

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2008**

### **Have your say on our water supply**

Ballarat residents have long been recognised for their ability to work together to reach a common goal – today that goal is the securing of our water reserves to ensure the city is equipped to meet planned growth and development.

With a recent survey of the region's leading businesses indicating that a permanent, high-quality water supply for Ballarat and surrounding areas is still the region's number one priority, Committee for Ballarat is taking the issue to the community.

"Our members believe sustainable supply and use of high-quality water across our region is paramount to the future growth and development of the region," said Committee for Ballarat CEO Dr Doug Lloyd.

"The best way of achieving this is open to debate and we want all residents, whether pensioners, business people, employees or students, to bring their thoughts and ideas to the Committee."

In a bid to secure the city's water supply, Committee for Ballarat's Water Task Team is looking at a series of approaches, including water recycling and substitution, state and national water distribution grids and retrofitting of businesses and homes to save water. Other factors under discussion are water pricing and the need to keep the region's prices competitive, ways to influence policy and to build partnerships with key players such as Government, water authorities, business and the community.

Committee for Ballarat is a strong supporter of the Goldfields Superpipe which is now transferring water from the Goulburn River via Bendigo to Ballarat. The \$180 million link from Bendigo to Ballarat is the biggest project ever undertaken by Central Highlands Water and is designed to secure Ballarat's water supply in the near future, not withstanding more than 11 years of below average rainfall, climate change and an increasing population.

"While the Goldfields Superpipe ensures we will not run out of water in the near future, it is not a panacea," Dr Lloyd said.

"Committee for Ballarat believes we must rebuild business and community confidence in our long-term water supply. To do this, we will continue the promotion of water conversation and instill in everyone the belief that water is a valuable resource to be nurtured, not wasted, while also looking at alternative methods to secure our supply.

"All sectors of the Ballarat community must have confidence that our region has a permanent, high-quality water supply in order to become sustainable, prosperous and a nationally renowned regional centre. Through that confidence we will attract more investment, residents and business opportunities and will be well placed to retain our high levels of 'liveability'."

Residents can contact the Committee via email at [admin@committeeforballarat.com](mailto:admin@committeeforballarat.com) or via phone on 03 5332 1240 to express their views.

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