

BALLARAT'S PRIORITIES FOR THE 2016 FEDERAL ELECTION





BALLARAT IS THE ECONOMIC, COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CAPITAL OF WESTERN VICTORIA.

Ballarat has a population of 100,000 residents, and is growing at a rate of 1.7% annually, making it one of the fastest growing regional centres in Australia.

Ballarat services a regional community of more than 270,000 people. Our role as a regional service hub means that our planning must be focused upon the needs of not only our direct community, but also the region we serve.

Council has engaged for a significant period of time not only with our direct community, but also the Central Highlands group of Councils which represents much of the Western Victorian communities.

Council's consultation has resulted in the development of a clear set of priority projects that we are seeking to have addressed by political parties participating in the 2016 Federal Election.

Council's vision also reflects the key priorities of our key community and business partners, including:

- The Committee for Ballarat
- Commerce Ballarat

Council and the broader group of Central Highlands Councils have been engaged in a program of detailed direct lobbying of the Federal Government in the lead up to the 2016 Federal election. This program includes a range of meetings facilitated either directly or via third party community and business organisations lobbying for their project.

The City of Ballarat believes that it is now necessary to provide a public update to the Federal Political parties, but also to our various community groups and organisations who have been involved in the process to date.

Attached is Council's list of priority projects that it seeks to secure support for as part of the 2016 Federal Election.

PRIORITY PROJECT

CULTURAL AND LIBRARY CENTRE OF THE FUTURE

WHAT

Establish a Library of the Future in the Ballarat CBD, providing first class library services reflecting contemporary approaches to library, learning and information experiences, combined with a centre for the staging of community events.

BENEFITS

- Activate the Ballarat CBD by drawing a range of user groups into an expanded library facility and enhanced service offer
- Extend the Ballarat Regional Library service scope and depth through the expansion of the existing 2,200 m² library into a 5,000 m² plus facility that will also cater for a broad range of community events
- Provide enhanced service delivery for the 270,000 people served by the Ballarat economy
- Create a large-scale commercial development site capable of being utilised for establishment of a significant business operation in the CBD
- Assist in the revitalisation of the Ballarat Civic Hall precinct, delivering an outstanding re-purposing of a dilapidated hall in the heart of the Ballarat CBD.

HOW

- Complete current detailed design process.
- Commence construction

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$12 million of Federal funds.



PRIORITY PROJECT

BALLARAT SPORTS AND EVENTS CENTRE

WHAT

Provide funding for the addition of a 3,000 seat Show Court capable of hosting, Regional State and National level events to be incorporated into the current community basketball and netball project.

BENEFITS

- Enable Ballarat to secure National level basketball and netball tournaments which have a significant impact upon regional tourism outcomes
- Deliver an 8-court tournament facility as opposed to a 6-court community facility
- Ensure Ballarat remains a host for major tournaments
- Enhance Ballarat's indoor court offer
- Deliver long term economic, social and cultural outcomes.

HOW

- Deliver Stage 2 as part of the Stage 1 project
- Procure and Deliver.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$10 million of Federal funds.



PRIORITY PROJECT

GOVERNMENT JOBS

WHAT

Create 600 additional jobs in the Ballarat CBD through the relocation of a significant Federal government agency or authority to a purpose built government service precinct in the Ballarat CBD.

BENEFITS

- Activate the Ballarat CBD and professional services sector
- Provide enhanced service delivery for the 270,000 people served by the Ballarat economy
- Create long-term jobs for the region
- Increase spending across the housing, education and service sectors
- Efficiency savings achieved through consolidation of workforce, and utilisation of modern office infrastructure and facilities.

HOW

- Identify agency of authority to be relocated
- Identify required scope of purpose-built development
- Commit existing funding from current government tenancies to be applied to a long term lease of a private sector development.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

Apply current value of existing Metropolitan leaseholds to fund purpose built commissioned development in Ballarat.



PRIORITY PROJECT

BALLARAT HEALTH SERVICES

WHAT

1. Expand theatre capacity within Level 1 of the New Drummond Street Building at Ballarat Health Services Base Site, providing three additional contemporary theatres
2. Extend three (3) additional floors onto the New Drummond Street Building providing 96 inpatient unit beds
3. Extension of ten (10) beds to the Secure Extended Care Unit at Ballarat Mental Health Services
4. Acquire Medicare eligibility for the MRI.

BENEFITS

Priorities 1 & 2

- Decrease elective surgery waiting times
- Increase acute inpatient bed capacity
- Align future bed stock with demand for specialty care
- Design and implement models of care that reflect innovative strategies and best care practices
- Potentially create capacity for expansion of existing/other services
- Creation of contemporary designed spaces that facilitate healing and the delivery of optimal care to patients
- Provides opportunity for future expansion of the BHS Workforce, thus expanding employment opportunities
- Brings acute inpatient specialty care closer to home for the 270,000 residents of the Grampians Region.

Priority 3

- Significantly improved amenity in relation to the design, safety and space for both patients and staff in the Mental Health Service.

Priority 4

- Improved accessibility to affordable 'State of the art' MRI technology for the patients of Ballarat and the Grampians Region. Currently patients are charged an out-of-pocket expense for an MRI examination (\$240 - \$350)
- Reduce waiting lists for MRI services across Ballarat and the Grampians Region
- MRI provides a non-irradiating imaging methodology (due to costs associated with out of pockets patients are electing to have CT examinations)
- Improved access for women to Breast MRI technology for the detection of cancers

HOW

- Secure funding, design, procure and deliver

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$105.5 million total funding.



PRIORITY PROJECT

AVIATION EMERGENCY SERVICES HUB

WHAT

Establish the Ballarat Aerodrome as the Emergency Services Hub for fixed and rotor planes covering the entire South East of Australia as part of the national fire management network.

BENEFITS

- Provide an extended and hardened runway at the Ballarat Aerodrome capable of supporting fire-fighting heavy air assets.
- Enable State Government fixed and rotor wing assets to be upgraded to next generation capability including Large Air Tankers (LATS) and heavy LATS
- Implement a key focus of the recent Victorian Emergency Service Reform Whitepaper 2012
- Enable heavy LATS to be deployed from Central Victoria, thereby achieving balanced State-wide coverage
- Enhance human protection through the entire South East of mainland Australia
- Improved dispatch, operation and support of emergency-related aviation services, including optimal emergency response times for identified Victorian fire risk landscapes
- Increased agency interoperability as a key element of state emergency management reform, including the adoption of an 'all hazards, all agencies' approach
- Optimisation of State aviation assets through the integration of multiple services and logistical systems and training approaches
- Generation of \$43.93 million in economic activity and 107 direct FTE jobs during the construction phase and 4 FTE jobs (ongoing) and \$1.679 million in economic activity per annum once the Hub is operational.

HOW

- Finalise infrastructure design for Ballarat Emergency Services Hub
- Procure and Deliver.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$33.8 million of Federal funds.



PRIORITY PROJECT

BALLARAT WESTERN LINK ROAD STAGE 2

WHAT

Construct 16km of the Ballarat West Link Rd, providing the long term North – South bypass to the Ballarat CBD.

BENEFITS

- Provide a key road arterial supporting the Ballarat West Growth zone, which will host 18,000 homes and 40,000 residents in the next 20 years.
- Remove North - South heavy vehicle traffic from the Ballarat CBD.
- Provide long term road based freight connectivity between Ballarat's western industrial areas and the Ports of Melbourne and Geelong.
- Provide much needed arterial road infrastructure to support expanding industrial activity to the West of Ballarat.

HOW

- Secure funding.
- Complete detailed design and procure for construction.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$75 million of Federal funds.



PRIORITY PROJECT

WASTE TO ENERGY

WHAT

Divert waste from Landfill through the introduction of a regional waste to energy processing facility. The project will introduce a Waste to Energy plant in Ballarat that will meet the needs of Ballarat and the Western Victorian community.

BENEFITS

- Use Waste as a resource rather than drain on revenue.
- Generate energy in the form of heat and electricity for regional businesses.
- Reduce the amount of waste going into landfill along with the residual risk and management issues associated with landfill operations.
- Double the life cycle of Council's existing landfill facility.
- Reduce Council's current expenditure in landfill operations (currently \$9m annually).
- Provide an option for Council's in Western Victoria to divert waste from landfills.

HOW

- Undertake a commercial procurement process

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$2.5 million capital investment from federal government matched by \$16.2 million private sector investment. Council contribution equates to \$3 million annual recurrent spend at facility.



PRIORITY PROJECT

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE

WHAT

Completely modernise and reinvent the Her Majesty's Theatre Ballarat, continually operating since 1875.

BENEFITS

- Provide modern and contemporary facilities for patrons and performers
- Enable Ballarat to host iconic cultural performances currently unable to be staged at the current facility
- Provide upgrades to stage, backstage, dressing rooms, and function areas, along with a new orchestra pit, thrust stage and computer based production systems
- Undertake critical building fabric, services upgrades, fire and safety upgrades and amenity and access works
- Invest in a key historical architectural icon thereby preserving history and heritage within the context of a modern relevant cultural facility.

HOW

- Complete detailed design reflecting masterplan recommendations.
- Procure and construct

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$28 million of Federal funds.



PRIORITY PROJECT

CBD CAR PARKING

WHAT

Deliver 500 multi deck car park spaces in the Ballarat CBD, thereby enabling significant private sector investment into surrounding development opportunities.

BENEFITS

- Significantly enhance the attractiveness of the Ballarat CBD as a destination for consumers and business.
- Trigger private sector investment in property development projects, resulting in enhanced CBD white collar employment activity
- Enhance Ballarat CBD as a retail destination.
- Support staging of major events in the Ballarat CBD.

HOW

- Complete detailed design reflecting CBD Car Parking strategy on proposed site
- Procure and construct.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$16 million of Federal funds matched by \$2 million Council contribution.



PRIORITY PROJECT

ENHANCED MOBILE COVERAGE ACROSS WESTERN VICTORIA

WHAT

Deliver critical mobile voice and data coverage across regional black spots.

BENEFITS

- Ensure regional communities are not disadvantaged by living in remote and regional areas
- Economic development benefits through enhanced business opportunities and productivity improvements
- Ensure that all residents are able to contact emergency services during natural disasters or emergency situations
- Enable regional disparities at a health and education level to be addressed
- Improved livability and visitor experience
- Increased social connectivity for residents living in remote communities.

HOW

- Augment Mobile Blackspot funding directed to Western Victoria
- Prioritise roll-out of NBN infrastructure to regional communities
- Procure and construct.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

Prioritise Central highlands projects through National Blackspot program.



PRIORITY PROJECT

REGIONAL MOTORSPORTS VICTORIA

WHAT

Build a purpose-built motorsports complex, covering a wide range of sporting and commercial uses to support the motorsport industry across Victoria.

BENEFITS

- Provide a modern facility which addresses key shortcomings of existing motorsports venues while also providing wider industry development and testing facilities within the Ballarat region and across Victoria. This is particularly relevant with Calder and Sandown race tracks nearing the end of their asset lives.
- Support local participation of motorsport in Ballarat, recorded at over 3000+ annually.
- Accommodate over 34,664 motorsports participants and attract 270,000 visitors to events annually, while also supporting driver training and vehicle testing.
- Support the motorsport industry, which generates \$693M direct industry output regionally (Victoria).
- The CAMS economic value report highlights the impact of this Facility regionally, estimated at \$308.61M. The Facility will contribute to the delivery of the Ballarat Strategy objective of creating 20,000 new jobs within the next 20 years, supporting local industry partners such as Bisiteknics and Albins.

HOW

- A Business Case summarising the key findings of an adopted Feasibility Study (2015) and subsequent site analysis, an industry economic review and legal advice on planning processes and governance models supports the Facility.
- The project will attract local, state, federal government funding and private investment.

REQUIRED INVESTMENT

\$4 million of Federal funds to fund land purchase and develop stage 1 – local and regional benefit. Stage 1 funding will be used to leverage private investment to realise stage 2 – \$30m of state-wide benefit.



Additionally – Council considers that the below projects also merit consideration as parties finalise their Federal election commitments to Ballarat and the region.

Projects	Cost	Descriptor
Fernery Stage 2	\$2.8m	Provision of the stage 2 components of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery Project
Lake Lighting	\$1.4m	Provision of lighting around the Lake Wendouree Steve Moneghetti track, enabling extended hours of usage and enhanced health and wellbeing outcomes
Art Gallery of Ballarat Master Plan	\$1m	Provision of a masterplan for the Art Gallery of Ballarat precinct
Lake and Gardens Upgrades	\$20m	A range of projects designed to enhance Lake Wendouree as a community and tourism destination. Key projects include: Paddling Hub, Rowing Centre of excellence, Indigenous art installation (North Gardens), Criterion track, Tramways Museum
Bike Infrastructure	\$1.25m	Additional bike trials and way finding signage to deliver integrated City wide cycle infrastructure in line with adopted policy of Ballarat Strategy
City LED Lighting	\$3m	Replacing existing halogen street lighting with high efficiency LED fittings
Black Hill Mountain bikes	\$1.5m	Provision of a regional hub for expanded mountain bike activities, with linkages to the proposed Central Highlands Goldfields mountain bike trail
Racing Precinct Stage Two	\$2m	Provision of Stage 2 of the Ballarat Equine Racing precinct industry infrastructure
Victoria Park Master Plan Recreation Upgrades	\$8m	Provision of new playing surfaces, central pavilion, irrigation and associated works as identified in the Victoria Park precinct masterplan
Unlocking Education Land	\$500,000	Masterplan for Southern component of Victoria Park precinct for educational purposes
Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre Water Slide	\$1.3m	Provision of a water slide facility to further enhance the BALC youth-orientated experience

Projects	Cost	Descriptor
Miners Rest recreational hub	\$4.3m	Provision of a community sporting hub for Miners rest through the provision of two sporting fields and a flexible community focused pavilion
Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka Exhibition Space infrastructure upgrades & Programming	\$2.9m	Provision of key technology upgrades to enable further enhancement of the MADE exhibition content and capability
Ballarat Festivals Program, including Winterlude and Season Of The Arts - 3 Year program	\$3.6 m (1.2m annually recurrent)	Recurrent funding of the SOTA program enabling further tourism and cultural outcomes able to be achieved through the new program
Bus Interchange - Little Bridge Street	\$2m	Upgrade of existing bus interchange to support intra-city public transport and connectivity outcomes
Sewerage – Planning for Growth	\$8m	Provision of a key pumping facility to accelerate the Ballarat West growth zone
Undergrounding Power Lines	\$5m over 5 years	Enable street scape enhancements in key heritage areas in central Ballarat
Regional Dog Pound	\$8m	Provision for a state of the art animal welfare facility to service the region
Rural Roads	\$3m	Upgrade of key rural roads to facilitate farm gate access.
Eureka Precinct - Stage 2	\$22m	Provision of stage 2 grandstand to Eureka Stadium, delivering an additional 7,000 undercover seats and increasing the stadium capacity to 14,000
Bio-Economy Innovation/R&D Centre	\$18.5m	Capital funding to enable provision of the Bio-Economy Innovation Centre as the centrepiece of the Ballarat West Employment Zone
Greening Ballarat	\$3m over 5 years	Tree planting programs in alignment with the Ballarat Strategy which identifies the objective of a 40% tree canopy across urban Ballarat
Yarrowee Creek - Re-imagined	\$10m	Provision of a major green space in the heart of the Ballarat CBD, providing enhanced amenity while also resolving key flooding challenges to surrounding businesses
Storm Water Harvesting	\$3m	Provision of major storm water harvesting network and reservoir as part of the Ballarat West growth zone, providing critical water supply to community recreational facilities

For further information visit www.ballarat.vic.gov.au