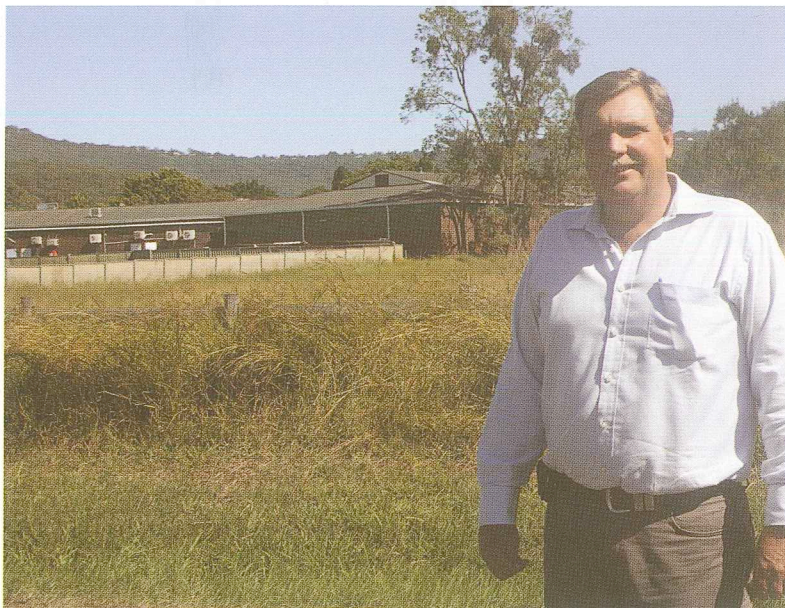


Council approves major Withcott shopping complex



LVRC Planning and Environment Portfolio Councillor Dave Neuendorf pictured with the site of the major Withcott shopping complex development in the background. The rear of the current Withcott Central Shopping Complex can be seen to the left.

LOCKYER Valley Regional Council approved a Development Permit for a major shopping complex in Withcott at its ordinary meeting recently.

The development will be linked to and incorporate the existing Withcott Central Shopping Complex and fuel station and will incorporate a national chain supermarket with the addition of specialty shops.

Stage 1 of the development will initially support a 1500m² shop size with an additional 2500m² in stage 2 bringing the gross floor area to 4055m² over the next five years.

Planning and Environment Portfolio Councillor Dave Neuendorf said the development will be a welcome addition to the Withcott area.

“This development will be great for the growing community of Withcott and will alleviate the need for residents to travel to Toowoomba or to Gatton to visit a major supermarket,” Cr Neuendorf said.

The development will form a single complex with the existing Withcott Central Shopping Complex and will provide a more efficient layout which is both convenient and accessible for the public.



Council negotiates Eagle Boys ad community outcome

LOCKYER Valley Regional Council played a lead-role in negotiating a benefit to the Laidley community through the recent filming of an Eagle Boys TV commercial in Patrick Street.

Sporting groups from the Laidley Recreation Reserve, who provided the majority of extras that appear in the commercial, received a substantial financial contribution from the makers of the advertisement.

Council negotiated with Brisbane film making company Two Little Indians' executive producer James Greville to allow the sporting groups to provide the extras in return for financial support.

Danny Flanagan of the Laidley Recreation Reserve committee

organised the sporting groups to ensure plenty of people turned up on the night to appear in the commercial.

Mayor and Regional Development Portfolio Councillor Steve Jones said, “It was excellent that Council was able to help out and facilitate a financial benefit for the sporting groups in Laidley through the filming of this commercial. “The money these groups received will help enormously with upgrading facilities, purchasing new equipment and generally helping these sporting groups to operate,” Cr Jones said.

The ad, which is now being shown on TV screens across Australia, depicts a ‘street party’ with Laidley’s Patrick Street as the back-drop.

LVRC Planning Department performs well in SEQ report

LVRC’s Planning Department has performed well in a report commissioned by the Council of Mayors, which represents local governments in the South-east Queensland region.

The report, Queensland Housing Affordability Programme: Target 5 Days, shows LVRC’s development application timeframes are ahead of most other SEQ Councils.

LVRC ranked second for planning approval time frames when compared with other SEQ Councils.

The report shows that in five key application types, LVRC’s Planning Department takes less number of business days in four of those types when compared with other SEQ Councils.

LVRC’s Planning Department performs particularly well in turning around subdivision applications, taking just an average of 45 business days when compared with the regional average of 127 business days.

The Planning Department also performed better than the regional average of business days to approve multi-unit dwellings, dual-occupancies and houses.

The report also states that, for the LVRC, there was a very good average turn-around time between lodgement and issuing an information request.

The Target 5 Days project will improve assessment processes within SEQ Councils to achieve a 75% reduction in residential development assessment timeframes, with some low-risk applications being assessed within five days.

The Council of Mayors (SEQ) secured \$4.75 million through the Housing Affordability Fund to deliver the Target 5 Days project to SEQ Councils. The project will be completed by 31 December, 2010.

The Housing Affordability Fund is an initiative of the Australian Government’s Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.