

A letter to the *Ballarat Imagine* Committee

I thank the *Ballarat Imagine* Committee for giving our regional community the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation and I acknowledge that the Draft Council Plan 2013-2017 embraces much of our community's thinking and vision.

On behalf of Committee for Ballarat members, I'd like to paint a picture of what our city and region can be.

We want to live in a region where all residents can enjoy a prosperous social and economic future because our city's leaders of today had great vision and the strength to act on that vision.

We want to be part of a community that promotes development to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

And we want to be proud of a city that is progressive and embraces innovation while respecting its history and cultural heritage.

We imagine a Ballarat where ...

... business is thriving and jobs are readily available for everyone because we planned for future growth by activating residential and employment precincts in the Ballarat West Growth Zone
... our growing demand for water and energy resources is met because we introduced innovative and sustainable solutions around water, waste, energy, biodiversity and intelligence, such as bio-energy

... our community is truly connected because we inspired people to engage with each other and respect cultural diversity and inclusion

... our ageing population is cared for and everyone – especially those with the greatest needs – can access the best possible health and education outcomes because we adopted innovative and sustainable practices, such as eHealth technology

... high-quality professionals in health and education want to work and live in our region because we developed world-best living, working and recreational opportunities

... people and business are connected because we invested in transport infrastructure and services to keep pace with our growing needs, such as a better commuter rail service and accessibility to Melbourne and its ports

... young people feel empowered because we engaged with youth, treated them with respect and created sustainable employment opportunities

... we enjoy an enviable level of liveability because we invested in major precincts focused on community wellbeing, sport, cultural events, lifestyle, education and health

As the current residents of Ballarat and region, we are the leaders of today and the legacy we leave for future generations is in our hands – 20, 50 and 100 years from now, we will be held accountable for the vision we created and how well we delivered it.

We have the opportunity to work together, pool our collective vision, knowledge, expertise and energy to create the future we aspire to.



John Kilgour, CEO Committee for Ballarat

Committee for Ballarat is a visionary member-based organisation working to make Ballarat and region a better place to live. www.committeeforballarat.com