



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Premier of Victoria

Tuesday, 19 May, 2009

\$650,000 TO HELP RESTORE LAKE WENDOUREE

The Premier John Brumby today announced \$650,000 towards a project to help restore Lake Wendouree to once again become an iconic Ballarat destination for locals and visitors to the region.

In Ballarat today, Mr Brumby said the Victorian Government would provide a \$650,000 Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) grant to the Ballarat City Council to facilitate construction of infrastructure required to pump treated water from a mine to Lake Wendouree.

“Our Government is taking action to ensure vibrant regional centres like Ballarat continue to grow and thrive,” Mr Brumby said.

“Lake Wendouree is an important recreational tourist destination, a great place for locals and we want to get water back into this lake again.

“This grant secures a \$5.2 million project which will involve Ballarat mine company Lihir Gold constructing a water treatment plant and a reverse osmosis unit to treat groundwater from its underground mining operations.”

The Victorian Government is providing \$650,000 towards the project, with the Ballarat City Council and Lihir Gold contributing the remainder of the \$5.2 million project.

The project will involve the pumping of treated water from the Lihir Gold Ballarat mine to Lake Wendouree. The water will be pumped to Lake Wendouree to top up supply that is to be provided by the Central Highlands Water, North Ballarat Reclamation Treatment Plant through the Lake Wendouree Water Supply Project.

The Lake Wendouree Water Supply project is a joint partnership between the Victorian Government, Ballarat City Council and Central Highlands Water.

The project will provide up to 850 million litres of treated water to Lake Wendouree each year – up to 600 million litres of recycled water and up to 250 million litres from the Ballarat City Council’s stormwater project at Paul’s Wetland.

The Lihir Gold Ballarat mine will provide approximately 350 million litres per year.

This project has involved the council, Central Highlands Water, Lihir Gold and the Victorian Government all working together to find an innovative solution to help to restore Lake Wendouree.

As part of the Lake Wendouree Supply Project, Central Highlands Water has upgraded the existing Ballarat North Water Reclamation Plant.

The Victorian Government has provided \$2.13 million to the project, the Ballarat City Council \$2.2 million and Central Highlands Water \$2.67 million. Water is expected to start flowing into Lake Wendouree following EPA and DHS approval.

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