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Media Release

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Committee for Ballarat plans for its own future

Committee for Ballarat has adhered to its own philosophy of planning for the future by appointing a chair-elect.

The Committee last night elected Tony Chew to the position for four months. Mr Chew will take over from present chair, Professor David James at the June General Meeting.

Committee for Ballarat CEO Dr Doug Lloyd said Mr Chew's appointment allowed for a smooth transition and a seamless handover of knowledge and processes.

"By June, David will have spent almost three years as the head of the Committee for Ballarat. He has made an outstanding contribution to Ballarat and the region by overseeing and driving many successful and valuable projects, including on water supply, the Western Arterial Road Link and the Ballarat West Employment Zone.

"We are also delighted that David will continue to serve on the Board," Dr Lloyd said.

"Tony also has been an active member of the Committee and is well qualified to take over the reins. He is currently head of our Water Task Team which is in the process of developing a sustainable water strategy that will take into consideration recycled water for industrial substitution and the potable supply, finding innovative ways to capture rainwater and appropriate re-use of grey water."

Mr Chew was formerly Corporate Affairs Director at Mars Snackfoods and has extensive experience in marketing, sales and business management. He has also been actively involved in a number of community projects and organisations including Ballarat: A Learning City, The Ballarat Foundation, the Victorian Central Highlands Area Consultative Committee and Wendouree West Renewal Program.

Professor James said he was confident the Committee for Ballarat will continue to be in capable hands.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Committee for Ballarat chair and the opportunity it gave me to contribute to Ballarat and our region. Now, the Committee must plan for the future and I will work with Tony over the coming months to ensure a smooth and successful transition."

To help maintain continuity Luke Rieniets has been reappointed Deputy Chair for the next 10 months.

Dr Lloyd said the Committee's ability to plan its own future as well as identify and work through projects that target priority issues in the region was testament to its past successes and future aspirations in the areas of economic and social development.

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