



LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT WARMLY WELCOMED

Commitments today by the State Opposition to funding regional community leadership programs have been enthusiastically welcomed by the Committee for Ballarat and supporters of its Leadership Ballarat and Western Region program.

The Committee for Ballarat initiated and now auspices the LBWR program.

Committee Chief Executive Officer, Doug Lloyd, said the clear recognition of the value of regional leadership programs was warmly welcomed and timely.

The Opposition committed to a substantial \$6 million Regional Community Leadership Fund, following discussions and strong advocacy from the Deputy Leader, Mr Peter Ryan and Ballarat West candidate Mr Craig Coltman.

Dr Lloyd said: "The Committee and LBWR offered their warmest support for the Coalition's major initiative and the contributions to community capacity building it offered regions across the state, and particularly the Ballarat region. The increased levels of support, greater continuity, and early potential implementation are all very welcome aspects of the important new offer."

"We particularly welcome the commitment, should the Coalition win government, to support which would allow LBWR's graduates to quickly achieve a higher degree of participation than has previously been the case. This will include through more effective contributions of graduates from the program into their communities.

"The Coalition commitment, if implemented, will also allow us to provide more substantial support to the participants in order that they can much more completely realise their leadership potential."

LBWR Executive Officer, Roger Bade, said "The Coalition commitment would ensure that regional communities such as Ballarat were not disadvantaged when compared with larger capital cities when it came to the provision of quality leadership programs."

"It will mean we can be sure to continue to deliver leadership programs which are as good as, or better than, those elsewhere," he said.

"This support accurately reflects the level of support we are continuing to receive and gratefully welcome at a local and regional level."

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