

# Sports facilities look a winner

## Lennox people feeling easier about Petrac's intentions for Pacific Pines

By MARY MANN

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DARRELL VIDLER breathed a sigh of relief when he heard about the new sporting facilities planned for the Pacific Pines Estate at Lennox Head.

Mr Vidler, president of the Lennox Head Combined Sports Association, was one of more than 100 who attended a series of community consultation workshops held this week by the new owners of the estate, Brisbane-based development company Petrac.

The company bought the \$80 million estate from Lennox Head's Patcock family earlier this year and have unveiled some big plans for the 80ha site, including sports fields, a shopping centre and retirement housing.

Mr Vidler said Lennox Head was in desperate need of more sporting facilities and that Petrac's plans for rugby fields, cricket fields, netball courts, an equipment shed, a clubhouse, lighting and irrigation were "fantastic".

However, Mr Vidler said the

facilities would solve only short and medium-term problems.

"We are very happy with what Petrac is planning to do, and the way they consulted with residents to find out what we wanted," he said.

"But with population growth and the large number of future new residents at the estate we will soon be back to where we are now and in need of more space.

"The council and the community need to push ahead to acquire land and look at something even bigger."

About 1500 people, including sports teams and schools use Williams Reserve and Megan Crescent playing fields,

## What's in the plans

PETRAC'S plans for the Pacific Pines Estate at Lennox Head:

- 12 independent living units; 48 assisted living units in a three-storey building overlooking the lake.
  - Sporting facilities, including rugby fields, cricket fields, netball courts, an equipment shed and a clubhouse.
  - Business offices; community hall.
  - Shopping centre; parklands.
  - Expected population of 1555.
- For more information call 1800 120 123.

which are the only ones in the town and 'have been run into the ground', Mr Vidler said.

Stephen Bowers, Petrac's director of special projects, said the sports fields were a priority, and hoped the rugby fields would be available next March.

He said the community consultation process, called Design by Enquiry, involved taking feedback from the community about what they wanted, then changing plans and redoing designs to see if the changes could work.

Brian Smith, president of the Lennox Head Residents Association, said he was impressed with the workshop process.

"For better or worse we're stuck with the development, and Lennox Head is growing. We're just lucky Petrac has a lot of knowledge and is going about it in an appropriate way," he said.

Ballina councillor Alan Rich, who also attended the workshops, said the best community designs 'arrive when the developers consult with the community early in the planning process'.

"This is a perfect example and there should be more of it," he said.

The developers are producing a booklet with a summary of the outcomes of the workshops and a feedback sheet, which will be distributed to Lennox Head residents.

A DA will be lodged with the NSW Department of Planning in about three months.



**LOOKS OK:** Right to left, Chip Kaufmann, lead urban designer from Ecologically Sustainable Design; Brian Smith, president of Lennox Head Residents Association, and his wife Judy; and local residents Garry Hargrave and Tim Medhurst discuss the Petrac plans.

Picture: PUBLIC CONSULTATION