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MEDIA RELEASE

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Infrastructure announcement of national significance

The Committee for Ballarat today welcomed the water infrastructure initiative announced by the State Government's as part of a long-term water supply solution for the city.

Premier Steve Bracks yesterday announced a \$204 million package to provide the water supply solution, including a "Goldfields Superpipe" from the Goulburn-Murray region.

"While the Committee does not necessarily accept that the Goulburn-Murray link is the only or most appropriate solution for Ballarat's long-term supply, we do support the connection of Ballarat to a water supply outside of our own catchment area," Executive Director of the Committee for Ballarat, Darren Booth said.

"We also support and encourage the state in developing water infrastructure that will link the major cities in the State."

In a submission to the Government, the Committee urged a water supply connection between Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo. Mr Booth said this announcement is a step in that direction.

He also urged the Federal Government to give sympathetic consideration to approaches from the State for funding to support water infrastructure developments.

"While we appreciate this is a matter for negotiation between the two levels of Government, these are projects of national significance and warrant sympathetic consideration when approaches are made to Canberra for funding," Mr Booth said.

"The supply of a long-term water solution to Ballarat – and indeed the linking of Ballarat and Bendigo – will help to ensure the economic momentum already established here can continue and even accelerate," Mr Booth said.

"That would not only represent a positive result for this city and region, but for the state and, in fact, for the nation.

“Growth and development in regional Australia has been wisely encouraged by this Federal Government and the results are being felt in cities like Ballarat.

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