



Media Release: 18 December 2007

Green light for Eden Park's enhanced design

The Eden Park Redevelopment Board today announced it had received Crown approval for an enhanced design for the redevelopment of Eden Park for hosting the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

The Board's chair, John Waller, said, "We have been working for more than six months to finalise details. It's a result that Aucklanders will be pleased with - and the country can be proud of."

Mr Waller says the new design has been costed at \$240.5 million of which approximately 90% (\$212 million) has now been committed.

The final design costs significantly less than the \$385 million one for which planning consents were obtained earlier this year by the Eden Park Trust Board.

Today Cabinet signed off on the new design and re-confirmed the Government will underwrite the \$190 million it approved last May.

The New Zealand Rugby Union will contribute \$10 million.

In addition, agreement has been reached in principle for at least \$12 million from the Eden Park Trust Board.

"Design issues are finalised, our construction programme remains on schedule, and we can now get on with the RWC 2011 preparations."

Key features of the additional enhancements (please see release on design detail), include:

- A new two-tier East Stand to replace the existing Terraces, which have only eight years of life left;
- A new single bowl of open seating to replace the ageing Panasonic Stand;
- Enhanced landscaping around the perimeter of the Park;
- Improved sound proofing (with a new noise barrier);
- A capacity of 60,000 seats for the RWC 2011; and
- 50,000 seats post-RWC 2011 (down from the 54,000 proposed earlier).
- A new design motif for the South Stand incorporating the silver fern;

- A public concourse to link the ASB, East and South Stands;
- A public plaza and concourse providing a link between Kingsland Station, the proposed coach/bus terminal, and the ASB, West and South Stands;

Mr Waller says the final design strikes the best balance between the need to be financially responsible; to ensure the Park amenities are sensitive to the suburban neighbourhood in which it operates; and ensures that Auckland has a quality regional facility for hosting sporting and cultural events as a legacy from hosting RWC 2011.

Commitments to the redevelopment are still being sought from the Auckland Regional Council and Auckland City Council, and discussions are also underway with potential commercial partners and other funders for the balance.

“Those who have yet to make a contribution can now focus on the merits of the new design both for RWC 2011 and the long term. The redevelopment of Eden Park has national and regional benefits, and we hope that the final mix of contributions will reflect this. We will welcome others’ support in bringing the finance issues to a successful conclusion.”

The Redevelopment Board, which took over responsibility for the project in June, will be filing for variations to the existing consents, to enable the new design to be built, with Auckland City Council this Friday (21 December).

Mr Waller says the new design will ensure the Park is a “better neighbour” for local residents by reducing noise spill, ensuring crowds circulate within the Park and not via neighbouring streets, and by providing better transport links. Coupled with proposed long term governance changes, the park is going to become a regional asset for wider community use post cup.

Mr Waller says regular discussions will continue to be held with neighbourhood groups, and the project can now be kept to its original timeline for redevelopment (please see timeline with this release).

Mr Waller says that the green light for the design will also be welcomed in other cities and regions around the country because of the certainty it gives the tournament as a whole.

RWC 2011 will stage 48 cup matches and related events around the country. It will attract an estimated 70,000 international visitors, 2,500 international media, and 2,500 corporate and VIP guests.

It is estimated that the national event will add more than \$500 million to the economy, including \$262 million total direct expenditure in Auckland, according to a 2006 economic impact assessment by Horwarth Asia Limited.

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Note: Images of the enhanced design are available from NZPA Images or following a request from the Eden Park Redevelopment Board.