



Thursday, September 2

Media Release

City planning under scrutiny

Ballarat's CBD development and general livability will come under scrutiny when urban design expert Jane-Frances Kelly visits the city today (Thursday, September 2).

Ms Kelly will use her experience in national and international urban design to assess the city's livability and pose questions for Ballarat's developers and leaders to consider when planning future changes.

The Grattan Institute Cities Program Director, Ms Kelly is in Ballarat at the invitation of the Committee for Ballarat and will address Ballarat's business and community leaders at the Committee's September Round Table Dinner tonight.

The Grattan Institute is an independent public policy think tank committed to expanding discussion on the future of Australian cities. In a recent report Ms Kelly said the most important characteristic of a city was its ability to meet the material and psychological needs of its residents.

"Despite the fact that these needs are central to our lives, they are often at the periphery of conversations about the future of Australian cities," Ms Kelly said. "With these criteria in mind, it is clear that while our cities operate well, there is much room for improvement."

Committee for Ballarat Chair Tony Chew said Ms Kelly's visit was particularly pertinent considering the planning being undertaken presently by the City of Ballarat.

"It is important that we as a city get the planning right so that we meet the needs of our residents today and into the future. We need to consider all options so that we manage growth and change in the best possible manner."

Since moving to Australia in 2004, Ms Kelly has worked as a senior advisor to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police and the Victorian and Queensland Premiers' Departments.

In her role as Cities Program Director, Ms Kelly sets policy direction for major urban environments and raises discussion on how they can be made more liveable through better design.

-ends-

Media contact: Committee for Ballarat CEO Dr Doug Lloyd 0409 302 644