



Media Statement

Date: 23 July 2010
From: Maurice Myers Chairman - Ashburton Stadium Trust
Subject: Aquatic Centre and Indoor Stadium – Proposed Site

Trust Delighted with River Terrace Proposal

Ashburton Stadium Complex Trust chairman Maurice Myers believes the wait has been worth it as the River Terrace site offers everything the Trust and user groups were looking for. "Ashburton Stadium Trust trustees are unanimously supportive of the proposed site and we are confident the community will see the benefits this site offers," he said.

The Stadium Trust has also pushed for a site that offers the best design options available and Mr Myers believes the River Terrace site delivers on this count. "This site will ensure the facility is something the whole district community is proud of and will want to visit and use," said Mr Myers.

Representatives from the Ashburton Stadium Trust have worked with Council representatives to identify a proposed site for the aquatic centre and indoor sports facility.

Mr Myers says the River Terrace reserve site will maximise the economic sustainability of the pool and stadium facility. "Being central and close to town will increase patronage and revenue" he said. "This will ensure the facility is at everyone's front of mind and is used to its potential. This is important if the facility is going to generate the revenue it will be capable of" he said.

"We had a strong preference for a central accessible site to ensure the community gets the best use possible from the facility, and this site provides that" said Mr Myers.

The Trust have had consultants Deloitte undertake financial modelling for the facility previously and this will be revisited for the River Terrace site. "What that previous exercise taught us was the importance of location, said Mr Myers, and the River Terrace reserve site delivers on that in a big way."

Mr Myers says the project has really gathered momentum since the Trust and Council project group was formed. "We really feel progress is being made and if the district's residents like this site as much as we do it will be all go on developing the facility design, securing the necessary consents and looking towards construction beginning," he said.

The Stadium Trust is charged with raising \$5 million for the project and this task has been given a jump start with a \$100,000 grant from the Ashburton Trust Charitable Foundation. “We are delighted we have got the fundraising underway so positively” said Mr Myers, adding he had wondered whether the application would be successful given the proposed site was not finalised at the time the application. “This is a fantastic show of faith in the project and the Foundation are to be applauded, said Mr Myers.

The Trust expects fundraising to be strong once the site is finalised and developed design begins. “A definite site and concept design will give funders something tangible to look at and that will be extremely positive for fundraising” said Mr Myers.

For further Information -

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