

Showground: planning for the future

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania – owner and custodian of the Hobart Showground – has embarked on a multi-million dollar project to turn the Showground at Glenorchy into a modern and vibrant community asset.

The plan includes the leasing of some surplus land on the 17ha Showground site for commercial and other purposes which in turn will contribute to the transformation of the Showground buildings into modern multi-use amenities.

The generation of commercial revenue through the leasing will underpin the Society's future sustainability and also allow the RAST to continue under writing community and public activities at the Showground site.

Extensive consultation has taken place with Government, government agencies, Showground users, local residents and businesses. These have included state and federal parliamentarians and Glenorchy councillors.

"The feed back has been very positive," says Scott Gadd, Chief Executive of the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania. "We've provided briefings to hundreds of people at a series of group and individual meetings and taken on board any comments. As long term, good neighbours here in Glenorchy, we're also committed to maintaining a close dialogue with the local community."

Tender documents are now being drawn up to seek expressions of interest in the redevelopment of the parcel of land earmarked for leasing out by the Society. "We've already had a great deal of interest from commercial organisations in leasing the land. We're also in close contact with Glenorchy City Council and appreciate the guidance they have given us as we prepare our future plans," said Mr Gadd.

Redevelopment work will depend on a number of approvals and will be planned so as to accommodate current tenants and not to impact adversely on the running of the Royal Hobart Show or other regular events on the site. Planned work includes:

- Staged replacement of aged infrastructure
- Five new multi-use exhibition and event venues
- Reconstruction of the main arena to accommodate a commercial precinct on the Howard Rd boundary
- Enhanced motor home area
- Perimeter roadway to provide efficient onsite traffic movement for livestock and events transport

"The redevelopment will also provide the missing link between Glenorchy and local residential, arts and recreational precincts east of the Brooker Highway for cyclists, joggers and walkers, via a possible flyover of the Brooker Highway from the Showground site. Exciting new developments occurring in this area, such as GASP and the Wilkinson's Point developments, will also benefit from improved access provided via the Showground across the busy Brooker highway.

The Hobart Showground dates back to 1904. "The Society has a number of ageing buildings at the Showground and the time is approaching when they will need to be replaced. That's principally why we've embarked on this project to transform the Showground into a vibrant and modern community hub."

If you want to read more about the Showground redevelopment plans, visit <http://www.hobartshowground.com.au/redevelopment>