



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

Friday 21st August 2009

GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR MORE ACTION IN MOORABOOL

Residents, businesses and community organisations across Moorabool are encouraged to get involved and have a say in how to make their community an even better place to live through a new Brumby Labor Government funded program.

Member for Ballarat East Geoff Howard today announced the Government would provide almost \$270,000 to Moorabool Shire Council for the *Strengthening Moorabool Communities in Action* (SMCiA) project.

“The Brumby Labor Government is taking action to make regional Victoria an even better place to live, work, invest and raise a family by funding programs such as the *Strengthening Moorabool Communities in Action* (MCiA),” Mr Howard said.

“This money will partly go towards employing a full-time worker to establish and support 19 local Community Action Networks, build community leadership and skills, and undertake projects.”

Mr Howard said the funding would support people to get involved with their community, improve skills and bring community plans to life to deliver the outcomes that the community wants most.

“Already the community has suggested a number of projects such as walking and cycling trails, a community park, youth group and a monthly market,” Mr Howard said.

“The SMCiA project will give local people a real say in how their community develops.

“We expect the Community Plans will encourage improved local infrastructure and potentially new employment opportunities, as well as offer a chance for people to participate in making decisions that affect them.

“In addition, involvement in the Community Action Networks will help local people gain confidence with new leadership and networking skills, while improving connections within the community.

“Together with the work Council is undertaking, the SMCiA project will result in a more skilled, connected Moorabool community that will drive and deliver the projects that matter most.”

Community Development Minister Peter Batchelor said the Victorian Community Support Grants were available through the Community Support Fund for projects that mean the most for local people.

“From the development of plans and priorities for the future, to building community infrastructure, Victorian Community Support Grants deliver projects that improve communities,” Mr Batchelor said.

“The *Strengthening Moorabool Communities in Action* project will give local people a strong voice, and the skills to create a resilient and connected community with great local infrastructure.”

Since 2004, the Victorian Community Support Grants program has supported 504 projects worth almost \$83 million.

Contact: Geoff Howard MLA Member for Ballarat East 5331 7722