

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASKFORCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. BACKGROUND

What is G21?

G = group, Geelong and goals. 21 = 21st Century. Accordingly, G21 refers to the group representing the Geelong region in achieving goals in the 21st Century...

Purpose of G21

G21 is an alliance of five Councils (Colac Otway, Golden Plains, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast) and more than 150 participating local organisations working together towards a common vision: "making the Geelong Region Australia's most desirable destination for living, visiting and investing - renowned for its vibrant, cohesive community, exceptional physical environment and vigorous economy".

Formed in 2002, the heart of G21 is a series of Pillar Groups representing priority interest areas of the Region including: Arts, Culture & Heritage, Community Safety & Security, Economic Development, Environment, Health & Wellbeing, Lifelong Learning, Research, Sport & Recreation, Telecommunications and Transportation. The Pillar Groups range in size from 12 to 25 people and include representatives from diverse business, community and government organisations from all parts of the Region.

During the strategic planning process in 2005-06 a number of new projects have developed which enables groups of interested stakeholders to come together to work on specific projects or in focused taskforces.

2. INTRODUCTION

The Geelong Region Alliance ("the Alliance") is formed under the auspices of:

- Borough of Queenscliffe
- City of Greater Geelong
- Colac Otway Shire
- Golden Plains Shire
- Surfcoast Shire

The "Alliance" is the term given to the collective of people, groups, enterprises and agencies who have come together around a common strategic purpose. That purpose is to lead and support the development and implementation of actions and projects that will benefit the communities of the G21 Region.

The Alliance is based on goodwill and a shared commitment and responsibility for the outcomes described below.

The operation of the Alliance is guided by a set of principles and enabled through a simple two level structure consisting of:

Pillar Groups – consisting of representatives of groups, enterprises or agencies with particular expertise or interest in a pillar theme.

Special Project Working Groups/Taskforces- also allow the alliance to focus on particular actions identified through the Geelong Region Plan and gives opportunities to invite other parties with expertise to contribute to achieving regional priorities.

The Victorian Government supports the investment in affordable housing through programs and strategies such as the Social Housing Innovations Program, the Affordable Housing Growth Strategy for Low Income Victorians and Towards an Integrated Victorian Housing Strategy’.

3. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Affordable Housing Taskforce is to support and development an integrated strategic framework that sets principal goals, priorities and outcomes for affordable housing across the region. (Geelong Strategic Plan, regional page 57, objective 3, 4, 3 ‘Implement new and innovative partnerships and ways to encourage and stimulate the supply of well located affordable housing.’)

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

The functional responsibilities and outcomes of the Affordable Housing Taskforce are:

Aim: To foster and undertake actions that will support the growth and development of affordable housing across the region.

1. Undertake an annual Regional Housing Needs study and publish this trends analysis data.
2. To develop and communicate a G21 Region Affordable Housing Strategic Plan.
3. Investigate the establishment of a Housing Association.

4. MEMBERSHIP

There are two 'levels' of Taskforce membership:

a. Forum:

A large e-mail list of people to be kept informed and invited to periodical forums. These members may bring specialist skills and knowledge to add value to the Taskforce working parties.

b. Core:

A group of members directly involved in the delivery of objectives and operation of the Taskforce.

It is expected that members of the Taskforce will be drawn from:

- Local Government Community Development, Economic Development, Planning and Statutory Delegates from:
 - Borough of Queenscliffe
 - City of Greater Geelong
 - Colac Otway Shire
 - Golden Plains Shire
 - Surf Coast Shire

- Housing Services Delegates from:
 - Barwon Housing Advisory Group
 - Community Housing Providers
 - Regional Homelessness Networks

- State Government Delegates from:
 - Department for Industry and Regional Development
 - Department for Victorian Communities
 - DHS Office of Housing
 - Department of Sustainability and Environment

- Business and Industry
 - Developers
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - REIV
 - Area Consultative Committee

Membership of the Core Taskforce may change from time to time. See attachment 1 for the membership of the Affordable Housing Taskforce as at May 2007.

5. RESOURCES

City of Greater Geelong and G21 have committed administrative and worker resources for an initial six month period.

Once the Taskforce has been established it will be responsible for developing a work plan and securing resources to implement that plan.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

Communications – internal

Internal communications shall be managed through the group emails noted under the membership section and through meetings.

Internal communication issues shall be an agenda item for consideration at all meetings. All members of the Taskforce will ensure that their respective organisations are informed of the progress of the Taskforce.

The Taskforce will communicate using the G21 mechanisms (i.e. Pillar to Pillar snapshots and /or make formal presentations to the Pillars, G21 website, and report to the G21 board) on a regular basis.

The G21 website can be used by the Taskforce. A Taskforce member may have the responsibility of updating the status of the Affordable Housing Taskforce on the G21 website.

An internal communication strategy shall be developed as a priority once the Taskforce is confirmed and operational.

Communications – external

All external communication shall be the responsibility of the auspice organisation and/or lead agency (advised by the Taskforce and subject to the approval of the auspice organisation). All external communications will acknowledge the G21 alliance.

An external communication strategy shall be developed as a priority once the Taskforce is confirmed and operational.

5. DEFINITION

Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing encompasses both rental and ownership, and relates to more than simply the cost of housing. Affordable housing is:

- Well located with regard to accessing community, retail, education and medical facilities as well as employment opportunities
- Appropriate to the requirements of a given household such as safety of children, older persons and persons with a disability
- Priced at a reasonable cost, with payments (whether mortgage repayment or rent) being no more than 30% of that household's income, to enable payment of other essential expenses including utility costs, food and clothing.

Housing affordability is more than simply about providing accommodation it is connected to how a society operates, relates and provides for its constituents. Without affordable housing local households cannot access employment, health, transport and other services. As well as the impacts on individuals and households lack of affordable housing will influence local industries such as manufacturing, retail and hospitality services where the workforce is often rely casual and part time.

Attachment one Affordable Housing Taskforce

Membership as at May 2007

	Name	Agency / Organisation	Involvement
1.	Mike Barrow	Colac Otway Shire	Economic Development
2.	Trudi Toyne/ Mayor. Pat Semmens	Borough of Queenscliffe	Community Development Chariperson
3.	Cameron Brenton	City of Greater Geelong	Planning
4.	Dennis Barker	Surf Coast Shire	Senior Management
5.	Tim Harrop	Department of Human Services	Housing
6.	Christine Kilmartin	Department of Sustainability and Environment	
7.	Hal Bisset		Community representative
8.	Brett Bedson	Barwon Housing Advisory Group	
9.	Marina Lewis	Regional Homelessness Network	
10	Neil Clark	Community Equity Housing Ltd.	Business and Industry
11.			Taskforce working group- Chairs

Attachment two
G21 - GEELONG REGION ALLIANCE

PRINCIPLES

The principles underpinning the G21 - Geelong Region Alliance are:

- **A Diverse Non-Partisan Membership:** A diverse non-partisan membership recognises and values the role that each sector and the community has in the planning for the region's future and therefore ensures that the membership is balanced and representative of all the interests.
- **Communication:** Open communication underpins all aspects of the Alliance as an imperative that will foster understanding, coordination, cooperation and alignment of purpose and outcomes.
- **Building Partnerships:** A key driver of the Alliance is the building of relationships which will enhance coordinated regional planning and associated outcomes and that encourages innovative ways to achieve better results for the region through more efficient use of resources.
- **Building Consensus:** Consensus is an essential component in creating the new alliance. Consensus building is based on the belief that developing common vision, goals and objectives, sharing of information and joint support of projects builds trust and benefit of the whole region.
- **Community Involvement:** Is an essential element in ensuring that the region's communities have a voice and are directly involved in all levels of the planning process from proposal inception through to post implementation evaluation.
- **Community-focused:** Involves identifying all those served by or potentially served by a project, distinguishing their different needs and involving them purposefully in the planning, implementation and evaluation processes.
- **Promote the Concept of Sustainability:** Recognises that in the long run, the economy, the environment and society are interdependent and that today's needs must be met without sacrificing those of the future.
- **Support Existing Efforts:** That the role of the Alliance is to enhance rather than duplicate the efforts of existing public and private organisations working on social and economic development and environmental sustainability.
- **Resourcing:** The partners will need to collectively identify and tap resources outside the Alliance to fund activities or projects that are beyond the scope or means of any single public or private organisation.

Comments made by participants at the forum for consideration by the Taskforce

1. Terms of Reference document

- This Terms of Reference document is a 'draft'
- Responsibility 1. is an aim and other actions will fall under this
- What are the tasks and the outcomes?
- Separate aims and outcomes

2. Resources and commitment

- Resources may be available from State Government to support Needs Analysis
- Individual Councils will make their own decisions in regards to resourcing the plan and the commitment to this
- 'Crunch' decisions for Local Government areas will come later, after development of the Strategic Plan

3. Timelines and communication

- How long will the taskforce exist?
- Each representative (participant) must involve their respective organisations.
- Communication between representative (participant) and their respective organisation must be active
- Relationship between workers and resources of the Taskforce should/ could be refined

4. Action

- Affordable Housing statement to be included in G21 strategic plan (Chris Balaam from G21 alliance to action)