

# MEDIA STATEMENT



Thursday, 17 March 2016

## **Have your say on CBD cultural and civic precinct**

Community input is vital to creating a vision for a civil and cultural precinct in the Bunbury CBD that aims to increase the social and economic vibrancy of the city.

A community forum will be held on Thursday, 24 March at the Council Function Room from 5.30pm where people are urged to attend and have a say on the city's future.

The precinct plan vision involves a Wittenoom Street pedestrian connection, creation of a "Gallery Square" public open space, plus the construction of a multi-level car park.

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

Bunbury Mayor Gary Brennan said goals of the precinct plan were activating community spaces, providing pedestrian-friendly linkages and creating long-term parking solutions while encouraging and developing new business.

"People who are keen to be involved in shaping our city's future - be they residents, business owners or even CBD workers - are encouraged to attend the forum and have their say on a project that would provide real benefits to the CBD," Mr Brennan said.

"While the City will be presenting a broad outline of the vision at the forum, we are hoping people will share their own ideas to help us achieve a plan that ticks all the boxes."

Inviting the wider community to have input into the precinct concept follows a community survey and discussions by a working group that consisted of key stakeholders.

"A perceived lack of parking in the CBD, which is impacting on the viability of existing businesses and creating an impediment to new development, is just one of the many aspects discussed by the working group," Mr Brennan said.

"It is inevitable that a City Council at some stage is going to have to consider a multi-deck car park to address CBD parking. Starting that conversation now will help us to plan appropriately for the future."

The City will present several options at the forum, 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.

**ENDS**

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