

## Great Jobs Outcome is Imminent

Committee for Ballarat is delighted that stage 1 of the Western Link Road and the Ballarat West Employment Zone have been shown to be highly viable drivers of jobs and economic activity in the region. It seems that the State Government has little option now but to act on the development of the Ballarat West Link Road and the consequent opportunities that are immediately available from it.

Committee Chair, Tony Chew said the final piece of the case for State Government investment on the road and airport precinct is now complete and compelling.

This came with the City of Ballarat's release of an independent analysis for the road, including the employment zone undertaken by AECOM, a leading analysis for infrastructure projects.

Stage 1 of the Western Link Road from the Freeway to Remembrance Drive will trigger the direct creation of over 3,900 jobs in the Employment Zone and a further 5,400 through multiplier influences. It will also add \$3.9b output to the region's economy, and create \$1.4b of net value to Ballarat and the region Mr Chew said.

This outcome would come commencing over the next 4-5 years from a commitment of a modest \$38m, mostly in years 3 and 4, for the construction of the road. It represents a very high benefit-cost ratio for a project of its type, and one that stacks up exceptionally well amongst the competing priorities for any regional project.

The road will be associated with partnership work being instigated by the City of Ballarat to create the employment zone. The City hopes to secure services of a highly experienced urban land development authority, to lead the development of the zone. A key feature of this zone is the creation of a freight village close to the Western Freeway to allow efficient movement of products to markets across the nation and world.

Mr Chew said this is a very exciting time for us. The jobs achievement is in line with the Committee for Ballarat's 10,000 jobs in 10 years initiative.

The value adding for the regional economy will allow excellent financial and social contributions back to community services and wellbeing.

Committee for Ballarat is delighted that these outcomes are about to be realised as a direct result of the work of its Board and Project Team, which commenced this project work in 2007 Mr Chew said. Back then, the responsible authorities were saying that the viability of the Link Road would not be re-considered until about 2030.

The benefits are there to be realised right now, as they will be through Government's visionary response to this opportunity Mr Chew said. Any Government or potential government that overlooks the opportunity to take the investment and achieve these outcomes would be doing themselves, Ballarat and the region a great disservice Mr Chew said

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**Contact: Doug Lloyd – 5332 1240**  
29<sup>th</sup> September, 2010