

MEDIA RELEASE

7th July 2008

Push for key road study

The Committee for Ballarat today called for an urgent study into the costs and benefits of a western arterial road link in Ballarat's western sector.

Committee for Ballarat made a submission to the Ballarat City Council's 2008-2009 budget process, and later presented to Councillors on the matter.

Committee for Ballarat CEO, Doug Lloyd, who presented to the Council, said "a more detailed study than was contained in the 2007 Ballarat Road Transport Strategy is both important and urgent, and provision must be made for it in Council's present budget cycle."

The study is expected to help show the region-wide benefits of an arterial road link to the west of Ballarat's built up area. It will serve the new developments in that sector, such as the airport precinct and developments in the Ballarat West Local Structure Plan.

"The new road link will also provide important north-south links for local and regional traffic, and help ease congestion in Ballarat's central business areas. If there are further delays, then it is possible that the planned road link will be pushed further to the west. That would be of no practical benefit for road transport efficiencies," Dr Lloyd said.

Dr Lloyd was unable to say whether Council has made provision in its budget as a result of the submission.

The Chairman of Committee for Ballarat's Western Arterial Road Link task team, Mr Glen Walker from MaxiTrans, reinforced the importance of the more detailed study, saying, "I hope Council recognise the importance of the study and find ways to fund it urgently"

Committee for Ballarat's task team for the arterial road link recently also submitted to the planning Panel considering the Ballarat West Local Structure Plan as part of its plan to have the construction of the road link accelerated. The Panel is due to release its findings within the next two to three months.

**Contact: Dr Doug Lloyd, CEO Committee for Ballarat
03 5332 1240 or 0409 302 644**