine regional priority projects and advocate for their implementation.

We represent the voice of the G21 region and have a formal role, as the Regional Strategic Planning Committee, in advising the State and Federal Governments on regional issues and priorities.

The G21 region has an estimated population of 300,000 and covers over 9,000 sq. kilometres.



Geelong - Victoria's Second City

Geelong is the economic and service hub for the G21 region and is Victoria's second largest city.

Located 75 kilometres from the centre of Melbourne, urban Geelong has an estimated population of 184,182 (2014), whilst the local government area (City of Greater Geelong) has an estimated population of 224,926 (2014).

Serving South West Victoria as our region's capital city, Geelong is also the prime candidate to serve as a second city to Melbourne in the long term. It is already serving as a major employment and population centre (currently the largest employment and population centre in Melbourne's west) with growth in the sectors of tertiary education, health and research, freight and logistics (including port/airport) - all hallmarks of a very capable regional city.

The G21 region's major range of services and facilities, employment opportunities, skilled labour supply and improved connections to Melbourne will enable Geelong's transition to Victoria's 'second CBD' role by 2030.

We will provide a critical mass to serve the region and Melbourne's west with regard to employment, retail, education, personal services, culture, entertainment, sport and recreation.

Within the state and national context, Geelong provides:

- a unique opportunity for Melbourne to maintain strong productivity growth in a concentrated area closely linked to Melbourne;
- population growth close to jobs;
- efficiency in the housing market by providing timely land supply;
- for the alleviation of Melbourne's growth pressures.

Strategic Planning for Geelong and the G21 Region

I am very pleased to be able to provide you with a range of strategic G21 documents that will provide the Committee with a clear understanding of the investment challenges and opportunities to grow our region and its capital.



The documents are:

- ***The Geelong Region Plan: a sustainable growth strategy*** - launched by former Premier John Brumby in 2007 following two years of consultation with the G21 region community.
<http://www.g21.com.au/geelong-region-plan>
This is a high level strategic plan that looks to 2050 addressing the challenges the G21 region will face in the areas of environment, settlement, land use, community strength, economy and the way we make things happen.
- ***The G21 Region Community Profile*** - launched in December 2014
<http://www.g21.com.au/g21-region-profile>
This is a complete list of the latest data sets for the G21 region updating those used in *The Geelong Region Plan: a sustainable growth strategy*.
- ***The G21 Regional Growth Plan*** - incorporated into the State Planning Provisions Framework in April 2014.
http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/resources/g21_regional_growth_plan_-_april_2013_-_low_res_o.pdf
The G21 region's population is expected to grow by another 200,000 people by 2050. This plan identifies where the 500,000 projected G21 regional population will live, work and what infrastructure is needed to support a population of that size. It is one of eight regional growth plans across Victoria.
- ***The G21 RGP Implementation Plan*** - unanimously approved by all five G21 Councils in November 2013.
http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/resources/g21-rgp-ip_implementation_plan_16_dec_13.pdf
This plan identifies the infrastructure projects needed to support a population of 500,000 across the region. These projects will assist with the diversification of our economy and provide significant opportunities for employment generation.
- ***The G21 Economic Development Strategy*** - unanimously approved by all five G21 Councils in July 2014.
http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/resources/web_g21_economic_development_strategy.pdf
This strategy identifies key economic "game changers" for the G21 region.
- ***The 2015 G21 Region Priority Projects*** - this document lists the fifteen projects which are ready for investment in the G21 region. All projects have been endorsed by G21's five Councils and will provide significant employment opportunities for our people.
http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/basic_page/ppweb1503012-mar-2015-1016.pdf

I would like to expand briefly on the G21 RGP Implementation Plan and the G21 2015 Priority Projects documents.

Both of these documents detail infrastructure investment opportunities for Geelong and the G21 region.



They have been rigorously assessed across a triple bottom line framework and agreed to by our five G21 Councils.

The G21 RGP Implementation Plan

http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/resources/g21-rgp-ip_implementation_plan_16_dec_13.pdf

This document gives effect to the G21 Regional Growth Plan which details where the expected 500,000 G21 region population by 2050 will live, work and what infrastructure will be needed to service a population of this size.

Around 240 infrastructure projects are identified in the Plan for investment over the next 30 -40 years.

The projects are listed under five infrastructure themes:

- Transport
- Utilities
- Community
- Business
- Environment

Critical projects that will be catalytic in supporting the region's growth to 500,000 people and stimulate employment growth include:

- Improving transport connections to Melbourne particularly to address the congestion issue on the Westgate Bridge.
- Connection of the Geelong Ring Road to the Bellarine Peninsula.
- Geelong Ring Road and rail freight connections to the Port of Geelong and the Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct.
- Major upgrades to the Great Ocean Road and key connecting routes to the Princes Highway.
- Geelong Port shipping channel access and berthing improvements.
- Avalon Airport precinct development and rail link.

Other key projects include:

- Princes Highway duplication to Colac.
- Midland Highway duplication to Bannockburn.
- Upgrades to key transport links from Geelong to growth areas in Armstrong Creek and Torquay/Jan Juc.
- Enhancement of public transport across the G21 region.
- Potable water supply to intensive agriculture opportunities in Golden Plains Shire.
- Redevelopment of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre.
- Redevelopment of the Portarlington and Apollo Bay Harbours.



G21 Priority Projects 2015

http://www.g21.com.au/sites/default/files/basic_page/ppweb1503012-mar-2015-1016.pdf

The five G21 Councils prioritise investment opportunities which align with *The Geelong Region Plan* each year for government's consideration.

The level of agreement around these priorities is an enormous strength for our region and assists state and federal governments to identify their investment priorities.

The 2015 G21 Priority Projects are:

- Addressing Disadvantage
- Apollo Bay Harbour redevelopment
- Armstrong Creek Urban Growth Area
- Avalon Airport including international terminal
- Central Geelong Revitalisation
- Cruise Ship Destination - Yarra St Pier
- Geelong Convention and Exhibition Centre
- Geelong Future Cities Project including the redevelopment of GPAC and the Geelong Gallery
- Geelong Ring Road Connections to the Bellarine Peninsula and the Port of Geelong
- Geelong Ring Road Employment Precinct
- G21 Regional Trails Project
- Land 400
- Portarlington Safe Harbour
- Regional Rail Links
- Transport links to Melbourne

Conclusion

G21 is pleased to be able to demonstrate to the Committee the current and potential future role and contribution of Geelong to Australia.

I hope the Committee can see that our region, through G21, has worked together to proactively plan for our future by identifying infrastructure and social change projects that are not only ready for investment but will stimulate considerable employment outcomes for our people.

These projects are identified in submitted documents, the G21 Regional Growth Plan Implementation Plan and the G21 Priority Projects.

I strongly encourage the Committee to take the time to digest these considered strategies which will provide a focus for your work and hopefully help shape future federal government investment both in Geelong and the G21 region.



Thank you very much for providing G21 with the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Elaine Carbines
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

