

BENDIGO: A CITY TEAMING WITH NEW CONSTRUCTION



With three major projects worth more than \$60 million planned for the next couple of years, Bendigo is a booming regional city, teaming with opportunities for small construction businesses and larger contractors.

The City of Bendigo has been working with Industry Capability Network's (ICN) Industry Adviser Noel Morton to maximise local involvement in the three projects – an airport redevelopment; a new indoor aquatic, leisure and wellbeing centre; and Bendigo Stadium expansion.

As Stan Liacos, Director of City Futures at the council puts it: “we are a city in the process of renewal and re-invention”.

“A regional city that stops investing goes backward,” Stan said. “We need to take control of our own destiny.”

The council approached ICN for assistance on the project and Stan says both had similar aims: – to strengthen the local economy and keep jobs in the district for the benefit of the community, and to be an attractive option for new residents

According to Noel, who is based in Bendigo, the council is “aware they can't just sit back and wait for connections to be made,

so they engage with us and we have a good relationship.”

Tenders for the lead contractor on the airport expansion closed early December and the tender was expected to be awarded before Christmas. And although none of these bidders are locally-based, both Stan and Noel expect Bendigo companies will be strong contenders for subcontracting packages.

The airport redevelopment has a total budget of \$15 million from both State and Federal Governments, as well as the local council.

The general scope of the upgrade includes:

- A new 17/35 Runway (600m by 30m) with increased pavement strength to cater for Code 3C runway operations with a Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW) of 25,000 kilogram
- The redevelopment will also include the partial upgrade of the existing 05/23 Runway
- New taxiways
- Installation of a new runway edge lighting system
- Installation of a Precision Approach Path Indicator system (PAPI)
- Installation of new Movement Area Guidance Signs (MAGs)
- Installation of new Illuminated Wind Direction Indicators (IWDI)
- Installation of a new Airport Lighting Electrical Control Cubicle and Shelter
- Line marking.

It is expected the airport will be completed by the end of 2016.

The stadium expansion – worth \$18 million – and the new aquatic centre – worth \$30 million – are both in the expression of interest stage for the lead contractor and according to Stan, there are local companies in the mix for the EOIs.

Council expects to be calling for tenders early in the new year, ➤



with completion of both slated for mid-2017.

The stadium project will include upgrading and expanding the existing sporting facilities to cater for the growing recreational needs of the community, as well as provide new opportunities to attract sporting and cultural events to the city.

The general scope is:

- Construction of a new indoor show court (able to be converted into three international sized courts) and catering for 4,000 spectators (approx.)
- Construction of twelve new netball courts
- Construction of change rooms and court facilities as well as a kiosk/kitchen
- Expanded retail and administrative areas;
- Improvements to public access to amenities throughout the site and car parking.

This work also includes an expansion of the existing stadium's main structure to the order of 5700m².

As for the aquatic centre, the end result will be a state-of-the-art facility providing year round access to a variety of aquatic facilities, as well as and health and wellbeing services.

The project broadly consists of:

- Construction of a 51.5m x 8 lane competition pool (2m wide)
- Construction of a leisure pool with learn-to-swim pool and toddlers' pool
- Construction of a splash pad and water play unit
- Construction of a warm water (hydrotherapy) pool
- Construction of two spa pools
- Construction of a sauna
- Construction of a gymnasium
- Construction of multi-purpose activity rooms
- Construction of wellness and health services activity and consulting rooms
- Construction of a cafe and retail merchandise sales area
- Construction of shared change areas and amenities
- Construction of back-of-house office, storage and plant rooms
- External landscaping and a car park.

The expectation is that the labour and subcontracting work – from HVAC to electrical work, plumbing, landscaping and more – on all three projects will be primarily locally sourced.

“We have had the fastest economic growth in regional Victoria over the past decade or so,” Stan said, “with a proactive community and council.”

“As a bigger regional city, we have critical mass, coming off the back of 10 strong years of growth.”