

Media release



FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING

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BOLD FUTURE TO BE SET FOR INNER GEELONG

The Geelong railway station precinct could be transformed into a lively hub of activity with a wide range of entertainment, residential and commercial opportunities, Planning Minister, John Thwaites, announced today.

Mr Thwaites said an exciting project to identify and pursue strategic opportunities for the future of the Geelong railway station precinct over the next 20 years was today outlined to business, government, and community stakeholders.

"The project will look at a largely under-used and forgotten part of Geelong, known as the 'Western Wedge'. Adjacent to a number of key facilities such as the Geelong railway station and Western Beach foreshore, this area is primed to be a major urban regeneration project," he said.

"What we want to do is revitalise the area, stimulate and guide investment. With an emphasis on quality design, this project can unlock the area's full potential.

"It is essential that development in the 'Western Wedge' is co-ordinated to obtain optimum benefits.

"Upgraded rail services will provide improved access to the 'Western Wedge'. With Deakin University and Gordon TAFE nearby, this area has the capacity to be developed as a lively and diverse precinct with a mix of land uses," Mr Thwaites said.

The State Government has committed substantial funds to the revitalisation of inner Geelong, including:

- \$15 million for foreshore works (matching funding from the City of Greater Geelong)

- \$12 million for Central Activities Area Revitalisation Project (part of \$27 million project)
- \$1.25 million modal interchange at Geelong Railway Station

Mr Thwaites said the State Government also assisted with the establishment of the Deakin University Waterfront campus, and is delivering the fast rail upgrade that will bring further benefits to Geelong.

"This Government is committed to helping facilitate the revitalisation of the 'Western Wedge'. We will be working closely with stakeholders from the private, public, education and community sectors to push this exciting project forward," he said.

"This process is all about exploring strategic opportunities, identifying impediments and working with stakeholders to develop a joint vision for the area to maximise its potential.

The 'Western Wedge' initiative is a joint partnership between the Department of Infrastructure, the City of Greater Geelong and Deakin University's School of Architecture and Building.
