

From the Minister for Planning

MORE THAN \$1.6 BILLION AND 13,700 JOBS FOR VICTORIA AS KEY DEVELOPMENTS SET TO PROCEED

Wednesday, 15 April 2009

A Brumby Government decision to fast-track five significant developments would result in the creation of 13,700 jobs and a \$1.6 billion boost to the Victorian economy, Planning Minister Justin Madden said today.

Mr Madden said the key projects included housing, retail and office space developments that would now be delivered in the timeliest manner possible.

“The Brumby Government is taking action to secure jobs and Victoria’s economy by fast-tracking key projects of state significance,” Mr Madden said

Mr Madden said he wanted to deliver certainty for the community and facilitate the development of projects such as **Amcor** , whilst continuing to ensure transparency and community consultation.

“The City of Yarra will remain in charge of the **Amcor** site, but the Brumby Government will work with the Yarra’s Amcor Taskforce and the community.

“In February, the Brumby Government announced we would clear the path for key building projects and create more jobs to help Victoria through these tough global economic times,” he said.

The Planning Minister will take action on the following projects:

- Rezone for mixed-use the **Amcor** paper mill site: The former 17 hectare **Amcor** paper mill site development will begin in 2011 and provide in-excess of 2,000 homes as well as retail, office and community facilities along the Yarra River;
- Become the responsible authority for Pentridge Prison redevelopment: The \$1 billion redevelopment already underway of the former Pentridge site will provide more than 3,000 construction jobs and 3,500 ongoing jobs and provide up to 1,400 homes in Melbourne’s inner-north and retail development as part of the Coburg Principal Activity Centre;
- Refer the Werribee Plaza to a Priority Development Panel: The proposed \$250 million expansion of Werribee Plaza will begin in 2010 and includes a new department store, additional speciality shops, food and leisure facilities and parking and has the potential to provide 2,000 construction jobs and 2,400 ongoing jobs;
- Rezone land for the Waurn Ponds shopping centre: The proposed \$50 million expansion of the Waurn Ponds Shopping Centre to begin this year will provide up to 1,800 direct and indirect jobs; and
- Become the responsible authority for the Monash University redevelopment, Caulfield: The \$350 million development at Monash University’s Caulfield campus also due to begin this year will create 1,000 construction jobs include new education, retail and office buildings, and house 800 students.

“These projects will provide a significant boost to the Victorian economy and today’s announcements are a direct response to the challenging times we face,” he said.

Mr Madden said the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) facilitation unit had been established to work with the private sector and councils on projects of significance on a case-by-case basis.

Today’s announcement is part of the rolling audit the Brumby Government is undertaking to identify significant projects that will deliver economic and employment benefits while meeting the Government’s Melbourne 2030 and Melbourne@5 million planning strategies.