

Media Release
For Immediate Release
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Research and Development for Sustainable energy and Water Use

An exciting new project between the Committee for Ballarat, the University of Melbourne and other key stakeholder commences next week.

The project will explore local industry energy and water needs. It will investigate new cost effective and energy efficient ways to bring power and water to prospective business tenants in the Ballarat West Employment Zone.

"Committee for Ballarat is proud to be hosting five University of Melbourne Graduate School of Business and Economics students while they undertake the research". Doug Lloyd, CEO Committee for Ballarat said.

"The students volunteer three weeks of their semester break in regional areas to apply their knowledge and provide the community with a group of dedicated and highly trained volunteers," Doug added.

"This work is very valuable to Ballarat. Water is essential to industry and despite recent floods, it is an increasingly scarce and expensive utility," Doug explained.

"Similarly, industry requires heat, electricity and gas for business success and residents require them for amenity. These are issues our community needs to address."

"This group will particularly look at the cost effectiveness of bio-energy."

"Bio-energy will help alleviate environmental and potential lifestyle risks due to a heavy reliance on burning fossil fuels," Doug added.

"The researchers will report to stakeholders on the potential benefits of adopting renewable water practices such as storm water harvesting and recycled water and bio-generated energy supplies for heat, gas or electricity supplementation."

The report which will be presented on February 24 is based on real current data provided by local businesses.

"This is a significant project for Ballarat industry and it has the potential to change the way industry is fuelled within the Ballarat West Employment Zone and the region," Doug said.

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