

Keeping the city moving

Townsville City Council is leading the way with job-creating infrastructure projects which will help the community ride out the economic downturn.

Flinders Street Redevelopment

Re-energising the city centre through the redevelopment of Flinders Mall will create a construction jobs boom which will then flow on to retail positions and, in turn, an increase in consumer spending both in the local sector and the tourism area, according to Deputy Mayor Cr David Crisafulli.

“We recently received a report which showed about 1,000 jobs will be created during the construction phase of the redevelopment alone and more than 1,000 jobs in retail down the track,” he said.

The big financial benefits include an injection of \$231.4 million into the economy and generating \$49.8 million in additional wages and salaries during construction.

Both the redevelopment and Flinders Plaza projects are also expected to boost retail and tourism in the city by as much as \$28.3 million each year and attract major new investment in the CBD.

Cr Crisafulli said council delegations had received a good hearing from Federal and State Governments when asking for funding.

“This is a vitally important part of Townsville’s future,” he said.

“Working together we will make it happen.”

Jezzine Barracks

The much-anticipated hand-over of the Jezzine Barracks to council has been delayed with weather causing difficulties with the military refurbishment of Jezzine.

The Jezzine Barracks Trust (JBT) has, in the meantime, undertaken community consultation and considered all previous and present submissions on the suggested uses of the land. These were considered at a workshop and in late February, the JBT is expected to develop a concept design for use in engaging a consultant for development of the final design.

The final concept design that will allow works to begin should be complete and publicised in the second part of this year.

Council has committed \$10 million to the redevelopment and this has been matched by the Commonwealth Government.

The JBT, in conjunction with council, has ruled out any residential or large scale



Cr Les Tyrell, Sports Minister Judy Spence, and Hockey Assc President Gary Kershaw at Murray Sports Complex

commercial development and the site will be zoned park and public open space with a focus on military and local history.

Townsville International Sports Centre/Murray Stadium

Since the appointment of PDT Architects, the design of the new centre has been progressing well.

Comments and input from users has been considered in the design.

Also over the past few months new irrigation has been installed to the number 1, 2 and 3 fields at Townsville Football and to 14 grass courts at Townsville Netball.

Club house renovations have also been completed at the Sharks United rugby league complex.

Kokoda Pool Redevelopment

As part of the Aquatic Facilities master Plan adopted by council last year, Kokoda will undergo a multi-million dollar redevelopment to purpose-build the site to cater for families and older adult aquatic activities.

Council has offered land on the yet-to-be-redeveloped site to the State Government in what could be a rare chance for them to build a hydro-therapy pool, following the closure of the former State facility in Vincent.

We are excited about the direction this plan will take us with Long Tan to become a competition and training hub and Tobruk to cater for lap swimming and recreational/fitness-based aquatics.

“Of course last year we opened Northern Beaches to the public and I understand attendance figures have been very promising and the

plan also looks to the future needs of the city.”

Wastewater and Water Upgrade projects

A \$189 million project to increase the capacity of the city’s treatment plants has commenced with interim upgrades being carried out at Deeragun and Mount Low.

The investment in new and upgraded sewerage treatment plants will cater for future population growth while meeting stricter effluent disposal standards set out by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Detailed design work is also well underway on the centrepiece of the project which will see council rebuild the city’s oldest sewerage treatment facility at Mt St John.

The Deeragun and Mount Low Wastewater Treatment Plants will eventually be decommissioned with the areas to be serviced by the new Mt St John plant.

Progress is also being made on a \$140 million project to increase and improve the quality of the city’s water supply.

Construction of a new water treatment plant for the city’s northern suburbs is scheduled to begin at the end of the wet season.

Leisure Centre a summer success

Thousands of Northern Beaches residents took advantage of the new Northern Beaches Leisure Centre to beat the heat over summer.

Aquatics Coordinator for the centre and Olympic gold medallist Jon Sieben said the response to the centre had been overwhelmingly positive.

“We were very pleased that over 4,500 visitors used our facility in the first month, and visitor rates had been even higher since December,” Mr Sieben said.

The centre has also been very popular with school groups, with swimming classes organised for the year.

“Learn to swim classes have also been popular with parents,” Mr Sieben said.

Located in the new North Shore development at Burdell, the Northern Beaches Leisure Centre has been a real drawcard for the north of the city.

Ben Simpson from Stockland said the Leisure Centre was a fantastic asset for the North Shore development.

“It’s a fantastic facility, and a great asset for North Shore and its future residents.”

The centre was a joint initiative between Queensland Government’s Department of Sport and Recreation, Stockland and

council, with Stockland and the State Government each contributing \$1.5million.

Families flocked to the Leisure Centre over the Christmas break.

