

New centre on the horizon

By JESSICA WILLOUGHBY

PLANS to redevelop Kingsway City shopping centre have overcome a "major milestone" as a mediation process with WA planning bodies draws to a close, according to the land owner.

In an exclusive interview with the *Times* last week, Tah Land chief executive Raymond Tan said he expected there would be an outcome next month after discussions with the WA Planning Commission.

These discussions follow a successful appeal by Tah Land to the Supreme Court last July, which ruled the State Administrative Tribunal had to review the development proposal again after the tribunal agreed with the original planning commission decision to refuse an increase in retail floorspace at the centre.

Mr Tan and the WAPC came to an agreement over non-retail floorspace within the first stage of development at a mediation session in February.

This effectively commits Tah Land to deliver 1000sqm of office floorspace and at least 2000sqm of residential floorspace, irrespective of market conditions, in this development stage.

The next stage would take the centre to 32,000sqm of retail floorspace, doubling its size.

Mr Tan said if the redevelopment was given the go-ahead, the centre would become a "concept model" for retail projects throughout WA.

"There won't be anything else like it," he said.

"What we are trying to create over time is a complete 'town' area – with high-density residential, retail and community aspects included.

"We are not saying that the completion of mediation with the WAPC is the end of talks, but we do feel like we are



The WA Planning Commission is holding talks with the owners of Kingsway City shopping centre over the centre's redevelopment.

coming to the end of the major milestone of the process.

"The fact is, since the split of the City of Wanneroo to form the City of Joon-dalup, Wanneroo has been the poorer cousin.

"The trick is to keep up with the times and we are very excited that we have finally reached this point."

Other features of the first stage of redevelopment would include a main street precinct, town square, cinema and the extension of Bellerive Boulevard with Coles and Target highlighted as key tenants.

"We are also seriously considering building a block of high-density residential during this period," Mr Tan said.

NEWS PACK



FIRE UP: WA firefighters can nominate peers who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in the 2010 Fire-fighting Awards. Visit www.fesa.wa.gov.au.



TOP PICK: Visitors to Araluen Botanic Park on July 11 will be treated to rose pruning demonstrations by Rose Society of WA members. Visit www.araluenbotanicpark.com.au