

MEDIA RELEASE

30 April 2026

MERGER COMPLETED: HUME BANK AND GEELONG BANK STRONGER TOGETHER FROM 1 MAY

Hume Bank and Geelong Bank will merge on 1 May 2026 to form one of Australia's largest regional customer-owned banks with \$2.4b in assets, a network of 16 branches and over 60,000 customers.

The merged entity will offer greater resilience and an enhanced capacity to invest, creating a stronger foundation to deliver what members need now and into the future.

From May 1, both Hume Bank and Geelong Bank brands will continue to operate, maintaining their strong local identities and customer relationships.

Hume Bank Chair Dr Kerry Grigg said the merger would combine two values-aligned, customer-owned banks to create a stronger platform and deliver more meaningful outcomes for members and communities.

"The completion of our merger on 1 May is a significant milestone for Hume Bank and Geelong Bank.

"Both banks already share deep regional roots, strong member relationships, and an unwavering commitment to customer-owned banking.

"Together, we will build a stronger, future-ready bank that continues to make a meaningful difference for our members and for regional communities," **Dr Grigg said.**

APRA approved all merger documentation in April following overwhelming support from Geelong Bank members with 96% voting in favour of the merger in March 2026.

Former Geelong Bank Chair Allison Batten said she was proud that members voted yes to secure the long-term sustainability and strength of customer-owned banking in the Geelong region for generations to come.

"We thank all members who took part in the process. We truly appreciate the time our members invested in understanding the changes and voting for the future of our bank.

"At Geelong Bank, we have always grown and innovated with a clear purpose - to better serve our members and the broader Geelong community. This merger is another investment in our bank's future, protecting the personal service our members value while delivering an even better banking experience in the years ahead.

"We are committed to ensuring a positive adjustment for our team, providing seamless service to members and setting a solid foundation for future growth and scalability," **Ms Batten said.**

Hume Bank and Geelong Bank completed a detailed process of due diligence, consultation and strategic assessment in 2025. Over this time, teams from both banks collaborated to prepare for a seamless integration.

From 1 May, Geelong Bank will form part of Hume Bank. A regional management structure which will ensure an ongoing local focus.

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About Hume Bank

Hume Bank was established in 1955 in Albury Wodonga. As one of Australia's fastest growing customer-owned banks, with total assets of over \$2.25 billion, it provides products and services to over 56,000 customers and employs more than 170 people. Headquartered in Albury, New South Wales, and with an office in the Melbourne CBD, Hume Bank has 15 branches in its network throughout North-East Victoria and Southern New South Wales.

About Geelong Bank

Geelong Bank was founded in 1974 as the Ford Co-operative Credit Society, established to provide ethical and accessible banking services to employees of the Ford Motor Company in Geelong. Over the years, the bank expanded its membership beyond Ford employees and evolved to serve the broader Geelong community. In 2018, it rebranded as Geelong Bank, reflecting its wider regional focus while staying true to its cooperative roots. Based in Geelong with a new location in Moorabool Street, Geelong Bank has a rich history of serving its customers, the region and its Ford heritage.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Hume Bank

Ashley Hoffmann

0419 938 940

ahoffmann@humbank.com.au

Geelong Bank

Lauren Andrew

0412 055 720

LaurenAndrews@lumeadvisory.com.au

For more information about Hume Bank: Visit humbank.com.au

For more information about Geelong Bank: Visit geelongbank.com.au