

# Media release



## FROM THE MINISTER FOR PLANNING

**DATE: Monday, April 22, 2002**

### **BRACKS GOVERNMENT PLANS FOR INNER-CITY LIVING IN GEELONG**

Encouraging waterfront living, short walks to public transport, and easy access to education and lifestyle facilities is the focus of a new Bracks Government vision for inner-Geelong, announced today.

Minister for Planning, Mary Delahunty, said the Department of Infrastructure would hold an information session next Friday (April 26) for the community to comment on the Western Wedge project, part of the Government's Transit Cities program.

The Government has committed \$120,000 for a study under the Transit Cities program which encourages higher-density, mixed-use development close to public transport, she said.

The study will focus on the area between Corio Bay foreshore, Geelong Railway Station and the Central Activity District – locally known as the Western Wedge.

"This project will provide a blueprint for cosmopolitan, inner-city living centred around the Geelong Railway Station," she said.

"Transit Cities represents our commitment to creating sustainable communities by putting public transport in the same places as housing, jobs and services.

"This improves accessibility, reduces car dependence and is a major theme of the upcoming Metropolitan Strategy."

Ms Delahunty said the plan will also outline better links between any new residential developments and the central business district of Geelong.

"Community interest in revitalising this part of Geelong is tremendous.

Independent of this study, architecture students at Deakin University have come up with their own ideas for developing the Western Wedge which will be on display at the forum," she said.

The study is being developed in partnership by the Department of Infrastructure, City of Greater Geelong and Deakin University should be completed in August.

**The exhibition of students' hypothetical design ideas for the western wedge will be held at Costa Hall Foyer, Deakin University (Waterfront Campus), Friday 26 April, from 4pm. The public information session will be held at the same location, from 5pm.**

**In addition, a series of 'open office' working sessions will be held at the Geelong Railway Station between 13-17 May and 10-14 June to provide an opportunity for anyone interested in the study to find out more.**