



Media Release

Key Issues for Committee for Ballarat

20th June 2008

Committee for Ballarat has just completed an annual survey of Members and determined its key issues for the coming membership year.

Members overwhelmingly identify security of water supply as the priority issue for Ballarat and its region. This does not devalue the completion of the Superpipe as a key action to achieve essential supplies and on which the Committee played an important role. Members are clear – the water flowing from the Superpipe is a short to medium term measure. It does not solve bigger and deeper issues on how we secure our longer-term water supplies and use water more wisely.

The arrival of water through the Superpipe does not tell us about new approaches to how we collect and use water. It does not tell us how water relates to economic and social wellbeing, and environmental sustainability.

The Chairman Professor James said that “the Committee will take a determined approach in working with water authorities and all relevant levels of government to enhance our water security and use across the region.”

Another priority for the Committee for Ballarat is to facilitate the building of integrated, world class infrastructure for business wellbeing. The Committee believes there is no effective coordinated approach to providing a range of essential services to attract business investments. We have excellent livability factors, such as schools, universities and hospitals and health care facilities that help in attracting business. This must be followed up with the coordinated services that will allow local and international business to be more confident in their investments.

The essential pieces of infrastructure – like broadband, water supply, power supply, transport and a range of social structures need to come together at the right time and place. Professor James said “we will draw attention to the importance of making sure these things are ready for businesses and families who are looking for the best place to invest their business dollars, and take action to make it happen.”

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