

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 2, 2016

Techne Wins Contract to Build \$120 Million National NDIA Headquarters *Local Geelong consortium set to create signature building at The Carlton*

Local Geelong project development group, Techne Development (Techne) has won the right to build the new national headquarters of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) and other Commonwealth departmental offices.

The \$120 million project will be developed on the former Carlton Hotel site in Malop Street in Geelong's CBD.

The announcement was made by Federal Minister for Social Services, The Hon. Christian Porter; Minister for Human Services, The Hon. Alan Tudge; Assistant Minister Disability Services, The Hon Jane Prentice and the Federal Member for Corangamite, Sarah Henderson MP on Thursday, December 1.

Techne Managing Director, Scott Vickers-Willis says his company is delighted and privileged to have been awarded the contract.

"As a fifth generation Geelong family, we are very proud to be delivering this exciting project for Geelong," he says.

"And the opportunity to develop the headquarters for Australia's largest current social initiative is a genuine privilege for our team."

The renewal of the Malop St site continues the revitalisation of Geelong's CBD and Mr Vickers-Willis believes the prominent location of the site between TAC and WorkSafe's new offices in Geelong was a major factor in the contract win.

"Our site sits in the bullseye of Geelong's developing insurance hub directly between the TAC and the future Worksafe headquarters. In terms of position and access, we have always been confident that we could provide an ideal solution to the NDIA's requirements," he says.

"Added to that, the exciting design vision for the building created by our architects Woods Bagot has brought to life what we believe will be a new signature building for Geelong."

The nine level, 6 Star Greenstar and 5 Star NABER's rated building, will offer views over the bay, with uninterrupted window access on all four perimeters creating excellent primary light and outlooks, enhancing employee amenities .

Car parking for 166 vehicles will be provided in the basement area, linked by secure lift access direct to the lobby and generous end of trip facilities that will make The Carlton an exemplar office building in Australia.

The proposed design of The Carlton will retain the striking Art Deco façade of the Carlton Hotel and Techne has committed to work with City of Greater Geelong (CoGG) to incorporate upgrades to the Malop Street streetscape to accompany its proposed development with a tree-lined 'green spine' connecting Johnstone Park and Geelong Railway Station with the city's retail hub.

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2016 National Master Builder of the Year and builder of the Geelong Library and Simonds Stadium, Kane Constructions, has been appointed builder for the project.

Mr Vickers-Willis says many Geelong based companies have been active in the design and planning of the project so far and he looks forward to being able to offer local businesses ongoing opportunities where possible.

“We are also grateful to secure the opportunity for our family to be long term owners of this significant investment asset with an established and closely associated group of investors, many of whom are local to Geelong,” he says.

The local economic impact of design and construction expenditure is estimated to be \$120m and the Carlton project will create several hundred jobs during construction.

Mr Vickers-Willis says work on the site is expected to start in 2017.

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ABOUT TECHNE:

For over 35 years the Techne Group of Companies has successfully developed quality projects with the adaptability and flexibility to tailor services to the specific needs and requirements of its varied base of customers.

Techne has planned, designed, constructed and developed over 50 prominent commercial projects in Melbourne and Sydney, and in regional Victoria and New South Wales.

www.technegroup.com.au

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