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Context

The City of Greater Geelong is Victoria's largest regional municipality. Located 75 kilometres south west of Melbourne, the municipality covers an area of 1247 square kilometres comprising suburban, coastal, and country areas. Greater Geelong is bounded by the Moorabool Shire in the north, Wyndham City Council and the Borough of Queenscliffe in the east, Surf Coast Shire and Golden Plains Shire in the west, and Bass Strait to the south.

Greater Geelong is within the traditional territory of the Wathaurong Aboriginal clan groups.

Geelong is the largest regional city in Victoria and the primary service and employment hub for the G21 Geelong Region Alliance. The municipality is a popular retirement destination, particularly the coastal towns on the Bellarine Peninsula.

The Bellarine Peninsula and Surf Coast are both declared a 'distinctive area and landscape' under Part 3AAB of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*. This declaration offers legislative protection for the environment, landscapes, cultural heritage and natural resources of the areas.

The municipality includes a rich diversity of flora and fauna, including rare and unique species and communities, major waterways, large coastal areas and complex freshwater and marine wetlands.

The rural areas of Geelong and its many attractions are highly valued for their contribution to the economy, liveability and amenity of the whole municipality.

Greater Geelong's heritage is a significant part of the City's attraction as a place in which to live, visit, do business and invest.

The municipality is located on the state and interstate road and rail network, providing direct links to South Australia, south-western Victoria and Melbourne. The City's infrastructure base includes Avalon Airport, the Geelong Port and major road and rail connections to Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's western regions.