

## **Capture of water run-off on move**

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BALLARAT's stormwater harvesting projects would see Lake Wendouree fill sooner, according to the Committee for Ballarat.

Under the stormwater scheme, water would be piped to the lake from at least five areas across Ballarat.

Stormwater would be captured from Nerrina, Ballarat Golf Course, Ring Rd Reserve, Redan Reserve and Pauls Wetland.

Yarrowee River would also capture water from the Gnarr and Warrenheip creeks.

The stormwater would be pumped to Lake Wendouree, becoming the city's main stormwater storage.

Together with treated wastewater and water from Ballarat Goldfields, the stormwater would fast-track the refilling of the lake.

It would then irrigate council assets including the botanic gardens and City Oval.

The project is a joint initiative of the committee and the City of Ballarat.

Ballarat council approved it last month, before submitting it for \$2 million in Federal Government funding, to be matched by the council.

The committee is also seeking \$3 million from the State Government, to be matched by the Federal Government.

The committee has been in talks with Water Minister Tim Holding and Regional Development Victoria.

Committee chairman Tony Chew said they were impressed with the proposal and were awaiting further details before making a final assessment.

He said if the funding was approved, the project could harvest up to 3.5GL of stormwater for Ballarat.

This is more than 30 per cent of Ballarat's water use under stage four restrictions, costing more than \$10m.

Mr Chew said the plan built on all the city's water projects, putting strong cases to the government for funding to finish the job.

"This is the chance to really maximise our water-gathering efforts, in the interests of sustaining business and industry and enhancing the liveability of the city," he said.