

# Club's all new type of green

Bowling greens will be replaced with a community farm in revitalisation project

CHRIS CONNOLLY  @connolly2204

The once-manicured greens at Camperdown Bowling Club are to be turned into an urban farm as part of the revitalisation of the site.

Marrickville Council announced this week that Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club was the successful tenderer for the site.

Marrickville Mayor Jo Haylen said Council prioritised suitably qualified and experienced operators who had a vision to maximise community use, and would not be reliant on income from gaming.

"CHPRSL's proposal for the former bowling club site is hugely impressive and really exciting," Mayor Haylen said.

"It includes the clubhouse becoming a community-oriented centre and the bowling greens transformed into food gardens and eventually an urban farm."

She said there will be food and drink available, but the centre will also focus on delivering a wide range of activities, classes, and lifestyle programs, such as yoga.

"This will be an amazing asset for the Camperdown community. I'm really excited for the local residents," she said.



Mayor Jo Haylen with CHPRSL CEO Dean Thomas at Camperdown Bowling Club

The proposal is still at an early stage and requires a Development Application and a Liquor Licence, as well as lease approval by the Minister for Primary Industry.

Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club CEO Dean Thomas said they hoped to submit the Development Application by the end of the year but it would be working

with its management team, architects and liaising with different community groups prior to its submission.

"We're thrilled and privileged to have the opportunity to revive a valued community facility, ensuring that it becomes a much-needed community-friendly space as well as a vibrant food and beverage operation," Mr Thomas said.

"We're confident that our allocation of at least \$1 million towards the revitalisation of the former Camperdown Bowling Club site will reinvigorate and enhance Mallett Street and the Camperdown Park precinct."

He said the club had created a stand alone wholly-owned subsidiary Camperdown Project Pty Ltd to operate the site and would keep the community informed about plans and progress via a number of community meetings for interested residents.

Because the site is on Crown Land, any future use must be for the purpose of public recreation. While there will be significant changes to the building and grounds, there will be no change to the current height or mass of the building.

Mr Thomas said the site was a natural extension for the club, providing 'community friendly' facilities and much-needed recreational space.