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Council supports Middleton Beach development

Albany City Council has paved the way for LandCorp to move ahead with its proposed development of Middleton Beach which aims to transform the area from a vacant hotel site into a thriving community and tourism precinct.

At last night's ordinary council meeting, Council voted to amend the City of Albany Local Planning Scheme to rezone parts of Flinders Parade, Marine Terrace, Adelaide Crescent, Barnett Street and Marine Drive to allow for more diverse development.

Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington said he was thrilled Council had endorsed the scheme changes.

"This is going to be a fantastic development for the Middleton Beach area that will bring immense benefits to Albany through improved open space on the beachfront, a mix of hospitality and tourism retail, accommodation and a hotel," Mayor Wellington said.



A LandCorp concept drawing of the proposed Middleton Beach development.

"Council is very excited about the work LandCorp has been doing to attract private investors to the area and we are looking forward to continuing to work closely with LandCorp to bring the project to fruition."

The former Esplanade Hotel site has been vacant since the hotel was demolished by its Singaporean owners in 2007. The site was purchased by the State Government in 2014 for \$7 million with a commitment to develop the area.



Plans to provide for new restaurants, cafes, a mix of hotel and short-stay accommodation, and some permanent residential apartments will create a lively community hub.

The development proposal has been guided by extensive community feedback received as part of a survey conducted by LandCorp in early 2015, which attracted 212 responses with very strong community support for developing the site (full survey results can be viewed at <http://www.landcorp.com.au/Industrial-and-Commercial/Middleton-Beach-Albany/Community-Feedback/>)

A number of developers have already shown interest in the development.

“It is great that there is already developers looking at this development as a potential investment opportunity and it is a credit to the work LandCorp has done and the quality of the development proposal,” Mayor Wellington said.

As a result of Council’s decision, LandCorp will hold a further public information session at the Albany Surf Life Saving Club on Saturday, March 19 between 8am and 1pm, and everyone is invited to view the development plans, ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal.

It is hoped works will be able to start on the project later this year.

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