

## FEDERAL ELECTION: BALLARAT

With the Federal Election in May, Golden Plains Shire Council is advocating for bi-partisan commitments for valuable community infrastructure and important services across the Shire. In this Council News, we are focusing on the electorate of Ballarat.

The new electorate boundaries released in 2021 have moved all the townships in Golden Plains Shire that were in Wannon to the federal electorate of Ballarat. In addition, several towns that were formerly in the Corangamite electorate, including Lethbridge and Teesdale, are now in Ballarat. Mayor Cr Gavin Gamble and CEO

Eric Braslis are regularly meeting with the candidates for Ballarat in the lead up to the election. We have identified a list of valuable initiatives in Ballarat and we are actively seeking government commitments to our Golden Plains Shire townships in this important electorate.

These priority projects complement a range of current and recent initiatives in Golden Plains townships in the Ballarat electorate including the Rokewood Community Hub, Ross Creek Active Recreation and Play, Meredith Skate and BMX/Pump Track and the Teesdale Turtle Bend Upgrade.

With 56 communities in Golden Plains Shire, Federal Election commitments won't reach all the corners of the municipality, but every dollar of government investment that's secured saves money in Council's budget. This allows more money to be redirected to improving roads and delivering works in smaller townships that don't get election commitments.

**To stay up-to-date** with Federal Election promises in Golden Plains, read Council News in the *Golden Plains Times* and Council's website or follow Golden Plains Shire Council on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

### Northern Streetscapes Project



**Project:** Beautification upgrades to the town centres of Linton, Scarsdale and Smythesdale.

**Priority:** Streetscape furniture and infrastructure to address road and pedestrian safety and beautification improvements for these communities, driving increased visitation to the northern corridor of Golden Plains Shire.

**What We Need:** \$1.3 million to deliver Stage Two of the project, matching the Stage One commitment from Council and Berrybank Wind Farm.

### 24-Hour Ambulance Station



**Project:** A new ambulance station to better serve the northern townships of Golden Plains Shire.

**Priority:** In the north of the Shire, townships are subject to very concerning ambulance response times. From October to December 2021, the average response to a code one call in Golden Plains was 21 minutes, in contrast with 11 minutes for the City of Ballarat.

**What We Need:** Council supports a proposal to establish a new 24-hour ambulance station at the Delacombe Town Centre in Ballarat, to reduce wait times in the northern area of Golden Plains Shire and the growing suburbs in Ballarat West.

### Linton Oval Reconstruction



**Project:** The complete reconstruction of the playing field on Linton Recreation Reserve.

**Priority:** The Reserve experiences significant issues with drainage and poor surface profile. Upgrading the oval will allow greater use year-round and support current use for football and cricket clubs, as well as future sports participation.

**What We Need:** \$880,000 for the oval reconstruction in Linton.

### Woody Yaloak Reserve Lighting Project



**Project:** New lighting on the oval and netball courts at Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve, Smythesdale.

**Priority:** The project will provide increased opportunities to program sporting and community activities, training and matches, and events, promoting greater participation in physical activity in this growing township.

**What We Need:** \$650,000 for 150 lux lighting at the Reserve.

### Smythesdale Sub-Regional Play Space



**Project:** A new play space featuring age-diverse play elements, street furniture, barbecue facilities, shade structure and accessible public toilets.

**Priority:** The project will provide improved play and social opportunities for residents and visitors at a prominent location in the north of the Shire, co-located with the recently redeveloped skate park and the Woody Yaloak Recreation Reserve.

**What We Need:** \$2.2 million to design and construct the sub-regional play space.

### Public Bus Network



**Project:** The extension of Ballarat's public bus service to Smythes Creek, Smythesdale and Scarsdale.

**Priority:** The Ballarat bus service currently runs to Delacombe and Council is seeking its extension out to the growing northern townships of the Shire, where there is a limited bus network into the city. Council also supports improved VLine bus services between Hamilton, which services Linton and Smythesdale.

**What We Need:** A commitment to operate the extended bus network in Golden Plains Shire.