COMMITTEE FOR GEELONG

Annual Report

2025–26



Geelong: Victoria's Capital of Good Growth

Committee for Geelong is the independent, non-partisan Voice of Future Geelong.

We know Geelong is one of Australia's fastest-growing cities and most dynamic regional economies.

We want to grow well, not just fast.

Our ambition is for Geelong to be Victoria's Capital of Good Growth where prosperity, liveability and shared opportunity grow together.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Committee for Geelong acknowledges the Wadawurrung People as the Traditional Owners of the lands, waters, seas, and skies on which we operate. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australia's First Nations people. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation with First Nations People and supporting them in having a voice.

Thank you to our Corporate Plus Members for their ongoing support.

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Chair Report



It is an honour to write as the first woman Chair in the Committee for Geelong's 25-year history.

I am grateful for the confidence of my fellow Board members and look forward to working alongside Deputy Chair Brett Winter, our members and team as we guide the Committee into its next chapter.

I sincerely thank outgoing Chair Clive Pugh for his exceptional service. Clive joined the Board in 2016 and served as Chair for six years, guiding the Committee through significant change and strategic renewal. We are fortunate to retain his experience and commitment through the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Throughout the 2025–26 financial year, the Committee continued to connect members, develop local leaders and encourage informed discussion about our region's future. Our events, forums and leadership programs demonstrated the strength of our networks and the value of bringing different perspectives together.

Since the end of the reporting period, we have also seen a transition in executive leadership. On behalf of the Board, I thank Michael Johnston for his contribution as CEO and welcome Kate Coghlan as Interim CEO while we undertake the recruitment of a permanent CEO.

As we enter our next 25 years, the Board is sharpening the Committee's focus and strengthening its role as the independent, non-partisan Voice of Future Geelong.

Our ambition is for Geelong to become Victoria's Capital of Good Growth, where economic prosperity goes hand in hand with liveability, opportunity and a strong sense of community.

Realising this ambition will require clear priorities, informed advocacy and strong partnerships across government, business and the community. The Board's responsibility is to ensure the Committee remains focused, independent and well positioned to make a meaningful contribution.

I thank my fellow Board members for their commitment and sound governance, our members and sponsors for their ongoing support, and the Committee team for their professionalism through a period of change.

It is a privilege to lead the Committee at this important point in its history, and I look forward to what we can achieve together.

Rebecca Bartel

Chair
Committee for Geelong

> **Our ambition is for Geelong to become Victoria's Capital of Good Growth.**

Interim CEO Report



The 2025–26 financial year has been another important year for Committee for Geelong, bringing together leaders from business, government and community to champion the ideas and investment shaping our region's future.

Throughout the year, the Committee continued its advocacy on major regional priorities, including Avalon Airport, freight and logistics, employment growth, Kardinia Park and the revitalisation of Central Geelong.

Our events and briefings connected members with key decision-makers, including Victorian Treasurer Jaclyn Symes, and provided opportunities to explore issues ranging from renewable energy and medical research to government policy and investment.

These conversations are an important part of what the Committee does: bringing different perspectives to the table, building relationships and helping our region speak with a strong, independent voice.

Our leadership programs also continued to make an important contribution.

In 2026, Leaders for Geelong celebrated 20 years, with 742 alumni across the region. Research released in 2026 examining the program's longer-term impact found that 89 per cent of alumni surveyed had taken new leadership action after participating. The research estimated that alumni had collectively generated $17.9 million in social value and positively affected more than 46,000 people.

These are significant results and a reminder that investing in people creates benefits well beyond individual careers. Through Leaders for Geelong and Activate, we're helping develop people who understand our region, can work across sectors and are prepared to contribute beyond their day jobs.

The Future Geelong Leadership Awards, delivered for a second year in partnership with the Geelong Advertiser, celebrated that same spirit. The 2025 Frank Costa Leadership Award recognised Lino Bisinella's extraordinary contribution to Geelong over more than six decades. Having arrived from Italy in 1959, Lino built a remarkable business while helping shape the city we know today. His lifelong commitment to creating opportunity, building communities and giving back is a powerful example of the leadership these awards celebrate.

I joined Committee for Geelong in August 2026, following the departure of Michael Johnston, whose leadership and commitment made an important contribution to the organisation and our region. Michael worked tirelessly to strengthen the Committee's advocacy, build relationships across government, business and community, and champion the development of local leaders.

I want to acknowledge his considerable contribution and the strong foundations he helped establish for the Committee's next chapter.

> **As the independent, non-partisan Voice of Future Geelong, our role is to champion the decisions, investment and partnerships that will make that possible.**

As we enter our next 25 years, we have an opportunity to build on that work with renewed focus and ambition.

Geelong is changing before our eyes. More people are choosing to live here, new industries are emerging and investment is reshaping our economy.

But growth is not an end in itself.

Our ambition is for Geelong to become *Victoria's Capital of Good Growth*, where prosperity, liveability and shared opportunity grow together.

As the independent, non-partisan Voice of Future Geelong, our role is to champion the decisions, investment and partnerships that will make that possible.

That requires trusted evidence, sustained advocacy and leaders who can look beyond their own organisations and work together in the region's long-term interests.

My priority is to listen to our members, draw on their considerable expertise and focus our efforts where they can make the greatest difference.

Thank you to our members, Board and team for your contribution and commitment. I look forward to working together for this beautiful place we are lucky to call home.

Kate Coghlan

Interim Chief Executive Officer
Committee for Geelong

Our Members

Corporate Plus Members

Melbourne Avalon Airport

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Geelong Advertiser

KPMG

Bisinella the key to your community

ndis

PORTS VICTORIA

TAC

WorkSafe VICTORIA

Community Members

Active Geelong Limited
AFL Barwon
Arcadia Landscape Architecture
Back to Back Theatre
Barwon Health Foundation
BATForce
Creative Geelong
Don't Forget Your Pet Foundation
Fruit2Work
Geelong Community Foundation
Geelong Foodshare
Geelong LLEN
Geelong P-TECH
Geelong Regional Engineers Group
Geelong Sustainability
Geelong Waterfront Film Foundation
Give Where You Live Foundation
Lifeline Direct - Geelong & South West Victoria
LRM Property Advisory
Northern Geelong Rental Housing Co-operative Ltd
Ocean Mind
Read the Play Inc
Rights Information and Advocacy Centre
Runway HQ Limited
Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA)
Victoria Police
Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation
Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative Limited

Corporate Members

Advanced Fibre Cluster Geelong
Alcoa of Australia Limited
AMDA Foundation Limited
Anseed Pty Ltd
APCO Service Stations
Arthur St Digital
Arup
Balmoral Quay
Barwon Health
Barwon Water
Built
Centuria Capital Ltd
Circ Consulting
City of Greater Geelong
Colliers Geelong
Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Corangamite Catchment Management Authority
Costa Property Group
Coulter Legal
Crowne Plaza Geelong C/O Plenary Conventions (GCEC) Hotel Operations Pty Ltd
Cultura
Davinski Nominees Pty Ltd
Enterprise Monkey Pty Ltd
Epworth Health Care
Fagg's Group Pty Ltd
Geelong Arts Centre
Geelong Broadcasters K Rock



Geelong Chamber of Commerce
Geelong Football Club Limited
Geelong Gallery
GeelongPort
genU
Gforce Employment + Recruitment
GHD Pty Ltd
GMHBA Ltd
GMIC Ltd Trading as Geelong Manufacturing Council
Gouge Linen & Garment Service
Graincorp Operations Ltd
Hamilton Group
Hamlan Homes
Hanwha Defense Australia
Harvest Talent Recruitment & People Solutions
Harwood Andrews
Heinz Law
Kane Construction Pty Ltd
Kardinia International College
Kardinia Park Stadium Trust
LBDG Developer Pty Ltd
LBW Business & Wealth Advisors
Leisure Networks
MAB Corporation Pty Ltd
Maddocks
Medigrowth Australia Pty Ltd
Meli
Miepol Pty Ltd
Mt Duneed Estate
Novotel Geelong
Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre
ORIX Australia Corporation Limited
Paul Kelly Creative
Plenary Group Holdings Pty Ltd
Preston Rowe Paterson Geelong
Quest Geelong Central
Quintessential Asset Services Pty Ltd
Ratio Consultants
Riordan Group Pty Ltd
Royal Geelong Yacht Club
SCAADA
SMEC Australia Pty Ltd
Smith Land Consulting
St John of God Health Care
Telstra
The Gordon TAFE
The SAFV Centre
Tourism Greater Geelong and the Bellarine
Tract Consultants Pty Ltd
Truffleduck Pty Ltd
TT-Line Company Pty Ltd (Spirit of Tasmania)
Urbis Pty Ltd
Villawood Properties
Viva Energy Australia
Vopak Victoria Energy Terminal Pty Ltd
Waste Services
Western Victoria Primary Health Network
Winchester Australia Limited
WT Partnership Australia

Major Events

2025 Project Presentation Breakfast

On Wednesday 8 October our 2025 Leaders for Geelong cohort presented their community project findings to a room of 180 at Kardinia Park Stadium, a defining moment in the Leaders for Geelong program.

Our Leaders Groups





Leisure Networks



Give Where You Live

2025 Leaders for Geelong Graduation

The 2025 Leaders for Geelong celebrated their graduation at Mt Duneed Estate on Wednesday 3 December with special addresses from the Mayor of Geelong Stretch Kontelj, WorkSafe Executive Director of People and Culture Jane Barker as well as hearing from Leaders for Geelong Alumni Leon Czarnuch (2006-08) as well as contributions from Wes Self (2013-15) and Tamara Maddrell (2024).



Julie Greenwood, Laura Mojsiej, Joanne Jones, Lisa Barton, Agnieszka Walsh, Kristen Grasso.

2026 International Women's Day Breakfast

Our 2026 Comm Bank International Women's Day Breakfast was held on Friday 6 March at Kardinia Park Stadium with special keynote Leigh Sales OAM. Leigh captivated a sold-out audience of 500 as she reflected on her career highlights and gave insights drawn from her extensive journalism experience.

The Breakfast also celebrated the Committee for Geelong's first female Chair Rebecca Bartel.

Leigh Sales.





IWD Guests



IWD Book Signing



Elisa Hunter, Kate Manning, Shaun Cumming.



Jane Barker, Sonia Pettenon, Lauren Carnegie.



Leah Jenkinson, Abbey Bennett, Leanne Poon, Alicia Mills, Kath Young, Jess Sharp.

Events, Briefings and Engagement

2025

July

Djilang Advertiser

Post Budget Briefing with Victorian Treasurer Jaclyn Symes

Activate Round Two 2025

Geelong Advertiser Member Briefing Be Seen, Be Heard, Be Local

August

Net Nature Positive Forum

Vopak Victorian Energy Terminal – Online Briefing

September

Hydrogen Prospectus Member Briefing

October

2025 Project Presentation Breakfast

Industry Insight: Medical Research with Medigrowth



Net Nature Positive Forum with Barwon Water August 2025.

November

2025 Annual General Meeting

Industry Insight: The future of Renewable Energy with GeelongPort

2025 Future Geelong Leadership Awards

2025 Frank Costa Leadership Award Recipient – Lino Bisinella

Leaders for Geelong Delegation to Canberra

December

2025 Leaders for Geelong Graduation

2026

February

Commencement of the 2026 Leaders for Geelong Program

March

International Women's Day Breakfast with Leigh Sales

Future Geelong Forum

Geelong Major Events Forum #3

April

Activate Leadership 2026 Round One commenced

May

Re-imagining the Night: A Guided experience in the city after dark

2026/27 Victorian Budget Analysis

2026/27 Federal Budget Analysis

Corporate Plus Member Stories

Ports Victoria

Ports Victoria has a longstanding, collaborative relationship with the Committee for Geelong. Our involvement as a Corporate Plus member reflects a shared commitment to the region's long-term economic prosperity, liveability, sustainable development and resilience.

Headquartered in North Geelong, Ports Victoria is responsible for safe navigation and marine services across Victoria's commercial ports, including Geelong. 98 per cent of international trade moves by sea, and we support over 10,000 commercial vessel movements each year.

The port of Geelong is a major Victorian trade gateway, facilitating fuel, agricultural products, bulk commodities and renewable-energy infrastructure. Its economic impact extends beyond Geelong, connecting our state to the world's supply chains.

With port infrastructure taking 15 to 20 years to deliver, forward planning is essential. Our connection with the Committee helps us align maritime safety, navigational access and infrastructure planning with the region's vision.

Leaders for Geelong participant Deputy Harbour Master Peter Mason says the Geelong FoodShare project has been a highlight of his leadership journey, allowing him to step outside his usual maritime world. "I've really valued the opportunity to meet people across the community, visit different organisations, hear their stories, learn from the passion and experience they bring."



2025 Future Geelong Leadership Awards

The Committee for Geelong partnered with the Geelong Advertiser for the second consecutive year to present the 2025 Future Geelong Leadership Awards, celebrating the remarkable individuals and organisations whose leadership, vision and commitment are helping shape our region's future.

2025 Future Geelong Leadership Awards Winners:

Deakin University Under 25 Leader: Alexander Scott

At just 12 years old, Alexander turned personal adversity into a movement for kindness by recycling 30,000 cans to fund an anti-bullying film and launching "Shoot For Kindness, Blockout Bullying," inspiring children to become upstanders and driving community-wide change.



Rebecca Bartel with Alexander Scott.

Liveability Leader Award: Chris Kelsall

Chris, an inspiring community leader, has dedicated decades to service through CFA leadership and tireless volunteering with Barwon Health, providing compassionate care and support that enriches lives across Geelong.



Chris Kelsall with Michael Betts.



Dan Simmonds with Cameron Hamilton.

Corporate Citizen Leader: Hamilton Group

Hamilton Group, a third-generation family business, is revitalising Geelong through sustainable urban renewal projects like Federal Mills, creating vibrant precincts that preserve heritage, foster innovation, and support thousands of local jobs.

Workplace Leader Award: Kane Nuttall

Kane Nuttall, founder and CEO of The Power in You Project and Hope Soaps, is transforming lives by supporting recovery from addiction and mental health challenges while creating employment and mentorship opportunities through innovative social enterprise.



Kane Nuttall with Michael Johnston.



Corrina Eccles and Jennifer Cromarty.



Brett Winter with Ramon Rodriguez.



Isini Puhula Gamayalage with Richard Bisinella.

Cultural & Recreation Leader: Jennifer Cromarty

Jennifer Cromarty has shaped Geelong's cultural landscape for decades through leadership roles, founding Creative Geelong, and now championing the arts with her gallery Untethered, driving creativity and community vibrancy.

Connectivity Leader: Brett Winter

Brett Winter has strengthened Geelong's connectivity and economic future by leading transformative projects at GeelongPort, including the Spirit of Tasmania terminal and the proposed Geelong Renewables Terminal to support offshore wind energy.

People's Choice: Isini Puhula Gamayalage

At just 20, Isini is a compassionate leader, volunteering in the high-pressure Emergency Department at Barwon Health. This Deakin University nursing student also mentors her peers, serves as President of Girl Guides and is a national athlete. Her dedication extends globally with volunteer work in Sri Lanka, embodying discipline and service.

The Frank Costa Leadership Award

Lino Bisinella was named the 2025 Frank Costa Leadership Award recipient in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to Geelong.

Arriving from Italy in 1959, Lino founded L. Bisinella Developments and has spent more than six decades shaping our city. Still working at 81, his success reflects a lifelong commitment to building communities and creating lasting value, not just profit.



Committee for Geelong Chair Rebecca Bartel with Lino Bisinella.

His philosophy is clear: "Business success comes with a degree of social obligation. Treat your team, partners, and customers like family—with trust and respect—and success will follow." Lino believes businesses exist because of the communities they serve, so giving back is not optional, it's a duty.

This belief shines through his actions: opposing the Waste to Energy Incinerator, funding Samaritan House and Anam Cara, restoring heritage sites, and quietly helping countless individuals. His family motto, "the key to your community," reflects his values of family, care, and connection.

Lino reminds young leaders that "profits come and go, big deals fade, and flash cars aren't what business leaders are remembered for." True success, he says, is measured by what you do with your good fortune to make your community safer, healthier, and happier.

As Lino puts it: "This country has been good to us, and our success has given us the opportunity and the duty to make life better for others. That, to me, is success."

Rebecca Bartel, Chair of the Committee for Geelong, said:

"The Frank Costa Leadership Award celebrates those who lead with heart and long-term vision. Lino embodies that spirit.

His life's work shows that real success is measured not just by what you build, but by what you give back.

For more than six decades, Lino has shaped our region with unwavering integrity, generosity and a deep belief in the power of community.

Thank you Lino."

Geelong Through a New Lens

In 2025, Committee for Geelong partnered with emerging filmmaker Luke Buesnel to showcase our changing city through *Moving to Geelong*, part of his popular *Streets Discovered* YouTube series.

The documentary explores why more people are choosing to call Geelong home, highlighting our growing economy, vibrant lifestyle and strong sense of community while challenging outdated perceptions of the region.

The partnership was an opportunity to tell Geelong's story in a fresh, authentic way and reach audiences beyond our traditional networks.

With more than 200,000 views on YouTube, the film demonstrated the power of digital storytelling to raise Geelong's profile and showcase the region as a great place to live, work and invest.

200,000+
views on YouTube

Scan to view the video



Film maker Luke Buesnel, presents Moving to Geelong.





Stills captured for the Moving to Geelong video.

Strengthening Community Leadership



2025 Leaders for Geelong.

2026 Leaders for Geelong

In 2026, Leaders for Geelong marked 20 years of developing people who understand our region, build relationships across sectors and are prepared to make a difference beyond their own organisations.

The program has become an important part of Geelong's leadership community, bringing together people from business, government and community to broaden their perspectives, strengthen their leadership skills and contribute to the region's future.

The 2026 cohort commenced in February with an opening retreat, bringing together participants from different industries and backgrounds to explore their own leadership, build relationships and develop a deeper understanding of Geelong.

Throughout the year, participants have explored the opportunities and challenges facing our region through community visits, conversations with established leaders, leadership development sessions and engagement with State and Federal Parliament.

A defining feature of Leaders for Geelong is its community projects. Working in small teams alongside local organisations, participants apply their skills to real challenges, developing practical recommendations and solutions while building connections beyond their usual professional networks.

These experiences help participants see the bigger picture, understand different perspectives and develop the confidence to take action.

20 years of local impact

Research undertaken by Purpose Made in 2026 demonstrated the lasting contribution of Committee for Geelong's leadership programs.

Across two decades, 742 alumni have participated, with alumni-led work estimated to have positively affected more than 46,000 people and generated $17.9 million in social value.

The research also found that 89 per cent of surveyed alumni had taken new leadership action after completing the program, while 94 per cent reported a stronger ability to see the bigger picture.

These findings reinforce the value of investing in people who can work across organisational boundaries, exercise sound judgement and contribute to Geelong's long-term prosperity, liveability and shared opportunity.

As our region continues to grow, developing this kind of connected, community-minded leadership remains one of the most valuable investments we can make in its future.



2026 Leaders for Geelong.

742
Leadership program alumni

46,430
People positively affected

$17.9m
Estimated social value

89%
Took new leadership action

Source: Purpose Made, 2026. Cumulative and surveyed alumni outcomes, not results attributable solely to the 2026 cohort.



2026 Activate Leadership Program participants, Session 1.

Activate Leadership Program

During the 2025–26 reporting period, the Committee for Geelong delivered two cohorts of the Activate Leadership Program in 2026, providing 30 participants with an opportunity to strengthen their leadership capabilities and build connections with peers from across the Geelong region.

Activate supports emerging and new leaders, as well as people looking to further develop their leadership skills, to reflect on their approach, understand their strengths and develop practical capabilities to lead teams, navigate change and make a positive difference in their workplaces and communities.

The two cohorts brought together participants from a diverse range of organisations and industries, including health, local government, legal services, employment, and workplace safety.

This diversity created opportunities for participants to share experiences, learn from different perspectives and establish meaningful connections beyond their own workplaces.

Through a combination of workshops, online sessions and practical activities, participants explored key leadership themes including leading with purpose, understanding strengths, leading teams, managing change and leading in the community. The program encouraged participants to build self-awareness, strengthen their communication and leadership skills, and consider how they could apply their learning in their professional and community roles.

A key feature of Activate is the opportunity to connect with established local leaders. These conversations give participants insight into different leadership journeys, experiences and approaches, encouraging reflection on their own development and the realities of leadership.

Participants also undertake small-group project work and prepare presentations that bring together their learning throughout the program. The program's focus on inclusive leadership and leadership legacy encourages participants to consider how they can create positive and lasting impacts within their organisations and the wider community.

Through Activate, the Committee for Geelong continues to build a strong pipeline of emerging leaders, equipping participants with the skills, confidence and connections to contribute to their organisations and the future of the Geelong region.



Lauren Carnegie
Community Leadership Director



Karen MacAdie
Community Leadership Coordinator

2025–26 Financials

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	**444,557**	**336,167**
Trade and other receivables	**57,055**	**50,948**
Other financial assets	**254,507**	**245,220**
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**756,119**	**632,335**
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	**17,239**	**17,898**
Intangible assets	**3,000**	**5,250**
Right-of-use assets	**21,482**	**35,049**
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	**41,721**	**58,197**
TOTAL ASSETS	**797,840**	**690,532**
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	**55,851**	**40,238**
Lease liabilities	**15,581**	**13,442**
Employee benefits	**38,787**	**30,795**
Income in advance	**197,673**	**85,655**
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**307,892**	**170,130**
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	**10,115**	**25,696**
Employee benefits	**2,943**	**360**
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	**13,058**	**26,056**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**320,950**	**196,186**
NET ASSETS	**476,890**	**494,346**
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	**476,890**	**494,346**
TOTAL EQUITY	**476,890**	**494,346**

Statement of Profit or Loss For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
INCOME		
Revenue	**948,892**	**892,127**
Finance income	**9,984**	**13,902**
Other income	**101,898**	**161,094**
TOTAL INCOME	**1,060,774**	**1,067,123**
EXPENDITURE		
Operating expenses	**(263,851)**	**(300,314)**
Leadership portfolio expenses	**(111,080)**	**(105,177)**
Employee expenses	**(703,299)**	**(708,227)**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**(1,078,230)**	**(1,113,718)**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	**(17,456)**	**(46,595)**
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	**(17,456)**	**(46,595)**

Davidsons

/ EST.1905

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE DIRECTORS OF COMMITTEE FOR GEELONG LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Committee for Geelong Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the declaration by those charged with governance.

In our opinion the financial report of Committee for Geelong Limited has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), including:

(a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
(b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Standard and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2026, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report in accordance with the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Stephen Kirtley
Director

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2026

Davidsons Assurance Services Pty Ltd
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COMMITTEE FOR GEELONG

Committee for Geelong Ltd

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