



WHY GEN Z WANTS TO QUIT CITIES FOR LIFE IN REGIONS

BUT BABY BOOMERS ARE STAYING PUT INSIDE



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Dad would be so proud

Losing your father is devastating. Add a tragic farm accident just a month before year 12 exams, and it's almost unbearable.

Yet after securing an ATAR of 93.5, former Brauer College student Justin Hyland is continuing to make his idol proud - this time with a "life-changing" scholarship.

Story - page 7



Picture by Katrina Lovell

Transformation 'stolen'

Jessica Greenan

IN AN alternate reality, what would the region look like if the \$15 billion of taxpayer money allegedly lost to corruption was spent locally?

It would be totally transformed, Warrnambool mayor Ben Blain said, as

a recent report released by Geoffrey Watson SC claimed billions of dollars were allegedly wasted on

corrupt payments linked to the CFMEU. "We've seen this overspend in the city and it's time we see the investment come to the regions - a small amount of money for projects in Melbourne can change lives in south-west Victoria," he said.

"Looking at road infrastructure at the moment, we know our roads are a challenge. We know that they're unsafe. Across the

state, just under \$1 billion is spent on these road blitzes. \$2 billion into south-west Victoria's roads would totally change our transport networks. Then you look at our hospital facilities and our \$358 million project. You put another few hundred million towards that and we could really have a really amazing hospital. It would also be future-proofed for the next 50 years to make

sure it can cope with the growth we're going to see here in the region."

At a local government level, Cr Blain said that money would go even further.

"For example, the \$13.7 million Brierly Recreation Reserve project would be a reality. Our pool - \$75 million - which is becoming increasingly needed across the region would be done," he said. "We could be looking at

bigger trains to improve our services as well - these aren't just pipe dreams, these are things we actually need and we haven't gotten anywhere close to \$15 billion.

"The conservatorium of music they want to have out at Deakin University could be funded as well and a first for Victoria. There are so many things we could do ... and we deserve to have these things.

"This is money that would transform not just Warrnambool, but all of the region."

He said it would also fund the \$57 million art gallery redevelopment, The Lookout, surf lifesaving club upgrade, bring commercial services back to the airport and strengthen the harbour.

Moyné mayor Jordan Lockett said the \$15 billion could have paid for 250 years of its annual budget.

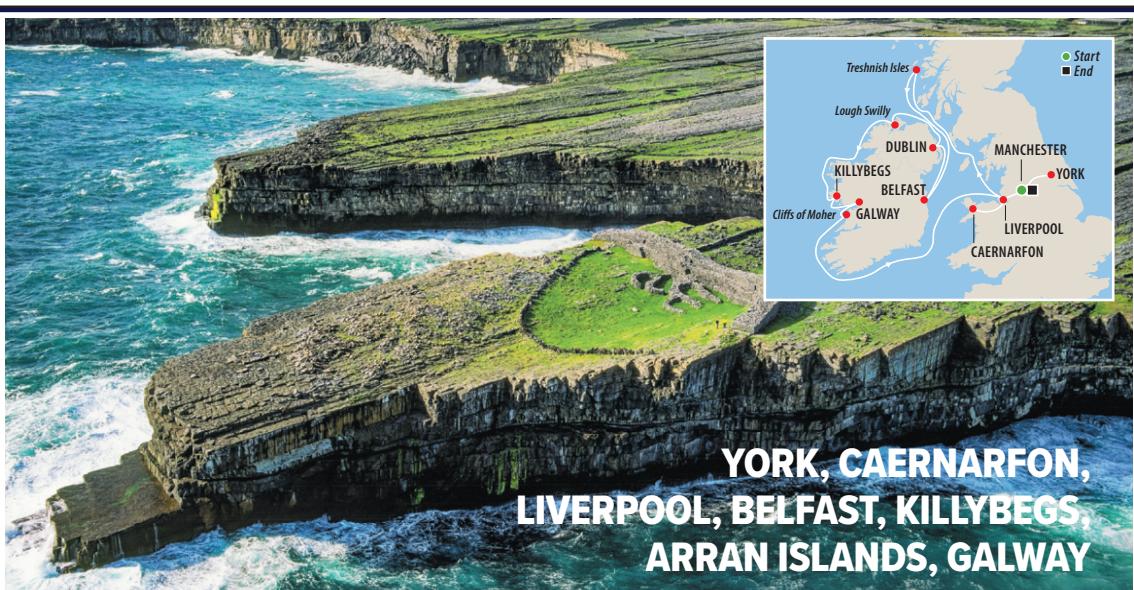
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