

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

Chelsea Cinema Update

The City of Burnside is continuing with the process of securing a lease for the Chelsea Cinema.

“Council is attending to the process very thoroughly,” said Mayor David Parkin.

“Council is mindful of the interest of the community in the process surrounding Chelsea Cinema but it regards confidentiality at this time to be of fundamental importance to the proper discharge of its obligations.”

“Once the process has been finalised, Council will advise its community of its decision.”

Expressions of Interest for the lease of all, or some, of the Chelsea Cinema (the Cinema, the non-Cinema parts of the building, the adjacent land to the east and the residential property at 39 May Terrace), commenced in July 2011 and Council is continuing negotiations with selected parties.

The confidential discussions ensure that the Expressions of Interest process is not compromised by participants obtaining information about the identity of parties who have submitted an application to lease Chelsea Cinema. Confidentiality will also ensure details of any offer submitted to Council will not be released publicly until the appropriate time.

As part of the Expression of Interest process, Council resolved that vacant possession of the site would be granted from 1 January 2012.

Council has advised all tenants of the steps taken toward seeking Expressions of Interests from potential lessees for possession of the entire Chelsea Cinema Precinct.

This has been done both formally (by way of letter) and also by direct consultation with Council staff managing the EOI process.

Council has provided each tenant with six months notice to vacate the premises, which meets or exceeds the minimum notification requirements of Council. All of the existing leases cease on 31 December 2011.

Any possible new lease arrangements for existing tenants will be a matter for consideration by the Council and the future lessee of the Chelsea Cinema Precinct.

Mayor David Parkin added “Council has had a long partnership with all of its tenants on the site, and we would like to wish them well with their future endeavours. That is especially so of the Wallis Group, who first entered into a lease with Council in 1971. The Wallis family and Manager Bob Parr, have been instrumental in the longevity and success of that relationship, particularly in regards to providing the venue to many community groups for fundraising opportunities.”

“It is now the responsibility of the Council and its next tenants to build on that excellent community provision, while ensuring that this significant heritage building is maintained accordingly and a successful business operates from it.”

“This whole process has been managed to ensure that the Cinema is returned to its glory days, ensuring the revival of the much loved Art-Deco building. Council has maintained that the Cinema will remain as an operational cinema; it will be retained in Council ownership; and it will remain an operational asset for the benefit of the community.”

The very diligent and careful process that Council has undertaken will ensure that these objectives remain at the forefront of the City of Burnside decision making process for the future of the building”

For all media inquiries please contact Alisha Gangell, Communications Officer, City of Burnside on 8366 4181 or agangell@burnside.sa.gov.au.

Issued by:

Paul Deb
CEO
City of Burnside