



MEDIA RELEASE

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Community leaders back \$41million Reid Park redevelopment

TOWNSVILLE'S bid to secure \$10 million in federal funding to deliver a \$41 million events and recreational precinct at Reid Park continues to gain strong support from business, community, education and cultural leaders.

The proposed \$41 million facility at Railway Estate will create a base for V8 Supercar races, provide a venue to host major concerts and events to the calibre of the Big Day Out, provide permanent pre-vocational training facilities and create a year-round recreational precinct with vast parklands.

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

Support for the redevelopment of Reid Park has come from leaders far and wide, including Cultural Fest organiser Farvardin Daliri, Festival of Chamber Music director David Pratt, international event promoter Michael Edgley, Rydges Hotel Townsville general manager Paul Burke and popular real estate identity Sally Elliott.

V8 Supercar steering committee chairman Tony Ireland said he was pleased to also see grass root community support strengthen significantly over the past month.

"A lot of people are starting to realise just how much of a community asset this new infrastructure would become," Mr Ireland said.

"There is a misunderstanding that this funding would only deliver a V8 Supercar track to be used for four days a year. That couldn't be further from the truth as it will be a flexible precinct with outdoor and indoor facilities that can also be used for an array of community and educational activities.

"It has the potential to offer social and lifestyle benefits similar to that of The Strand or Riverway. It would become a third major lifestyle precinct for the twin cities right on the fringe of Townsville's CBD.

"In principal the funding would signal the green light for another urban renewal project of world class standard for the twin cities."



Mr Ireland said all environmental concerns stemming from future V8 Supercar races have been addressed at the highest possible level through the V8 Racing Green program.

“The V8 Racing Green program was launched in March by the Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, Malcolm Turnbull, and will entirely offset the carbon emissions from both the V8 Supercar Championship Series and the Fujitsu V8 Supercars Series,” he said.

“The V8 Racing Green program aims to educate millions of fans and their friends across Australia, New Zealand and Bahrain about climate change.”

Townsville Enterprise chief executive officer Glenys said the facilities would provide endless tourism and economic boosts for the wider region.

“It would be very hard to imagine what the twin cities would be like today without The Strand or Riverway,” Ms Schuntner said.

“The numerous social, economic and tourism benefits a redevelopment of this scope can have is what we would like all community members to consider.

“All of North Queensland is sorely lacking a large facility that can cater for the biggest of events, let alone a V8 Supercar festival. This would be a resource for everyone south to Rockhampton, north to the Cape and out to Mount Isa in the west.

“To have a facility other than The Strand which can host expansions of the Cultural Fest, various small and large community events, and large international standard concerts will provide huge promotion for the region and inject millions of dollars into our economy.

“This will have several flow-on benefits such as job creation, greater tourist spending, increased civic pride, international promotion and a boost to our entertainment calendar.”

Ms Schuntner encouraged all supporters of the redevelopment to contact Federal Member for Herbert Peter Lindsay, and Labour rival George Colbran to voice their support.

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