



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

5 October, 2007

### **Community leaders back Reid Park development**

COMMUNITY leaders have joined the campaign to push for \$10 million in federal government funding to deliver a \$41 million events and recreational precinct to Townsville.

The planned \$41 million facility at Railway Estate will create a base for V8 Supercar races, provide a venue to host major concerts and events such as Big Day Out, provide permanent educational facilities and create a year-round recreational area with extensive landscaping.

The State Government, Townsville City Council and Townsville Enterprise have already secured \$31.7 million of funding. An extra \$10 million is needed to build the precinct that will be a community asset for decades to come.

While the proposal has always had strong support from business heavyweights such as Tony Ireland and V8 Supercars boss Tony Cochrane, leaders from Townsville's other industry and cultural sectors are now throwing their weight behind the bid.

Among the supporters are Cultural Fest event organizer Farvardin Daliri, Rydges Hotel Townsville general manager Paul Burke and Smith + Elliott principal Sally Elliott.

Mr Farvardin described the possibility of a new home for the annual Cultural Fest, which has attracted up to 80,000 supporters, as a big win for the city.

"We can always do with a big cultural hub where events such as the Cultural Fest can be set up. We definitely support the proposal," he said.

"These major events require the appropriate setting, and at the moment we don't have it.

"One of the things we always talked about having was a large, adaptable facility for small and large events.

"If the Cultural Fest continues to grow as fast as it does than in two or three more years we will have to look at a more appropriate site."

Mr Burke said the establishment of facilities for a V8 Supercar event would be a terrific investment into the future of Townsville.

“The initial benefit of just the Supercar event will be a huge boost both domestically and internationally for the region,” said Mr Burke.

“One of the biggest problems Townsville has always had from a tourism standpoint is that it has had a low profile. A V8 Supercar event will give Townsville the kind of international exposure that it can’t afford to buy.

“Added to that, the world class facilities planned for the site lend themselves to numerous other opportunities including events such as the Big Day Out and other festivals, which benefit the whole community and not just the racing community.

“The educational facilities on the site will also help Townsville combat against the skills shortage that the north experiences.”

Smith + Elliott principal Sally Elliott described the proposal as the most exciting leisure precinct for Townsville since the advent of The Strand and Riverway.

“This infrastructure and any events it caters for will provide enormous exposure for Townsville on a national scale,” Ms Elliott said.

“The introduction of a world class leisure precinct can only enhance the demand for inner city real estate and property values in the immediate area.

“The inner city is traditionally known as a fun and happening precinct. People like being close to major leisure facilities so this infrastructure will only attract new interest.”

**ENDS**

**For further information contact Shane Russell on 0408 010 932 or [shane@barepublicity.com.au](mailto:shane@barepublicity.com.au)**

