

## Media Release

5<sup>th</sup> December 2008

### State Supports Committee on Rail Transport

Committee for Ballarat today welcomed suggestions that the Victoria's Transport Plan will approve the construction of the Tarneit Rail Link from Werribee to Sunshine. This, and the upgrade of the Sunshine to Melbourne rail link, also supported in the plan, will provide a much-needed upgrade of Ballarat to Melbourne rail travel.

A report in Thursday's The Age reveals the plans are likely to be announced soon by Premier Brumby.

Committee for Ballarat submitted its request to support this proposal jointly with Committees for Geelong and Wyndham in conjunction with a submission to Infrastructure Australia. It also made the proposal in its own right and jointly with Shires of Hepburn and Moorabool.

Professor David James, Chair of Committee for Ballarat said "this is a good example of Committee for Ballarat's focus on issues relevant to Ballarat and its region. It is also a great example of collaborating with like-minded colleagues in the Committees for Geelong and Wyndham to achieve broader regional goals."

Professor David James said achievements connected with Committee for Ballarat's earlier lobbying for the fast rail link to Melbourne were hampered by what happens when a fast train meets the metropolitan rail network in the inner suburbs. At times it can grind to a halt because of inner suburban congestion. It will be very satisfying that we can make the next major improvement in the fast rail service to and from Melbourne.

We will be much better placed to encourage Melbourne people to commute to Ballarat for work and tourism journeys, and help Ballarat and regional commuters with faster and more efficient trips to Melbourne. "We will have more efficient rail transport and make greater contributions reduction of damaging greenhouse gas emissions. This is a double bonus" Professor James said.

Doug Lloyd, CEO of Committee for Ballarat believes this is an example of a near-metro major project that provides a secondary benefit for regional areas around Ballarat and Geelong. Mr Lloyd said "We believe there are good arguments for the State government also looking to support regionally based major projects that provide a benefit to the State and nation".

More information on Committee for Ballarat's submissions to Infrastructure Australia is available at <http://www.committeeforballarat.com.au/?id=submissions>  
More details about Committee's commitments to major projects are available at <http://www.committeeforballarat.com.au/?id=psos>

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