

Developing sustainable water systems for Ballarat and the region



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Committee works with its members and lobbies local, state and federal government, peak bodies and other agencies on behalf of Ballarat and its region. It is truly an independent broker for the region and very much outcomes focussed. The 2011-12 Action Plan is a good example of this. David Battersby, Vice Chancellor University of Ballarat

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Issues Matrix

Initiatives and ideas on the Issues Matrix are actively supported by Committee. In 2011-2012 the Issues Matrix includes:

- Collaborating with Ballarat North Football Club and City of Ballarat to achieve a multipurpose sports and entertainment complex in aid of improved community wellbeing and social inclusion;
- Collaborating with Ballarat ICT to accelerate roll-out of NBN and eliminate black spots in voice and data communications in Ballarat and the Central Highlands region;
- Facilitating branding for Ballarat to become the regional capital of Western Victoria;
- Supporting major events for the city and region, in collaboration with the Tourism Board;
- Supporting University of Ballarat and City of Ballarat's equine initiatives.

Committee will also refine its position on Population and Regional Growth

Celebrating Our Achievements In 2010-2011

Committee is proud of its achievements in 2010-2011, all of which stand us in good stead to continue our project work and to undertake new and expanded projects into the future.

Key achievements included:

- Secured \$38 million in funding for Stage 1 of the Western Link Road. Planning for construction is underway. This road is expected to trigger creation of up to 9,200 new jobs through the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ)
- Maintained a focus on developing sustainable water systems for Ballarat and the region
- Established *Revitalising the ACU-Hospital Precinct (RAHP)*, to make this area world's best living, working and recreational precinct and attract excellent health and education workforce to the region
- Set up a medical workforce team to identify strategies to attract and retain key medical staff in Ballarat and the region
- Running the LBWR Program for the sixth year
- Secured \$6 million in funding over the next four years for nine Victorian regional community leadership programs



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ACTION PLAN 2011-2012



Every year the Committee for Ballarat develops a plan of action that ensures it continues to work toward the improved social and economic future of Ballarat and its region. The Action Plan is developed through a Key Issues process which provides an opportunity for Committee for Ballarat members to identify and prioritise potential projects.

New Projects

Two new project areas have been identified. Reflecting the themes of Connectivity and Employment, these initiatives are currently being scoped.

Ongoing Projects

In recognition of the significant progress and outcomes so far obtained on current projects, members reaffirmed strong support for, and commitment to the following projects and program:

- Ballarat West Growth Zone (BWGZ)
- Secure Sustainable Water
- Revitalising the ACU-Hospital Precinct
- Leadership Ballarat & Western Region (LBWR)



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The Key Issues process allowed UGL Rail and other members to have input into setting the Committee's priority areas for focus. We are excited to be involved and look forward to working as part of the Committee for Ballarat.

Catherine Baxter, General Manager
Southern Fleet Passenger UGL Rail

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The Committee for Ballarat's track record is to be applauded.

David Battersby, Vice Chancellor University of Ballarat

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Leadership Program Participants in Canberra May 2011 pictured with Prime Minister Julia Gillard

Delivering outstanding results for local organisations and the community

Proposed New Projects In 2011-2012

Connectivity

Improved connectivity between Ballarat and Melbourne and other regional centres will provide for population growth and will have significant benefits for business and community members.

Ballarat-Melbourne Rail Link (BMRL):

The Ballarat-Melbourne rail link requires further work to address dissatisfaction with the current service. Anticipated outcomes of this project include:

- Financial commitments to duplicate the entire Ballarat-Melbourne rail link
- More frequent services at appropriate times of the day, and with greater capacity
- Create guaranteed 50 minute journeys to and from Melbourne
- Upgrade of railway stations to accommodate longer trains

Employment

Employment Initiatives:

Ballarat's unemployment rate of 8.9% is almost double the national average. Projects that create jobs also need people with the skills to fill them. Committee's employment initiatives include undertaking pilots programs:

- To place inexperienced unemployed young people in employment
- To find more productive employment for under-employed people
- In collaboration with RAHP, to identify and adopt a process to improve medical workforce numbers in Ballarat and the region

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The work of Committee for Ballarat will always reflect the aspirations and vision of the membership in relation to Ballarat and the surrounding region.

Tony Chew, Chair Committee for Ballarat

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Ongoing Projects and Program

The Key Issues process showed that Committee members retain overwhelming support for and commitment to vital projects such as Ballarat West Growth Zone and securing Ballarat's water; and to its successful leadership program.

Ballarat West Growth Zone (BWGZ) including the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) and Link Road construction

This project is a key driver for jobs and economic growth. Having secured government commitment to funding the Western Link Road, Committee will focus on:

1. Facilitating the steps to ensure that BWEZ is business ready as soon as possible; is innovative with a commitment to sustainability; is a manufacturer-friendly setting and encourages occupants with a long-term commitment
2. Acting as necessary to ensure completion of Link Road Stage 1 by 2014 while lobbying for earliest completion of stages 2 and 3
3. Achieving financial support for an Industry Innovation Fund or equivalent incentive to enable existing regional businesses to become more innovative and sustainable.

Secure, Sustainable Water

Water remains an important project with a continued focus on developing collaborations in Ballarat and the region. Activities will include:

- Ensuring sustainable systems for residential, commercial and industrial zones in BWGZ
- Supporting small regional town waste water system upgrades
- Advocating changes to community and political attitudes towards Indirect Potable Reuse
- Storm water Harvesting Part 2 (creating an off-stream storage with storm water from the Yarrowee River.)

Revitalising ACU - Hospitals - Lake Wendouree Precinct (RAHP)

This is a diverse precinct with a wide range of occupants. RAHP will make important contributions to the working, living and recreating environment; be a source of innovation for the city and help attract and retain professionals. Actions include:

- Designing the precinct, including provision for substantial growth and sustainable systems
- Commencing the preparation of a business case to realise the design
- Acting as a base for innovation such as bio-energy options and initiatives for medical workforce recruitment and retention.

Leadership Ballarat and Western Region (LBWR)

Now in its sixth year, LBWR is delivering outstanding results for local organisations and the community.

The Program enjoys strong support from Committee for Ballarat members. Having successfully lobbied for additional funding from the State, this program will have an opportunity to grow. The focus for 2011-2012 will be to:

- Further develop the program and Leaders in Action
- Lobby for Federal funding to 'match' regional and State contributions
- Develop collaborations leading to improved co-operation between existing programs in Victoria, interstate and nationally