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MEDIA RELEASE

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## **\$60,500 to secure Land 400 Project for Geelong**

The Victorian Coalition Government is providing \$60,500 from its \$1 billion Regional Growth Fund to support the appointment of a specialist defence consultant to secure an Australian manufacturing solution of world-class armoured military vehicles for Geelong, Victoria, and Australia.

Member for Western Victoria David Koch today said the expert would advocate Geelong as the centre of expertise for the \$20 billion DMO Land 400 project – the largest armoured vehicle procurement contract in the world.

“This vital project will create a professional regional bid in response to an enormously significant opportunity for Geelong,” Mr Koch said.

“And it will have substantial business and employment opportunities if successful which will have huge ramifications for the local, state and national economy.

“Importantly, this contract has the potential to leverage the manufacturing skill base of the local workforce at a time when both Geelong’s and Victoria’s economy is in transition.

“Establishing Geelong as the hub of the contract will identify the city as pivotal in co-ordinating a local, state, national and global approach to this massive contract platform.

“The project consultant will compile a regional capability audit, and liaise with defence stakeholders in Canberra and Melbourne to win the most Australian content in the Land 400 platform and deliver it by harnessing Victoria’s highly skilled manufacturing workforce.

“This project will generate new jobs and multiple economic benefits across all sectors of the local and Victorian economy by attracting investment by large defence manufacturing companies.

“By winning the contract, Geelong will be able to transition the city’s existing manufacturing skills and fast track the local economy to a 21st century advanced manufacturing economy.

The project consultant will work on behalf of and in consultation with a Steering Committee, consisting of members from Enterprise Geelong, the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, the Geelong Manufacturing Council, G21 Regional Alliance, Deakin University, the Committee for Geelong, Regional Development Victoria – Geelong Office and Avalon Airport, who have committed time and resources to progress the project to this point.

“Enterprise Geelong is leading the project on behalf of the Geelong Land 400 Steering Committee and will promote Geelong’s capability and readiness to engage with local, state, national and global companies,” Mr Koch said.

Enterprise Geelong is the City of Greater Geelong’s economic development unit.

Mr Koch said the Victorian Coalition Government funding towards the \$135,150 project would be provided through the Regional Growth Fund to the City of Greater Geelong. The Steering Committee is also collectively contributing \$60,500 cash and additional in kind contributions.

“The Regional Growth Fund is investing in community-led projects to strategically drive jobs, investment and innovation in rural and regional Victoria.

“Since it was established in early 2011, the Regional Growth Fund has invested more than \$394 million to support almost 1400 projects across regional and rural Victoria, leveraging \$1.57 billion in total investment, Mr Koch said.”

In Greater Geelong, the Regional Growth Fund has provided \$27.7 million to 33 projects, leveraging \$372.3 million in total investment. Those projects include:

- \$500,000 to the \$1,500,000 Revitalisation of Laneways in Central Geelong project;
- \$300,000 to the \$555,000 Bellarine Rail Trail Pathway Improvement project; and
- \$500,000 to the \$2,400,000 Austin Park Redevelopment project.

For more information about the Regional Growth Fund please visit [www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-growth-fund](http://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/regional-growth-fund).

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