



Media release

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Indigenous artwork at LandCorp's Leighton development wins award

A series of indigenous mosaic artworks designed for LandCorp's Leighton development has won an award at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) WA 2008 Awards.

The seven mosaics depict local dreamtime stories, landforms and history, demonstrating the connection between indigenous people and the land. The mosaics were designed in consultation with indigenous Elders and form part of the site's transition from a railway marshalling yard and container storage area to a vibrant beachside hub. The mosaics are located in the central open space that runs through the middle of the four hectare Leighton development site.

LandCorp general manager operations Mike Moloney said the merit award recognises the contribution of public art and design to the landscape.

"LandCorp recognises the importance of preserving local history in its land developments for the whole community to enjoy through public art and landscaping," Mr Moloney said.

"These unique public artworks record a small but important part of the local Aboriginal heritage for posterity and provide added interest and value to the new Leighton development."

"The judges identified the mosaics as a benchmark project that will hopefully inform further cultural design processes that will change the way we see and experience the public realm of landscape."

The artworks were brought to life by two leading West Australian artists, Jenny Dawson and Sandra Hill, who have worked together on more than 30 different public art projects. Andra Kins from Urban Thresholds coordinated the project.

The Leighton art project was overseen by landscape architects, Blackwell & Associates who were also responsible for the award-winning Scarborough Beach amphitheatre.

Three major public artworks were commissioned by LandCorp specifically for the Leighton site and were unveiled publicly for the first time in November 2007. A brochure providing more information on the artworks is available locally from the City of Fremantle.

Blackwell and Associates managing director Tony Blackwell said the three artworks and landscape design at Leighton celebrated the diversity of the area's history, the neighbouring community and the mix of people who would live at and visit the site.

“One of the highlights of the indigenous artwork is the cultural representation of all seven families who are the Aboriginal custodians of this region in one project,” Mr Blackwell said.

The State Government, through LandCorp, has undertaken a significant investment in the environmental remediation, civil works and landscaping of the 4 hectare Leighton site, creating new facilities for the enjoyment of the whole community.

Developers Mirvac, Brookfield Multiplex and Rockingham Park will spend a projected \$500 million developing a mix of residential apartments, terrace houses, a boutique hotel, restaurants and retail outlets. These will flank the central plaza when finished. Construction has commenced onsite and the first buildings are expected to be completed and occupied in mid 2010.

The Government has also committed more than \$3 million to implement the first stage of the Leighton Oceanside Parklands Masterplan. Stage 1 works will focus on the area adjoining the Fremantle Surf Life Saving Club.

For more information about LandCorp’s Leighton redevelopment project, visit www.leightonproject.com.au

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