

Eastwood Community Hub

Images: Indicative design only

Project Cost

\$16.8 million

Investment Needed

- \$8.4 million

City of Ballarat Investment

- \$8.4 million

Project Description

Redevelopment of the Eastwood Leisure Complex to create a new, universally accessible, multi-use community facility with flexible meeting spaces, a medium-sized conference/community space, kitchen, and the provision of female-friendly facilities. The existing basketball stadium will be retained.

Community Benefit

The existing complex is no longer fit for purpose: parts are up to eight decades old, not universally accessible and not compliant with current regulations.

With its central location and easy access to public transport and parking, the centre is one of Ballarat's best used and most loved community facilities, attracting 60,000 visits annually, hosting 14,000 hours of programmed activity, and home to diverse groups from across Ballarat and the wider Central Highlands Region.

Why should Governments invest in this project?

Economic impact

\$41.5 million economic output during construction, up to \$1 million in economic output and more than \$396,000 in business turnover each year after completion.

Job Creation

- 106 jobs during construction, up to five jobs per year ongoing.

Social Inclusion

Ballarat Central and surrounding suburbs include a high percentage of lone-person households, at 34.6 per cent it is higher than the Victorian average of 24.7 per cent.

Eastwood Community Hub will help address this by delivering accessible and inclusive spaces, becoming a home for community organisations providing sports and fitness, dance and the arts, lifelong learning, hobbies and support.

A modern, universally accessible building will enable current groups to meet increasing demand and provide opportunities for additional community groups - including more than 30 local multicultural associations which regularly seek an affordable venue to host national days and community events - to use the facility.



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Eastwood Community Hub continued

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Location

- 20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat Central

Status

- In progress - application to the Federal Government's Growing Regions Program for \$8.4 million

Timeline and Next Steps

Award Contract for Design Services

December 2023

Construction to commence

Mid to late 2024

Construction complete

December 2025



Note: All project costs are subject to inflationary pressures leading to cost escalations

Evan King, Chief Executive Officer
5320 5500 | ceo@ballarat.vic.gov.au

