

MEDIA STATEMENT



Tuesday, 16 February 2016

Council keen to hear ideas about proposed cultural and civic precinct

The community is being encouraged to have a say on a vision to create a civil and cultural precinct aimed at increasing the social and economic vibrancy of the Bunbury CBD.

Key goals of the ambitious City of Bunbury project are activating community spaces, providing pedestrian-friendly linkages and creating long-term parking solutions while encouraging and developing new business.

The precinct would capture the area containing the council administration building, Bunbury Regional Art Galleries and Wittenoom Street car park (South's car park).

Three discreet projects make up the precinct plan - a Wittenoom Street pedestrian connection, creation of a "Gallery Square" public open space, plus the construction of a multi-level car park.

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said inviting the wider community to have input into the plan was a natural progression following a community survey and discussions by a working group that consisted of key stakeholders.

"The working group has identified that a perceived lack of parking in the CBD was impacting on the viability of existing businesses and creating an impediment to new development," Mr Brennan said.

"Developing a creatively-designed car park as part of a civic and cultural precinct would provide a long-term solution, as well as providing parking for those making use of the activated community space being created throughout the precinct."

Mr Brennan said many options were on the table, including closing part of Wellington Street to activate an under-utilised section of garden in front of BRAG.

"Any road closures would require a change in traffic flows around the CBD, including potential one-way sections along Prinsep and Wellington streets," he said.

The development of a multi-level car park is an essential component of the civic cultural precinct and creates not only parking for the activation of the area, but importantly provides additional parking for existing and future businesses across the CBD.

It would be designed to allow additional decks to be constructed as demand increased and there would be the possibility to include street level commercial space.

Mr Brennan said he was keen to hear the community's ideas and stressed that consultation was just the beginning of the process.

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“I urge people to attend a community forum at the Council Function Room on Thursday, 24 March from 5.30pm where all information will be available and people will be able to have their input,” Mr Brennan said.

“I encourage people to have their say on a project that would provide real benefits to the CBD.”

The community will have the chance to become further involved following feedback from the workshop.

ENDS

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