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PRESS RELEASE

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Committee for Ballarat: Representing Ballarat and region's business

The Committee for Ballarat represents Ballarat's leading businesses and organisations who strive to better the region they operate within. **With almost 22 industry sectors represented across 4 levels of membership; the Committee for Ballarat is well positioned to drive issues that affect the Ballarat region and to make a difference where it is needed most.**

There are currently over 100 businesses and individuals who are members of the Committee for Ballarat, with many more who are involved in Task Teams, charged with implementing projects. **The Committee for Ballarat's membership currently represents over one third of Ballarat's workforce.**

"We welcome any business or organisation to join the Committee for Ballarat either an Executive or Corporate member," said Mr Noel Coxall, Chair. "In addition, individuals may be nominated to the Board or as a Community member."

The Committee for Ballarat is pleased to welcome its latest Executive member, Ballarat Goldfields NL and in particular their nominee Laura Chibnall, Environment and Community Manager. **The Committee for Ballarat currently has 4 female board members and continually strives to increase the number of women involved in the group.**

Ballarat Goldfield's (BGF) operational site is situated in the Woolshed Gully off Britain Street in Mt. Pleasant. Located at this site are the administration facilities, entrance to the underground mine and the gold processing plant, which is designed and operated by Ballarat's Gekko Systems. BGF's corporate portfolio includes a prospective mining tenement at Berringa and recently acquired Ballarat South mining tenements south of Whitehorse Road. The company has previously announced an exploration potential of 9.2 million ounces for the entire Ballarat Field.

Currently employing over 130 employees and contractors, almost all of whom live locally, BGF plans to increase employment to well in excess of 200 by the end of 2008. Over \$50 million has been invested in BGF over the past three years, the majority of which has been retained locally with local contractors and suppliers utilised where possible.



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“BGF welcomes the opportunity to become an active member of Committee for Ballarat. In doing so we are excited about contributing to Ballarat’s prosperity and sustainability,” said Ms Chibnall.

The Committee for Ballarat is currently driving a number of projects in an advocacy role, as hands on practical assistance or in total management of a project. These projects have included the success of fast tracking the Deer Park By-Pass funding, the development and implementation of Leadership Ballarat and Western Region (LBWR), the development and marketing of jobsballarat.com.au, the Lake Blitz campaign to raise funds for the upgrade of the Lake Wendouree Foreshore facilities, an advocacy role in regards to the proposed Ballarat Entrances upgrade project and also Fast Rail – Stage 2 which is the triplication of rail lines between Sunshine and Southern Cross Station.

The Committee for Ballarat strategic direction for 2006 will include the following:

- Water – Advocating a sustainable water supply for the Ballarat region
- Policing & Crime – Lobbying for additional on-ground policing resources
- Workforce Participation & Skills Issues
- Medical School – Support for Government funding for medical school facilities in the Ballarat region
- Ballarat Airport Precinct future development

For further information on membership to the Committee for Ballarat visit www.committeeforballarat.com

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