



Media release

Office: 102 North Road, Yakamia
Postal: PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6331
Phone: (08) 9841 9333
Fax: (08) 9841 4099
Record No: REL042/MR

Date Issued: 24 June, 2015

Authorised by: DENNIS WELLINGTON, MAYOR

Future of Albany Agricultural Show at Centennial Park

- Albany Agricultural Show to stay in Centennial Park precinct
- \$26 million Centennial Park Sporting Precinct to move ahead

The City of Albany has re-confirmed that it is – and has always been – committed to the Albany Agricultural Show staying in the Centennial Park precinct.

Following a long period of negotiation with the Albany Agricultural Society, Council has resolved to make a final offer to the Society designed to keep the Show in the Centennial Park precinct while ensuring the way is clear for the Centennial Park Sporting Precinct redevelopment.

That project has the strong support of all local sporting groups and has attracted \$26 million in funding from all levels of government.

City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said the Albany Agricultural Show was a treasured community event and the City had always been committed to keeping it going at Centennial Park.

Mr Wellington said the City had gone to great lengths over many months to try and negotiate a mutually agreeable position with the Society regarding its tenure at Centennial Park.

“This has included a range of offers, made in good faith, with the interests of all stakeholders at heart,” Mr Wellington said.

“Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of City staff and Councillors, the Society has not been willing to agree to any offer made so far. A final decision needed to be made on the Council’s position.”

Mr Wellington said all other stakeholder groups in the Centennial Park project had worked positively and collaboratively with each other and with the City of Albany, and had embraced the principles of compromise, co-location and co-operation.

At the 23 June, 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to make a final offer to the Society:

- **\$750,000 cash in exchange for the surrender of the Crown Grant over the Hanrahan Road tip**
- **Free use of Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre and surrounds during the Show**
- **Free use of Railways Football Oval for equestrian events during the Show**
- **\$25,000 in annual in-kind support for the Show**

Mr Wellington said ALAC would provide 5700sqm of flat covered floor space and would potentially be a perfect fit for the Show.

The AAS is required to make a decision regarding this offer by 31 July, 2015. The existing AAS buildings on Lockyer Avenue, which are in a state of disrepair, will be removed as part of the Centennial Park Sporting Precinct redevelopment.

END

Council item from 23 June 2015 Ordinary Council Meeting:

CSF177: ALTERNATE MOTION BY COUNCILLOR BOWLES

VOTING REQUIREMENT: ABSOLUTE MAJORITY

Passed 8-4

Council:

- (1) NOTE that, Council has exhausted all reasonable avenues of consultation with the Albany Agricultural Society in an attempt to resolve this matter.

- (2) ENDORSE and APPROVE the following final offer being made to the Albany Agricultural Society for its continued use and operation within the Centennial Park Sporting Precinct:
 - (a) A cash payment of \$750,000 will be made in exchange for the voluntary surrender of the Crown Grant in Trust over Lot 1135 Hanrahan Road (tip site);
 - (b) At no cost, the City will make available Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre and surrounds for the annual Albany Agricultural Show;
 - (c) At no cost, the City will make available Railways Football Oval for the duration of equestrian events associated with the Albany Agricultural Show; and
 - (d) The City will continue to offer in-kind support up to a value of \$25,000 during the Show period.

- (3) NOTIFY the Albany Agricultural Society that, in the event the above offer is not accepted by 31 July 2015, the following position will apply:
 - (a) In order to meet funding deadlines for the Centennial Park redevelopment, Albany Agricultural Society must vacate the Centennial Oval licence area as per the termination notice issued on 26 November 2014;
 - (b) The City will no longer pursue the voluntary surrender of the Crown Grant in Trust over Lot 1135 Hanrahan Road;
 - (c) The City will negotiate with the Albany Agricultural Society, an agreed rental of the Hanrahan Landfill Facility situated at Lot 1135 Hanrahan Road, in line with the requirement and intent of the current lease over this land;
 - (d) The City will make available the Centennial Park land area to the Society (at no cost) for the annual Albany Agricultural Show;
 - (e) The City will allow the use of the new Centennial Park buildings during the Annual Show subject to cost recovery;
 - (f) At no cost, the City will make available Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre and surrounds for the 2016 annual Albany Agricultural Show; and
 - (g) The City will continue to offer in-kind support up to a value of \$25,000 during the Show period.