

## Chamber partnership will create a stronger voice for Geelong business

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A new alliance between the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Geelong Chamber of Commerce will boost the voice of the Geelong business community and enable stronger advocacy on key local issues.

Victorian Chamber Chief Executive Mark Stone said the two chambers were pleased to join forces to campaign on local, state and federal issues that impact Geelong business and industry.

“Geelong is Victoria’s second largest city and is home to more than 16,000 businesses across a range of sectors including health, defence, advanced manufacturing, agribusiness and information technology,” said Mr Stone

“We’re thrilled to be working more closely with the Geelong Chamber of Commerce to better engage with businesses at a local level, facilitate more effective knowledge sharing and provide better advocacy support to members.”

Geelong Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Officer Bernadette Uzelac said the Geelong Chamber and the Victorian Chamber had historically worked well together and it was positive to formalise the partnership.

“By combining our policy and advocacy resources, we will create a stronger voice for the Geelong business community and work together to develop solutions to the issues that local businesses face,” said Ms Uzelac.

“We know that this new alliance will provide real value to businesses that call Geelong home and look forward to providing increased support to our members.”

Mr Stone said under the new alliance, Geelong Chamber of Commerce members would be eligible to access the benefits of a Victorian Chamber Essentials membership including business tools and templates, business intelligence and discounts on Victorian Chamber networking events, consulting services and training courses.

### **Background**

*The Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, established in 1851, is the most influential business organisation in Victoria, informing and servicing more than 15,000 members, customers and clients around the state.*

*The Geelong Chamber of Commerce, established in 1853, is one of Australia’s leading regional business bodies with nearly 900 members and a successful history of advocating on behalf of Geelong business.*