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## Media Release

### Candidates Urged to Remain Focused on Major Projects

Committee for Ballarat today urged all candidates for the forthcoming City of Ballarat council elections to retain the vision to complete the City's future-oriented big projects.

Projects presently on Committee's priority list include sustainable water supply, the Ballarat West Employment Zone, or airport precinct, and Western Arterial Road Link.

Committee Chairman Professor David James said "the Employment Zone will see the creation of the region's next significant cluster of business-park and light industrial land. This will spur on a next wave of employment in new-generation, sustainable industries and help to create the prosperity needed for business wellbeing and community cohesion." The City of Ballarat's planning work for the airport major project is called the Aerodrome and West Common Land Use Concept Plan

The Chair of the Committee's Western Arterial Road Link project team, Mr Glen Walker of Maxitrans Australia said that "without a major north-south road link we will continue to have amenity and congestion issues by having heavy transport in Ballarat's CBA. Additionally we will not provide efficient road links for freight and vehicle traffic in Ballarat's growth areas in the west." This has become a more important issue now that we know about the importance of reducing vehicle exhaust emissions, fuel consumption and hence Greenhouse Emissions.

The project has set itself the task of speeding up decisions on an alignment and constructing a first stage for an eventual north-south arterial road link to replace the Midland Highway's route through the centre of Ballarat. This will provide road transport links for the region by connecting the Western, Sunraysia, Glenelg and Midland Highways. It will also provide for a high proportion of Ballarat's internal traffic.

Committee for Ballarat also provides its support for the Major Projects Unit recently established by City of Ballarat. Professor James said "properly resourced, this new unit can provide the expertise and focused attention required to have the City's major projects completed on time and on budget." We welcome the City's initiative to recognise that something different needs to be done to achieve big, long-term infrastructure projects such as these, and will be pleased to work with the new unit.

Professor James urged all candidates for the forthcoming election to give a commitment to continue the City's major project work. "The planning and completion of large and complicated projects which provide long term benefit for a City and region usually span more than one electoral cycle. It requires a special degree of persistence and foresight on the part of Councillors to resist any short term benefit by cutting budgets to projects such as these" Professor James said

More information on the City's planning is provided on the Council website at [http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/Building\\_and\\_Planning/Strategic\\_Planning/index.aspx](http://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/Building_and_Planning/Strategic_Planning/index.aspx), and Committee for Ballarat commitments to these major projects are available at <http://www.committeeforballarat.com.au/?id=psos>

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