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## Geelong's Low Carbon Future Blueprint to Lead Nation

BY EDITOR, ON OCTOBER 15TH, 2010

The City of Greater Geelong could become Australia's low carbon leader following a \$300,000 contribution from the Brumby Labor Government to produce an Australian-first regional blueprint for Geelong's low-carbon future.



Member for South Barwon and the Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Water, Michael Crutchfield, said developing the Low Carbon Growth Plan at the regional level could set the scene for innovation, research, partnerships and new jobs in response to climate change.

"The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong (LCGP) will deliver a comprehensive, economy-wide blueprint specifically tailored to the Geelong region and will outline how the City can build a low-carbon economy", Mr Crutchfield said.

"This partnership between the Brumby Labor Government and City of Greater Geelong will assist Geelong to become a world leader in integrating climate change considerations into their future economy.

"The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong could lay the groundwork for any future Climate Covenant with this region by providing the regional 'roadmap', which highlights opportunities for action to encourage new partnerships, research and development and stimulate new jobs by building on the existing clean tech, ICT, biotechnology and manufacturing clusters in Geelong."

"Our government is committed to supporting local governments take practical localised action on climate change. The key aims of the Climate Change White Paper, "Taking Action for Victoria's Future" and the Climate Change Act are to empower communities, regions and industries to be innovative and demonstrate leadership in their responses to climate change.

"By evaluating Geelong's current greenhouse gas emissions sources, the Low Carbon Growth plan will identify the biggest opportunities for reducing emissions for the region, in line with the strategic priorities for the region.

"The Low Carbon Growth plan will provide possible 'action areas' for the

City of Greater Geelong to achieve ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions while building a low-carbon economy.

“The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong will be developed through a partnership between the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Environmental Protection Authority, Sustainability Victoria and the City for Greater Geelong. Work has begun on Geelong’s Low Carbon Growth Plan with a draft plan expected by early 2011.

“The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia identified 54 opportunities across all sectors that together can achieve a reduction in emissions of 249 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e (million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent), or 25 per cent below 2000 levels,” Mr Crutchfield said

City of Greater Geelong Mayor Cr John Mitchell said a Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong will be an important guide to the Geelong community on how to advance Geelong in a sustainable way.

ClimateWorks Australia will develop the Low Carbon Growth Plan for the Geelong Region, based on their work in developing the Low Carbon Growth Plan for Australia, released this year.

The Low Carbon Growth Plan for Geelong is a key input into another pilot environmental program known as Future Proofing Geelong that seeks to position Geelong as a demonstration city showcasing a community transitioning into a low carbon future while developing existing local industry, growing the economy and ensuring liveability.

“Many things are already being done to enhance the sustainability of our region – by coordinating these individual efforts through the Future Proofing Geelong agreement we can make our city achieve the maximum benefit from each environmental initiative,” said Mayor Mitchell.

“Future Proofing Geelong is about sharing ideas and opportunities for collaboration between all the relevant organisations including the City of Greater Geelong, the Victorian Government, Barwon Water, Deakin, local industry, business and the broader community,” Cr Mitchell said.

The Future Proofing Geelong program also involves:

- Establishment of a steering committee and reference groups
- A detailed discovery exercise across Council, other public authorities and the private sector to provide a consolidated report on sustainability initiatives underway.
- A communication strategy that showcase current sustainability leadership across the city as well as Geelong’s future aspirations.

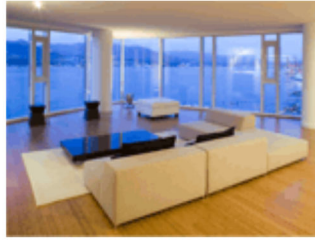
Cr Mitchell said the Low Carbon Growth Plan is a key component to inform the Future Proofing Geelong program and will help Geelong become a leader in the low carbon future.

Source: MICHAEL CRUTCHFIELD MP, State Member for South Barwon, Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment and Water media release

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