



MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDIA STATEMENT

Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

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More shops planned for Armadale

Armadale shoppers can look forward to new shops, including a Big W discount department store, if a proposed city centre planning amendment goes ahead.

Planning and Infrastructure Minister Alannah MacTiernan has approved for advertising an amendment that expands the Armadale Redevelopment Authority's city centre retail precinct. This would facilitate a \$45million expansion of Armadale Plaza shopping centre, including a Big W store.

Ms MacTiernan said the amendment would expand the retail precinct by about 9,500 square metres between the existing Woolworths store and Armadale Road.

"This proposed expansion is in line with the ARA's Concept Plan, released last year, that provides for increased retail activities in the city centre," she said.

Ms MacTiernan said that the ARA would advertise the planning amendment for public comment for six weeks.

"I have proposed that the new Plaza development be staged to make sure we don't flood the market for specialty shops," Ms MacTiernan said.

"However, more shops and services were needed to meet the demands of the south-east corridor's growing population.

"We want to keep the business in Armadale – at the moment many of our residents are shopping in Cannington and Belmont.

"In the next 20 years, Armadale's population will almost double from about 54,000 currently to a forecast 107,000 by 2026," Ms MacTiernan said.

"Plans for three large, new residential areas in Brookdale, North Forrestdale and Byford will ensure plenty of customers for the new shops.

"The proposed Big W at Armadale Plaza and the previously approved \$70million expansion of Armadale City Shopping Centre, scheduled for completion by the end of 2007, will draw shoppers from a wide area. The new shops mean that people can get all they wish close to home without having to travel to other regional shopping centres.

"The retail expansions would help Armadale achieve its status as a strategic regional centre," the Minister said.

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