

Media Release

Christine Couzens MP
Member for Geelong



Tuesday, 11 August, 2015

G21 LOCAL PROJECT TO BENEFIT JOBSEEKERS

Member for Geelong, Christine Couzens, today announced funding of \$50,000 for a project that will identify the economic benefits and make recommendations for using purchasing power and procurement processes to benefit areas experiencing disadvantage in the G21 region.

The G21 Region Opportunities for Work (GROW) Regional Procurement Economic Modelling project will demonstrate the potential economic and social impact of increasing social procurement activity, including identifying key opportunities for increased local and social procurement spending in the G21 region.

“We’re supporting important initiatives such as GROW to strengthen our community and create local jobs.” Ms Couzens said.

The project will design tailored processes and principles that could be implemented by local organisations for routine spend as well as for major infrastructure projects, potentially leading to local jobs for targeted jobseekers.

Ms Couzens said *“This project will complement our \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund, which will create jobs and kick-start growth in the Geelong region and across regional Victoria.”*

Current data does not include procurement expenditure information beyond some high-level estimates and the project will provide a better picture of planned procurement expenditure across the region by engaging with more than 100 businesses.

The funding is being provided through the Regional Development Australia Program to Give Where You Live Inc on behalf of GROW and the Geelong Chamber of Commerce.