

CAMPERDOWN

Old bowlo's new life

TO BECOME A COMMUNITY CENTRE

Sarah Sharples

THE former Camperdown Bowling Club will be transformed after Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club won the tender and signed a 10-year lease.

Club chief executive Dean Thomas said they were thrilled to have the opportunity to revive the facility and wanted to ensure it became a much needed community space as well as a vibrant food and beverage operation.

"We're confident 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.

Marrickville Mayor Jo Haylen said the proposal for the former bowling club site was impressive.

"It includes the clubhouse becoming a community-oriented centre and the bowling greens transforming 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, like yoga instruction.

"This will be an amazing asset for the Camperdown community."

The Greens on Marrickville Council successfully



Camperdown Bowling Club will be a pokie-free venue.

moved to ban pokies at Camperdown Bowling Club in July last year.

Greens councillor Sylvie Ellsmore said the club was a wonderful venue, but had struggled in recent years.

"After an extensive tender process, council has been able to secure a licensee who can upgrade and reopen the bowling club, with better food, recreation activities, social events, and rejuvenation of at least one of the bowling greens."

The RSL club established Camperdown Project Pty Ltd as a stand-alone, wholly owned subsidiary to operate the site and it has been working closely with the council to finalise the lease agreement for the site.

The project is at concept stage and is subject to development and lease approval by the Minister for Primary

DETAILS

- The new facility will not be a club so there will be no membership requirements
- Once approvals are given, the new facility is expected to open in early 2016
- While the approved tender will see significant improvements to the building and grounds, there will be no change to the height or mass of the building.
- Camperdown Project will keep the community informed about plans and progress and it intends to arrange a number of "community meetings" for interested residents.

Industry and a liquor licence being granted by the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing. The club is on Crown land and any future use must be for the purpose of public recreation.