

# The Area News

GRIFFITH'S OWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1923

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

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# Reservoir to become \$60 million complex

By SALLY DEMMERY

**A \$60 million shopping complex is planned for Griffith following the sale of the city's former water reservoir site in Yambil Street this week.**

Melbourne-based company, Peninsula Development Group, proposes to transform the two-hectare vacant block into a vibrant retail square with more than 50 speciality retail outlets, a six cinema entertainment complex, food court, major national discount department store, supermarket and 600 space carpark.

The project, which will create more than 600 permanent jobs and 300 jobs during construction, is expected to provide a significant boon to services and facilities for the city of Griffith and the surrounding Western Riverina region.

"The new centre will provide Griffith with an exciting mix of facilities including

retail, services, and entertainment within a high quality urban setting," said Mark Podgornik, property development manager of Peninsula Development Group.

"Whilst the centre will be anchored by a major discount department store, supermarket and cinemas, a strong emphasis will be placed on providing a mix of both local and national retailers.

"The development will (also) enhance the local urban character with well designed and attractive spaces and a strong emphasis on open space. It will have an emphasis on water features, reflecting the former use and location of the site."

Peninsula Development Group was one of four tenderers for the reservoir site, which borders Jondaryan Avenue.

Council resolved to accept the company's undisclosed offer to purchase the land at a

meeting last week with the contracts for the sale being exchanged on Friday.

In support of the sale and proposed development was Griffith mayor, Mike Neville.

"We are very excited about the proposed development of what has been a strategic site in the middle of our city," Cr Neville said.

"Peninsula Development Group has been forthcoming in providing a significant opportunity to have the site redeveloped in a way that will provide a fantastic shopping centre and services for the people of Griffith and the surrounding region.

"To have major national developers like Peninsula Development Group investing significant funds into Griffith further underpins the strength of the city and our current and future growth."

The proposed centre is scheduled to be opened by Easter, 2005.