



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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BALLAN RESERVE UPGRADE LIFTS SOCIAL COHESION

A \$313,000 project to improve and extend the Ballan Reserve Community Facility will encourage more use of the centre by wider sections of the community, improving community cohesion, the State Member for Ballarat East, Mr Geoff Howard MP said today.

Mr Howard announced the Brumby Government's support for the project – a \$125,000 grant, 40 percent of the project cost.

The project involves an extension to the existing facility to provide community meeting areas and multi-purpose spaces; disability access; improved amenities for public and community group use; and more storage space.

"With a new residential development attracting young families to the area, the population of Ballan is rising," Mr Howard said.

"The Ballan Reserve Community Facility is a vital community asset but is no longer meeting the needs of users, who include sporting clubs, community groups, Ballan Scouts and Ballan District Health and Care.

"This extension project will meet the needs of a growing community.

"The addition of a multi-purpose community space, disabled access and improved amenities will encourage greater use by younger people, people with disabilities, and older people, and attract people from nearby towns like Ballarat.

"Improving access across a broader spectrum of the community will alleviate social isolation, increase community involvement and improve community cohesion and well-being.

"The building works will also support local tradespeople."

The \$125,000 Victorian Government grant is coming from the Small Towns Development Fund, administered by Regional Development Victoria.

The remaining cost of the project is being met by Moorabool Shire Council (\$85,000); in-kind contributions (\$23,000), community cash (\$20,000) and Sport and Recreation Victoria (\$60,000).

Mr Howard said the project typified initiatives supported by the Brumby Government's *Small Towns Development Fund*, which were making a big difference to towns in provincial Victoria.

"The *Small Towns Development Fund* is helping Victoria's smaller towns create jobs, drive economic growth and improve community infrastructure," he said.

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