

## Media Release Monday 19 September 2011

### Committee's Water Forum Features Minister Walsh and Professor Tim Fletcher

On September 21 from 2pm to 4pm, Committee for Ballarat members and guests including Leadership Ballarat & Western Region participants will hear from two experts on ensuring a sustainable water supply in the Ballarat region. Guests will also discuss strategies required to avert future water shortage crises and share ideas at Committee's Water Forum.

Keynote speakers for the Forum, which will be held at the Red Lion, are the Hon Peter Walsh, MP and Minister for Water, and Tim Fletcher, Professor of Urban Ecohydrology at the University of Melbourne.

"Committee for Ballarat is passionate about securing a sustainable water supply in the region, and believe there are significant issues still to be resolved" Tony Chew, Chair of Committee for Ballarat said.

"We are really pleased to have two contributors of such high calibre speak to us about the serious impact of climate change on our water supply and strategies to reduce our dependency on rain water, Tony added.

"Minister Walsh will discuss principles and the policy framework applying to water capture, use and re-use in Ballarat and the region."

"Professor Fletcher is one of Australia's leading experts on stormwater management, environmental water values and design of urban water systems. He will have a lot to contribute regarding ecologically sustainable water management systems.

Immediately after questions from the floor, there will be an opportunity for guests to discuss strategies required to provide greater certainty and integrated planning around a secure water supply within the region.

Water is also the topic of the day at Leadership Ballarat & Western Region. Their September 21 Program Day begins with an overview from Paul O'Donohue, General Manager Central Highlands Water.

Other speakers in the morning include Brody Schmidt Project Manager Water Plan, Central Highlands Water, followed by LBWR Fellow, Dr Tamara Boyd, Ecological Water Manager, Parks Victoria and Mr Fon Ryan Chairman Lake Learmonth Advisory Committee.

Participants will then travel to the Red Lion to take part in Committee for Ballarat's Water Forum. When that finishes, participants will hear separately from Minister Walsh on water policy and leadership.

"It is significant that emerging leaders are invited to participate in the water forum as water sustainability strategies will be both short term and long term. It is likely that some of the current participants will be concerned about water in their future leadership roles, Roger Bade," EO LBWR said.

It is also a great opportunity for participants to hear about the importance of leadership around a topic as contentious as water and its use and re-use can be," Roger added.

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