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Media Release

Doyle Commits to Deer Park By-Pass

17th September 2005

Committee for Ballarat Chair, Noel Coxall was delighted to be personally briefed today, after much lobbying, that the Victorian Opposition Leader, Robert Doyle had announced the Deer Park By-Pass project as his Party's No 1 National Road Infrastructure Priority in Victoria.

At the meeting the Committee for Ballarat resolved to convene a meeting with the Treasurer at his earliest convenience. The meeting will be attended by Mr Doyle, Noel Coxall, Peter Russell (WHACC) and Neil Coulson (VECCI).

The purpose of this meeting was to request that part of the 5.24 million funds that is being held on the Scoresby project be immediately released to fast track the Deer Park By-Pass.

Mr Coxall was pleased that Deer Park By-Pass now has bi-partisan support which will help leverage a full commitment from the Federal Government to the project.

Mr Coxall said "the Scoresby tolls issue in Melbourne would have been a very difficult decision for Mr Doyle and his Party to make and he should be commended on taking the tough decision. By halving the tolls on the Scoresby project and making savings through Government funding cuts, this now frees up the \$524 million dollars the Federal Government is holding back on the project part of which can be diverted to the Deer Park By-Pass".

"Mr. Doyle's decision to make Deer Park Bypass his number one road infrastructure priority is great news and just what we have been lobbying for. We will now centre our lobbying and attention on the Federal Government to free up funds to fast track this project", Mr Coxall said.

"The Committee for Ballarat had three priorities:

1. To get the Premier to make Deer Park his number one road infrastructure priority
2. To get the Leader of the Opposition to do the same
3. Convince the Federal Government to free up funds to fast track the project



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The first two of these tasks are now complete and all of our efforts will be centered on the third”, said Mr Coxall.

Mr Coxall also commended Mr. Doyle’s Road and Bridges Upgrade Policy as a positive step for regional and rural Victoria, which will help to ease the burden on our local councils ageing infrastructure. This will benefit the following Local Government members of the Committee for Ballarat which will receive the funding under Mr Doyle’s plan as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| City of Ballarat | \$2.12m |
| Golden Plains Shire | \$2.19m |
| Moorabool Shire | \$2.0m |
| Shire of Hepburn | \$1.5m |
| Shire of Pyrenees | \$2.3m |
| City of Ararat | \$2.5m |
| Total | \$12.61m |

Further comment can be obtained by calling Mr Coxall on **ph 0418 508383**

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