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## Media Release

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# Committee welcomes Budget Outcomes

Committee for Ballarat has warmly welcomed the Federal Government's budget announcements on rail infrastructure and university funding.

The announcement that the Tarneit regional rail link will be built soon is an important link to and from Melbourne for rail users, including those who travel to Ballarat and the region to work.

Chair Professor David James said "this is the infrastructure that will create the next level of performance in a passenger rail link with Melbourne. It will mean the rail lines from Sunshine to Melbourne are quadruplicated and regional rail traffic to and from Ballarat, Ararat and Maryborough will not get delayed by the metro system."

Committee for Ballarat has lobbied strongly on this project, together with regional municipalities and the Committees for Geelong and Wyndham. It is one of the key actions to resolve some of the Victoria's rail transport compromises.

Committee for Ballarat also welcomes funding that will enhance University of Ballarat's capabilities to make the region a leader in technology and innovation.

Funding for redevelopment of the University's science, technology and engineering higher education facilities is a very important contribution towards creating new skills, innovation and business developments in these critical areas.

Professor James said "our technological contributions in energy generation, mining and minerals processing, biotechnology, food and materials manufacturing, and environment protection all depend on state of the art teaching and research facilities. This funding announcement secures this region's capacity to lead regional and national development in these areas, using UB's great leadership."

The funding for the university's Manufacturing Centre of Excellence will also help skills development and closer collaboration with current and future manufacturers.

Mr Tony Chew, Committee for Ballarat's Chair Elect said "as someone who has been closely connected with one of Ballarat's major manufacturers and international businesses, I can see this helping move our region's manufacturing sectors into new levels of world competitiveness and viability"

"Committee for Ballarat is pleased and proud to have been a strong advocate for each of these budget successes for the region", Mr Chew said. Members have identified that these issues can promote our region's future, and will be pleased that they have 'made a difference'.

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