

Sydney

January 2019

Cr Bruce Harwood
Mayor of Geelong
100 Brougham Street
GEELONG VICTORIA 3220

Sub-16-3219

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SHEET		
CONF	RES: Other	
R/O		
PROP SUBJ	STREET PROJ	APPLIC V/COV
ACTION	At Info - Mayor & Council	
NOTES	PREP	REC'D
BOX #	5	BAK
DOC #	D19-66614	

My dear Mayor,

I last visited Geelong in my role as CEO of Infrastructure Australia. We talked of challenging the city to forge its own path and not wait for the State or Commonwealth. I feel strongly about communities taking charge of their own affairs. Other Government tiers may support but not supplant, local engagement. I understand Ms Allan, the relevant Minister, has become a powerful ally for your community. That is refreshing and exciting news. Yet consultants engaged by the department keep asking me for alternative solutions. They are not able to tell their client, the department, that there is a better way. To do so apparently would be commercial suicide.

I have seen your plan for a regional fast rail alliance. You are forging the right path and doing it the right way. It is a sensible solution to a significant and real problem.

To capture a genuine partnership with the community, other Governments, institutions and the private sector will be groundbreaking and a signpost for many others. It will be transformative for the people you represent and the nation.

I have spent over 40 years in transport and infrastructure, in senior government and private sector roles. (Infrastructure Australia, Olympics, Rail and Highways Commissioner, chair of the National Transport Commission and much more). In

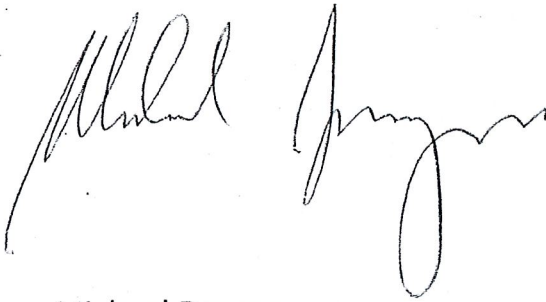


that time, I have seen great ideas white-anted. You and your committee must lock down financial and other support from the State Government - start by building a small pool yourselves to maintain your independence but seek matching funds quickly. I will happily work on the Federal Government with you. You are clearly developing a relationship of trust and cooperation with the State political leaders. Keep that going. Your policy is the solution they need to a problem not yet fully understood by the State agencies.

I encourage your group to remain united. Do not be dissuaded by those who argue it is not your role to be involved in such matters as they know not what they do.

If I can be of any assistance at any point, feel free to call.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Deegan', written in a cursive style.

Michael Deegan

c.c Premier Andrews

Minister Allan

Mr Albanese