



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

MEDIA RELEASE

December 20, 2006

Canberra urged to support Goldfields Superpipe

The Committee for Ballarat has repeated its call on the Federal Government to approve its share of funding for the proposed Goldfields Superpipe and confirm support for the project.

Chairman of the Committee's water task group, Noel Coxall, said it was imperative that the project begin as soon as possible and Federal Government support was vital.

“The earliest case scenario is that it will be 90 weeks before a completed Goldfields Superpipe is delivering water to Ballarat,” he said.

“That won't solve the immediate crisis, but everything must be done to ensure that outcome, or something better, is achieved,” he said.

“The State Government has indicated the level of Federal support it needs for the project and the Committee urges Canberra to agree to that immediately, ensuring the project can proceed with all haste.”

Mr Coxall said a delegation representing the Committee for Ballarat and the Ballarat City Council would visit Canberra on January 8 to discuss the plight of Ballarat's water supplies with senior Federal Government representatives.

“We seek the attendance at that meeting of the Parliamentary Secretary for Water, Malcolm Turnbull. He really needs to understand the desperate water circumstances the city faces.”

Mr Coxall said the Committee is also writing to the Premier today outlining differences between its calculation of Ballarat's remaining water supplies and that of Central Highlands Water.

“We want Mr Bracks and his Government to understand that we have a much less optimistic view on how long the remaining water will last, if there is no further heavy rain now or early in the New Year,” he said.

“We support Central Highlands Water in the work it is doing to access additional supplies of water and to reduce consumption. We will assist, through industry and business, with those strategies.

“But people need to be realistic about the desperate water situation Ballarat is already in and start putting in place a crisis management program in co-operation with the whole community.”

Contact: Executive Director of the Committee for Ballarat, Darren Booth.
(03) 5332.1240