

***Media release***

**28 February 2018**

### Surf Coast Shire Council becomes a GROW partnerSurf Coast Shire Council has demonstrated its commitment to helping address disadvantage in the G21 Region, signing up to the GROW Compact.GROW (G21 Region Opportunities for Work) is a long-term strategy that aims to generate local sustainable jobs and support job seekers from areas with high rates of unemployment to have equal access to work opportunities.Council resolved at its February meeting to sign up to the GROW Compact and embed its principles into the organisation by developing a Compact Action Plan.

### Mayor Cr David Bell was proud that Council was becoming a partner in the social procurement initiative.

### “GROW aligns perfectly with a couple of our objectives as a Council – to provide support for people in need and to support the creation of jobs in existing and new businesses to meet the needs of our growing community,” Cr Bell said.

### “While we currently have a low unemployment rate, we know that more employment opportunities need to be created to match our population growth. We see GROW as a crucial activity that will help us foster communities where job creation is more likely.”

GROW is a joint regional initiative between **Give Where You Live Foundation** and **G21 – Geelong Region Alliance.**

“We’re excited to work with and learn from other organisations to develop ways to support disadvantaged people not only in the Surf Coast, but the wider community,” Cr Bell said.