



“Committee for Ballarat is a visionary member-based organisation working to make Ballarat and region a better place to live.”

MEDIA RELEASE: Wednesday, 11th December 2013

Committee backs councils' bold vision and aspiration for Ballarat

The Committee for Ballarat has endorsed the City of Ballarat's vision and strategic investment framework for accelerating the growth of Ballarat and the western region of Victoria following its release.

Attending the launch at Parliament House in Melbourne on Tuesday night, Committee for Ballarat Chair, Judy Verlin stated, “Ballarat is one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities and it is pleasing to see the launch of Ballarat's Regional Capital Plan that is closely aligned to Committee's 2013/18 Strategic Action Plan”. “It's a bold and visionary plan that provides a sound investment framework that clearly positions the priority projects for funding from both sides of politics in the lead up to the State election in November 2014”. Verlin said.

Ballarat Mayor, Cr Joshua Morris, together with Premier, Dr Denis Naphine, launched Ballarat's Regional Capital Plan, which provides a road map for transformative growth to strengthen Victoria's “state of cities” and position Ballarat as the Capital of Western Victoria.

Committee for Ballarat CEO, John Kilgour stated, “it's a collaborative far-sighted approach to planning and this is critical to sustaining the long-term growth plan for the future of our region”. “By placing an emphasis on the regional capital concept it sends a clear message that Ballarat is open for business and is confident of its future”, Kilgour said.

The Regional Capital Plan seeks Government support to take the Ballarat West Employment Zone (“BWEZ”) to the next stage of activation and commercialisation, which will be the catalyst for business investment and employment opportunities. It seeks to stimulate the economy by investing in new innovation and technologies building upon the strengths of the education sector and technology park.

In the plan, a strong emphasis is placed on the central business area and seeks to revitalise the cities heart by providing additional commercial space and new jobs opportunities in partnership with both government and private sector investment.

“This is the leadership the Committee has been seeking from our local government representatives. It's a shared vision, jointly developed by Ballarat council with broad range of regional stakeholders”, Verlin said.

Verlin further added, “We commend Council on its strength and vision and call upon Government to be an active partner in its implementation”.

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