



MEDIA RELEASE

Mildura Jewel 12 May 2010

Mildura Development Corporation has given in principle support for the Mildura Jewel, the proposed entertainment and convention centre for the region.

After consultation with local business and industry and with the promise of an investment of \$400 million into the region, the Mildura Jewel will provide a range of flow on economic benefits across the region.

Chairman Dane Huxley said that Mildura Development Corporation has undertaken background research on similar facilities in other regions as well as discussing the project with a range of local business representatives.

“There are obvious economic benefits that will be generated from a proposal of this type, including ongoing employment outcomes as well as the funds generated from the overall construction. Our Board is committed to long term development opportunities and that is why we believe it is important to undertake some background research on developments of a similar nature in corresponding regional communities, particularly Launceston in Tasmania.” Mr Huxley said.

The overall impact of the development of the Launceston Country Club which also incorporates a casino, suggests that over the last twenty or so years, there has been considerable economic benefit and limited negative social implications for Launceston. All casinos potentially contribute to increased problem gambling risk but there is no clear evidence that a significant or sustained spike will occur, especially given the range of gaming and gambling options now available. Progressive casino developers build in considerable risk mitigation related to problem gambling and crime. The Launceston casino is an accepted part of the landscape of Northern Tasmania and an important part of the attraction to the region.

Mildura Development Corporation anticipates that the total output of flow on economic benefits of the estimated \$400 million proposal would be over \$800 million and would increase direct and indirect employment opportunities by over 2500 jobs.

“In discussions with local business there was very strong support for the proposal with all the benefits that the Mildura Jewel will bring to the riverfront and the region in general.” Mr Huxley said.

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