

MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 10 March 2016

Plan to revitalise Withers a shared vision

A progressive plan designed to reinvigorate the suburb of Withers by activating under-utilised land and guiding development in sub-precincts has been endorsed by Bunbury City Council.

The Withers Local Area Plan is a place-based decision-making tool that will help to shape future redevelopment and guide improvements to road and path networks, along with the upgrade of infrastructure services.

The plan's key aims are to develop a forward-thinking framework while identifying priorities and timeframes to achieve a range of outcomes.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said it was also important that the plan established a shared vision for Withers and that the community played a part in ensuring it was achieved.

"There are several criteria to this plan being a success, including community diversity, land rationalisation, increased connectivity and amenity," Mr Brennan said.

"When you put all of these aspects together then we have the recipe to make Withers a far more vibrant and functional place for people to live.

"It is important that Withers continues to evolve into a safe and active neighbourhood that meets the needs of a healthy and balanced community."

Improving housing diversity and choice is one of the 10 key strategies highlighted in the plan, and Mr Brennan said the City would work closely with the Department of Housing to achieve this.

"Reducing the relatively high concentration of public housing is seen as an important step that goes hand-in-hand with making more land available to deliver diverse housing options," Mr Brennan said.

The Withers Local Area Plan builds on the already completed Withers Urban Renewal Strategy and was a joint project between the City of Bunbury and South West Development Commission.

It also involved extensive consultation with the community and Mr Brennan said it was important that residents continued to be involved in the process.

"We are sharing a collective vision with the community and we will continue to listen to feedback to ensure everyone is on the same path to a rejuvenated suburb," he said.

ENDS

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