



P.O. Box 1589 Ballarat Vic 3354  
phone: (03) 5332 1240 fax: (03) 5334 4548  
email: admin@committeeforballarat.com  
web: committeeforballarat.com

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**October 10, 2006**

### **Praise for Prime Minister's water initiative**

The decision of Prime Minister John Howard to establish a new Australian Government Office of Water Resources within his department has been welcomed by the Committee for Ballarat.

The Committee has written to Mr Howard congratulating him on the initiative and supporting his view, expressed at the announcement of the initiative, that access to water is a national problem.

Executive Director of the Committee for Ballarat, Darren Booth, said the Committee's Water Resource Task Force had voted to formally write to the Prime Minister in response to his announcement.

“Ballarat and region is facing one the biggest challenges in its history – if not the biggest – in ensuring a reliable, long-term supply of water for domestic, industry, farming, recreational and environmental purposes,” he said.

“We must work together as a community to meet this challenge locally, but we cannot go it alone. It is imperative that we also work as part of a state and, ultimately, national solution to the water challenge.

“Part of that is recognising the positive efforts being made by others to ensure a long-term water supply regime for the nation which will benefit us all. The Committee for Ballarat believes Mr Howard's initiative is another significant step in the right direction,” Mr Booth said.

**Contact: Darren Booth, Executive Director, Committee for Ballarat – 0438.630.424**