Full Funding for Ararat Bypass

A bypass of Ararat will remove heavy vehicles and passing traffic from the streets and significantly improve the amenity and safety. It will improve the efficiency of the Western Highway critical link between Melbourne and Adelaide.

VicRoads are close to completing planning studies for a future bypass of Ararat following the announcement of joint Federal and State Government funding of $4 million dollars to undertake the planning for Ararat and Beaufort. The investigation is expected to be complete within twelve months and will then be incorporated into the Ararat Planning Scheme.

The benefits of a bypass include:
- Improved freight movement and efficiency across the freight network
- Improved road safety and functionality of the town’s road network
- Improved amenity of the township through the minimisation of heavy vehicles

Council requests:
- The route should be well clear of the existing township to allow for growth
- The northern route is Council’s preferred option
- Full diamond interchanges should be established at the eastern off-ramp, the Pyrenees Highway connection and the western end of the bypass
- An over or underpass should be developed for Warrak Road and Saw Pit Flat Road to allow for through traffic
- A major freeway/highway service centre be supported at the eastern approach (Melbourne) around the existing service centre
- Major signage to be provided at the eastern approach which identifies the Grampians Tourist Route through to Halls Gap
- That community and business engagement form part of the planning studies
- That the timelines for planning studies be made publically available

There is a need for certainty for the landholders, business owners and the community regarding the proposed bypass and it is hoped that this will be completed within 12 months.
Ararat Rural City Council has welcomed the recent announcement of $25 million dollar from the Federal Government to assist with the planning and reservation of land for the purposes of the bypass. The Ararat Bypass will significantly improve the amenity and liveability of the city and Council are committed to achieving full funding for a future bypass. It will provide certainty for our community and allow us to plan for the social and economic opportunities it will bring.

**Summary**

Ararat Rural City Council has welcomed the recent announcement of $25 million dollar from the Federal Government to assist with the planning and reservation of land for the purposes of the bypass.

The Ararat Bypass will significantly improve the amenity and liveability of the city and Council are committed to achieving full funding for a future bypass. It will provide certainty for our community and allow us to plan for the social and economic opportunities it will bring.

**What is needed?**

A commitment to fully fund the Ararat Bypass.

Significant investment must continue in the duplication of the Western Highway which is the principal freight route between Melbourne and Adelaide. The Western Highway has the highest traffic volume of any un-duplicated highway in Australia.