

## Research results back draft Flinders St master plan



The Townsville City Council redevelopment of Flinders Street was given a boost after a new survey found almost 70 per cent of respondents were very to extremely supportive of the plan.

Planning and Economic Development Committee chairman Cr David Crisafulli said the survey results vindicated council's determination to go forward with the redevelopment.

"We had to be decisive... to get on with the job... but to have these survey results is pleasing and helps give us more direction," he said.

Council contracted Enhance Management who randomly surveyed residents across the new city, with 83 per cent saying they would visit the area more than they currently did once the redevelopment was complete.

"This is the first impartial feedback we have received from the

community at large, and it shows that the majority of residents are in favour of our plans for our new city heart," Cr Crisafulli said.

"It is a clear indication that we have taken on board concerns and ideas raised in our August consultation and people are very pleased with what is being proposed.

"There was very strong support indicated for the removal of current mall structures and the creation of iconic shelter pavilions in the area.

"There was also majority support provided for two-way traffic through the area with 63 per cent of people indicating it was the best way forward."

Survey results showed strong support for more car parking, shade, public amenities and keeping Cotters Markets as the most important attributes in the redeveloped precinct.

Construction works are anticipated to commence early 2010.

## Design firm approved for international sports centre

At a meeting of the Townsville City Council in November PDT Architects were awarded the project to design Townsville's newest international indoor sports centre at Murray.

Townsville City Council's research into the future needs of the region's growing population has led to the development of the state-of-the-art Northern Beaches Leisure Centre, Riverway and Tony Ireland Stadium. And now construction of the new Murray Sports Complex will begin in the middle of 2009 for completion in October 2010.

The centre will seat 2000 sports lovers with facilities to host a widening scope of sporting activities in its playing courts, gymnasium, community rooms and grounds. The centre will become

home to the Townsville Fire WNBL team, the NQ Steel Cats state netball team, futsal (indoor soccer), volleyball, badminton, sporting wheelies and a range of school and community sporting events.

Until then futsal (indoor soccer), badminton, volleyball, and sporting wheelies will continue to use the Fit for Life Centre.

Following the solar city's sustainable building practices, the facility will be smart designed utilising walls of glass louvers for maximum natural light and cooling.

Council has set a 2010 timeframe for the completion of the complex and surrounds.

The Murray Sports Complex is being co-funded by the three levels

of government with the council contributing \$2.35 million, the Queensland Government providing \$8.2 million and the Australian Government \$3.05 million.

Planning and Development Committee chair Cr David Crisafulli said today's decision to use a firm with an existing connection with Townsville clears the way to discuss the details of the design and begin calling for construction tenders for the \$13.6 million complex early next year.

"The indoor sports centre is the centrepiece of the Murray Sports Complex redevelopment and the Council is delighted to have attracted a company with the expertise and profile of PDT Architects to take on the job," Cr Crisafulli said.



Artist impression of the international sports centre at Murray Sports Complex.

## Leisure Centre opens

The Northern Beaches Leisure Centre, located in the North Shore Estate in Burdell, is the first of its kind for the city's northern suburbs. Stage one of the multi-million dollar facility incorporates a 50m Olympic pool, learn-to-swim pool, toddler pool, a water play area and barbeque facilities.

The next stages of the facility will be constructed over the next few years, with additional features including a 25m indoor pool, children's dry play area, multi-purpose sports building, crèche and much more.

The centre will open from 6am to 8pm, seven days a week, across the summer months.

The leisure centre is a joint project with council, the developers Stockland, and the State Government through Sport and Recreation Queensland.

Final touches being made to the Northern Beaches Lifestyle Centre, opening December 6.

