

HEWORTH WELCOMES DA APPROVAL FOR BALMAIN LEAGUES CLUB REDEVELOPMENT

Heworth Holdings Group ('Heworth') has welcomed the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel's approval of a Development Application (DA) for the \$135 million re-development of the former Balmain Leagues Club site which will see the beloved Tigers return to their spiritual home at Rozelle.

The 28,000m² mixed-use development on the corner of Victoria Road and Darling Street, with an end value of \$400 million, includes a new public town square and new laneways; a community arts studio; 3 x levels of car parking; communal open spaces; rooftop landscaping and green walls; 167 residential apartments; commercial space including 'live/work' units; a supermarket and specialty retail and a new Tigers Leagues Club built on the lower levels of the complex.

The major project will also deliver a range of new jobs into the local community, in-line with the NSW Government's COVID-19 economic-recovery plans. Over 417 jobs will be created through the construction phase alone, with an additional 593 direct and indirect operational roles within the new Club, retail and commercial components of the development.

Heworth's Head of Property, Christopher Walsh, described the DA approval as a "significant milestone in the site's history and great outcome for the inner-west community".

"We're delighted that the project has been given the green-light and we can start work on resurrecting the site and building a new Balmain Tigers Leagues Club, for the benefit of its loyal members and the wider community, who'll enjoy the new amenities," Mr Walsh said today.

"Heworth has continued to engage with the local inner-west community throughout the three year planning process and we'd like to thank Mayor Darcy Byrne and the Inner-West Council for their ongoing support and interest in the project.

"Our collaboration with Council, the two Leagues Clubs and our other local community stakeholders have helped Heworth provide a sensible solution for the site, something we are very proud of.

"We would also like to extend our thanks to the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel, Chaired by The Hon. Carl Scully, for their guidance and expertise in reaching this determination."

The DA approval followed the impending finalisation of a historic amalgamation between Western Suburbs Leagues Club (Wests Ashfield) and Balmain Leagues Club, which went into voluntary administration in 2018.

Wests Ashfield Chief Executive Officer, Simon Cook, said the DA approval was crucial in keeping the foundation Balmain Leagues Club alive.

"It's the first step in bringing the Balmain Club back to its home at Rozelle and is a truly historical moment in ensuring the continuation of grassroots rugby league in the area," Mr Cook explained.

“Our amalgamation and the subsequent development approval means we can finally secure the financial viability of Balmain Tigers and ensure the survival of the foundation club at both NSWRL and NRL levels.

“It’s a win for everyone involved in the project.”

West's Ashfield has progressed an Agreement for Lease (AFL) with Heworth which will allow the Tigers to return to the site once the amalgamation is finalised.

Mr Cook said West's Ashfield would like to thank Mayor Darcy Byrne for his hard work and dedication to ensure the project reached this exciting stage.

ABOUT HEWORTH:

Heworth Holdings Group is a property investment house based in Sydney, Australia, with a primary emphasis on residential developments and funding in Sydney. It is comprised of three separate businesses: Heworth Fund Management; Heworth Lendbuild and Heworth Construction.

Heworth Holdings Group operates with a vision of continued and sustainable growth, with a strong emphasis on property projects in and around the Sydney metropolitan area.

Heworth media contact Richard Lenarduzzi: 0411 254390

West's Ashfield media contact: Simon Cook 02 8752 2000