



OFFICE OF STUART GRIMLEY MP
Member for Western Victoria
State Leader of Derryn Hinch's Justice Party

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ballarat performs well in 2019 State Budget

Ballarat has performed well as a result of the State Budget handed down today, according to Stuart Grimley MP.

With the towns' centrepiece commitment being \$10m to refurbish and upgrade Her Majesty's Theatre, Mr Grimley feels the community will be quite happy despite the State Government not committing the final \$5m to fully complete the buildings' restoration project.

The heritage icon - and the oldest continuously running theatre in Australia – will receive a restoration of the ageing building, upgrades to the functionality of the theatre space (including lifts extension of foyer spaces) and an increase to disability access.

Ballarat will also be one of two recipients of a \$209m initiative to reduce homelessness and support those fleeing violence as part of a commitment to build 1000 new public housing properties.

The Government also included \$11.8m to upgrade Eureka Stadium and the broader Ballarat Sports and Entertainment Precinct, including six new courts for basketball, netball, volleyball and badminton plus a share in \$5m to establish seven basketball hubs.

Unfortunately the 2019 State Budget did not disclose precisely where additional funding for police resourcing, roads, and 3-year-old kindergartens – amongst other general funding announcements - would be deployed, but Mr Grimley will be strongly advocating for Ballarat to receive a share of this funding allocation.

Mr Grimley Stated:

“Ballarat has benefitted from this Budget, but I will be keeping a close eye on some of the justice initiatives the Government is proposing to ensure Ballarat remains safe

Her Majesty's theatre will get a revamp which is great to see – it's an iconic attraction for Ballarat and is an important part of the visitor economy. This funding couldn't have come sooner.

Sport is a huge part of the community, especially for our kids. It gets them exercising and involved in a team which is invaluable for their body and mind, so I welcome the funding for the [Ballarat Sports and Entertainment] precinct.”

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