

# Media Release

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Regional Development



Monday, 12 August 2024

## WORKS DRIVE AHEAD AT BALLARAT WEST EMPLOYMENT ZONE

Thanks to the Allan Labor Government works at the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ) are forging ahead, with construction beginning on an extension to Liberator Drive.

Minister for Regional Development Gayle Tierney today announced that Winslow Constructors have secured the contract to lead this next stage of the BWEZ development, which is being delivered by Development Victoria on behalf of Regional Development Victoria.

Once complete, the extended Liberator Drive will become the main access point between BWEZ and the Ballarat Airport for residents and businesses, ensuring the efficient movement of goods and bolstering Ballarat's supply chain.

Winslow Constructors has a proven track record of delivery on the BWEZ development. The company, which is also constructing civil works for the Stage 2 precinct, continues to exceed the *Local Jobs First Policy* targets set by the Labor Government to create opportunities for local businesses and workers, including apprentices and trainees.

It is anticipated that Winslow will bring this same approach to the expansion of Liberator Drive, which is due for completion by the end of 2024.

The development of the Stage 2 precinct also continues, with manufacturer and supplier John Valves confirming its acquisition of two hectares of land within the precinct. The company will bring 45 jobs into BWEZ and intends to be fully operational by early 2027.

John Valves will join McCallum Disability Services, Dahlsens Ballarat and other future tenants in Stage 2, as well as companies already located on site - including CHS Broadbent, Kane Transport, Luv-A-Duck, Westlab and Athlegen.

Sales-to-date and those underway at Stage 2 are predicted to bring the total number of ongoing jobs created at BWEZ to 1,200 and will generate \$171 million in investment.

BWEZ was announced by the Labor Government in 2015 with an initial \$30 million joint investment with the City of Ballarat. This was followed by an additional \$14.4 million from the Allan Labor Government and \$27.8 million from the Australian Government for the Intermodal Freight Hub.

For more information, go to [rdv.vic.gov.au](https://rdv.vic.gov.au).

### Quote attributable to Minister for Regional Development Gayle Tierney

*"It's full speed ahead at BWEZ, with the latest development and land sales further enhancing economic opportunities for Ballarat and Central Highlands businesses and workers through this transformative project."*

### Quote attributable to Minister for Development Victoria Colin Brooks

*"With the extension of Liberator Drive, we're not just building roads, we're creating vital connections that will drive economic growth and job creation for Ballarat and the wider region."*

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**Quote attributable to Member for Ripon Martha Haylett**

*"Investing in projects like BWEZ ensures that Ballarat remains a hub of economic activity, providing new opportunities for both local workers and businesses."*

**Quote attributable to Member for Wendouree Juliana Addison**

*"The expansion of Liberator Drive will be a game-changer for Ballarat, enhancing connectivity and supporting local businesses in their growth and success."*

**Quote attributable to Member for Eureka Michaela Settle**

*"This developments at BWEZ represent a huge boost to regional infrastructure that will create jobs and foster a thriving community in Ballarat."*

**Quote attributable to Ballarat Mayor Des Hudson**

*"This is another exciting step forward for BWEZ, which is key to ensuring a strong and prosperous economic future for Ballarat and the broader region – creating jobs and opportunities, while helping to support the significant population growth predicted for our city in the coming decades."*