

NEWS

Showground plan praised

Planner in favour of urban infill project

BY LIBBY BINGHAM

A PROPOSED \$75 million infill housing precinct earmarked for the Devonport Showground has been praised by a Tasmanian planning expert for its good design.

Past Planning Institute of Australia state president Irene Duckett said from what she could see on the plans; it was an example of good design, which could become a prototype for the region.

The showground's purchaser, Melbourne developer Simon Want, unveiled his master plan last week for a 200-lot "adaptable housing" precinct with townhouses, family homes, aged care and supported housing, medical centre, and public parkland.

"The concept is great for Devonport, and Devonport has shown that it is ready for a progressive urban development such as this," Ms Duckett said.

Ms Duckett, of planning and urban design firm ireneinc in Hobart, said the showground location is ideal for a contemporary urban development. "Its location is an easy walking distance to the central business district,

the coastal walk, Hill Street and nearby shops. The parks and facilities will benefit not only the residents of the new development but also surrounding residential communities. It forms part of a very walkable community, and will provide a good prototype for future development on the North-West Coast," she said.

"Devonport is already showing itself to be confident and progressive, with the development of Market Square and the paranaple centre as well as some of my favourite places, Mrs Jones and Laneway. This development will further reinforce the cultured image that Devonport has developed, creating a destination, and covetable address."

She said a rezoning application would be considered by the council to determine if it was willing to support an amendment to its planning scheme before being advertised to seek community input, and then referred to the Tasmanian Planning Commission for review.

"The types of things that both the council and the TPC will consider will be from the large scale, how well this proposal addresses principles of sustainable development and the regional land use strategy; at the local level, whether the proposed use is needed, and if so, whether



GOOD PLAN: Urban design and planning expert Irene Duckett says the infill housing project proposed for the Devonport Showground is a good idea and could become a prototype for the region. **Picture: supplied.**

this is the best site for it; and at a micro-level, the details of the amendment, the layout of streets, houses, and specific wording of each clause," she said.

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Youth employment considered a priority

TASMANIANS believe training courses and support programs are essential for youth employment recovery post-coronavirus, new survey results show.

The Federal Group has commissioned three EMRS surveys this year with an aim to ascertain how coronavirus and associated social

restrictions had changed community and consumer perceptions. Surveyed Tasmanians in July considered career training packages in emerging industries for high school students as most important to combat youth unemployment followed by programs to keep young people engaged in work.

Respondents ranked job losses and economic impacts on the state and local businesses of greater concern above their health, personal life and finances.

The survey found there was a gradual decline between May and July in people who practiced social distancing all of the time between

May and July. Confidence in the state government's management of a potential new outbreak was at 92 per cent.

More than half of survey respondents said they held concerns of socialisation.

Federal Group executive general manager Daniel Hanna said there was evidence from previous recessions

that young people long-term disadvantages when trying to enter the workforce amid tough economic times.

Beacon Foundation chief executive Scott Harris said the challenges young people faced with employment during the coronavirus recovery period was concerning.

"Beacon welcomes and

strongly supports continued investment in our youth, particularly whilst they are still in school, to inspire and prepare them for meaningful work in Tasmania," he said.

Mr Harris said Beacon had connected young people with 150 businesses over the past 12 months.

— MATT MALONEY

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