

23 May 2024

City of Greater Geelong  
Geelong Vic 3220

To whom it may concern,

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) Geelong Committee acknowledges the City of Greater Geelong's proposed 2024-2025 to 2027-2028 Budget and appreciates the increased capital expenditure which reflects a commitment to the region's growth and infrastructure.

### **About UDIA Victoria**

The Urban Development Institute of Australia, Victoria (UDIA Victoria) is the peak-body representing Victoria's urban development industry. We are a not-for-profit advocacy, research and educational organisation supported by a membership of land-use and urban development organisations.

Our members include organisations from across the private sector and Victoria's public service. We are committed to working with both industry and Government to deliver housing, infrastructure, and liveable communities for all Victorians.

UDIA Victoria represents a broad range of industry organisations across Victoria's regions. We are proud to be able to play a role in the continued growth of our State's regional centres.

UDIA Victoria's regional chapters, including the Geelong Chapter (Barwon Region), are represented by committees made up of industry participants from the respective regions – ensuring local knowledge, expertise and insight informs everything we do.

UDIA Victoria's regional advocacy program recognises the important role the regions play in providing affordability and lifestyle for the Victorian community. At the same time, we support locally appropriate urban policy that reflects the unique characteristics of each region.

### **City of Greater Geelong Proposed Budget**

We have reviewed the Budget and provide this submission in light of the UDIA Geelong Chapter's Barwon Region Strategic Priorities document, which can be found at the below link:

[UDIA-Victoria\\_Geelong-Chapter-Strategic-Priorities-2024-2025\\_004.pdf \(udiavic.com.au\)](https://www.udia.vic.gov.au/UDIA-Victoria_Geelong-Chapter-Strategic-Priorities-2024-2025_004.pdf)


- The allocation for a shared path through Armstrong Creek and the Bellarine Regional Rail Trail aligns with the UDIA Victoria's vision for sustainable urban development and connectivity in the growth areas.

- The funding for land acquisition in Armstrong Creek for Development Contributions (DC) funded projects is also a positive step towards accommodating the area's expansion.
- UDIA Victoria recognises the important role of the G21 and we support Council's decision to re-engage as a member of that organization.
- However, the Committee expresses concern over the lack of focus on affordable housing – a critical issue for the region's socioeconomic balance and inclusivity.
- The introduction of a new landscape plan checking and inspection fee, previously non-existent, is a further added cost to development which impacts affordability.
- UDIA Victoria urges Council to allocate funds for the preparation of a new Housing Strategy to guide the revision of residential zones, ensuring they meet the community's diverse needs.

In conclusion, while UDIA Victoria supports many aspects of the proposed budget, it strongly advocates for a more pronounced commitment to housing strategies, which are crucial for the well-being and diversity of the Geelong community. UDIA Victoria, through its Geelong Committee, remains dedicated to collaborating with the Council to achieve these goals – fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable urban environment for current and future generations.

### Further Consultation

We appreciate the opportunity to engage in this process.

If you would like to discuss any of the matters raised in this submission, please don't hesitate to contact UDIA 

Regards,

