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8th February 2019

Cr Bruce Harwood
Mayor
City of Greater Geelong
PO Box 104
GEELONG VIC 3220

Dear Mayor Harwood,

Bruce,

RE: FAST RAIL PROJECT

As Chair and CEO of G21 - Geelong Region Alliance, we would like to thank you for the presentation you made at the January board meeting re the City of Greater Geelong's fast rail proposal.

Improving rail access within our region and to Melbourne has long been a key priority for G21.

Whilst there have been incremental improvements in recent years to the rail system, they have not kept pace with our population growth. Consequently our region is poorly served by current rail access which is overcrowded, unreliable and for some parts, infrequent.

The City of Greater Geelong proposal for fast rail seeks to establish a 200km/h high frequency service linking Geelong and other regional centres to Melbourne and the Tullamarine and Avalon airports.

Currently we have over 20,000 G21 region residents commuting to Melbourne each day. The majority of these residents drive with only a third choosing to travel by train.

As our region grows, there will be increasing pressure on our transport systems both within the region and also to Melbourne. Fast rail would play an important part in allowing our region's people to access increased employment opportunities in Melbourne enhancing the strength of our economy.

Fast rail access to our state's two airports, Avalon and Tullamarine, would be of benefit to our region allowing residents a superior alternative to road access and alleviate the need for parking. Conversely it would place our region and all that we have to offer domestic and international tourists within quick and easy reach.

Ultimately the benefits of a fast rail service would spread across the G21 region with opportunities afforded to residents of each of G21's municipalities and would facilitate growth in centres such as Winchelsea and Colac.

We understand and appreciate that the City of Greater Geelong's fast rail proposal includes provision for other regional cities including Ballarat, Bendigo and Shepparton.

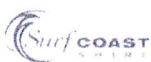
By linking with other regional cities, under the banner of the New Spirit of Progress, the City of Greater Geelong is positioning the fast rail proposal strategically offering a feasible solution to the issue of regions such as ours absorbing some of Melbourne's growth.

The G21 Board sees many benefits for our whole region from the City of Greater Geelong's fast rail proposal and offers its full support for its progress.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Mithen
CHAIRPERSON

Elaine Carbines
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



G21 is the formal alliance of the government, business and community organisations, working together to improve people's lives in the Geelong region.