

June 2nd 2017

EOI for Ballarat Sports & Events Centre (BSEC) build opens as Minister tours venue

The Ballarat Sports & Events Centre hosted a tour today by the Minister for Regional Development Jaala Pulford as Ballarat City Council called for Expressions of Interest to construct the Ballarat Sports & Events Centre.

The City of Ballarat (**Council**) recently announced its intention to conduct a public tender process for the construction of the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre, in accordance with the requirements of section 186 of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Vic)*. Council has invited expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced organisations that wish to be short-listed for invitation to tender for the construction of the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre project. Expressions of Interest registrations close 7/6/17.

The City of Ballarat has secured funding for the first **Community Courts** stage development, totaling \$14 million. Funding applications are currently live for up to another \$10 million to support a **Regional Sports & Events Hub** stage.

As applications are presently under consideration for funding for the **Sports & Events Hub** stage of work there is a possibility that the planned future stages may be able to be undertaken concurrently.

The project timetable is presently set out according to the following deadlines:

- Construction documentation is expected to be completed around the end of June 2017
- Tender is expected to be released to selected applicants in June / July, with a 3-week response timeline expected
- Construction period is scheduled from August 2017 until August 2018, with ability to shorten construction timeframes viewed favourably

Construction is to occur simultaneously with ongoing use in the existing WSEC facility. Construction processes are to be managed to minimise any impact on the general operation of the Wendouree Sports and Events Centre, including patron access and parking.

Wendouree Indoor Sports representative Nick Grylewicz said that “all the community stakeholders are excited at this next stage of the journey to bring modern facilities to the region that will cater for the immediate needs of indoor sports”.



Ballarat Sports & Events Centre

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“We have been lobbying since November 2006 for funding for improved indoor sports and events facilities for Western Victoria at the Ballarat Sports & Events Centre”.

In 2014, the project secured a \$9 million Victorian Government commitment along with \$5 million from Ballarat City Council. This funding allows the existing venue to expand a current to a six court Community Sports Centre.

The BSEC project was very close to success in each of the three National Stronger Regions Funding Rounds where the BSEC was applying for \$10M to complete the **Regional Sports & Events Hub** component of the project.

Mr Grylewicz added “we are extremely fortunate that Ballarat City Council and all six Central Highlands Councils have continued to support the BSEC project as a major transformational regional project and have backed our decision to apply as the lead applicant for funding from Rd 1 of the Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) from which grant announcements are due in June this year”.

BSEC – the completion of the Regional Sports & Events Hub means:

- The BSEC will have capacity to allow for local and regional training, development camps and for regional, state and national level sports and events opportunities at the Centre. This requires at least one extra court, retractable seating, strength & conditioning facilities, meeting and function rooms for community use and key partners such as the UA3 and Federation University.
- This funding will provide Western Victoria with a nationally competitive Indoor Sports & Events venue and keep Ballarat and the Western region as one of the premier events host destinations in regional Australia.
- This new facility will retain \$4.7M in existing annual economic benefit and allow for growth of another \$3.2M in economic benefit per annum for the region. Without the full project being developed our ability to generate economic benefit will shrink over time.
- The fully developed BSEC will create at least 7 new or re-located full time operations positions and 11 casual events positions at the BSEC. The new BSEC competitions will also provide weekly opportunities for 111 casual youth referee positions and 444+ volunteers.
- Basketball Victoria Country and Netball Victoria **use of the centre as a regional administration base and training centre for Western Victoria**



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- A home **base for Special Olympics and Wheelchair Sports** which will both have a home in this new facility.

BBRF – Ability to part fund:

The BBRF Program Guidelines for the Infrastructure Projects Stream detail that the Ministerial selection Panel may also offer a different amount of grant funding to what was requested.

This new flexibility allows for our project to be supported even if the full \$10M commitment to the project is not available.

Even a partial grant would allow us to work with the Federal Government, Council and the State Government to complete the full BSEC vision which will maximise the potential of the BSEC venue and maintain capacity to retain existing major events and to attract new major events.

Completing the Regional Events Hub which will maximise the potential of the BSEC venue and maintain capacity to retain existing major events and attract new major events.

A cost breakdown of the **Regional Sports & Events Hub** component of the BSEC project shows what we could achieve with all or part of the additional funding.

SHOWCOURT UPGRADE including Court, Amenity/Change areas, Retractable Seating and carparking.

COST \$5.6m

REGIONAL TRAINING UPGRADE including Court, Admin areas

COST \$2.875m

SPECTATOR AMENITY including Café expansion & equipment, Community Spaces

COST \$1.456m

TOTAL \$9.931m

