

## **RNA to upgrade pavilion sleeping quarters prior to 2005 Show**

The Royal National Association will spend more than \$1.5 million to upgrade beef, dairy and horse pavilion facilities prior to next year's Ekka.

RNA Chief Jonathan Tunny said following the 2004 Show, the RNA had been committed to working with the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) to ensure the safety of pavilion facilities for exhibitors.

"I thank the QFRS for the time, support and expertise it has provided the RNA over the past few months. It's been a team effort and we'll continue to work together to ensure a great Ekka in 2005 and beyond."

ARUP Fire and First Five Minutes have also been commissioned by the RNA to inspect all animal pavilions on the Showgrounds and develop fire safety upgrade strategies where required.

"We've assessed all our facilities since the Show this year in respect to fire safety and engineering, so that on 11 August 2005, the Ekka will be well and truly ready to welcome exhibitors," Mr Tunny said.

He said the RNA was currently undertaking a site Masterplan review with architects HOK Sport + Venue + Event, to ensure the most cost-effective allocation of funds for the long-term redevelopment and renewal of the RNA Showground site.

"We have a long-term development vision for the 22 hectare site and want to ensure that expenditure on the pavilions over the coming months complements that vision," Mr Tunny said.

Upcoming works to pavilions will involve some demolition of existing facilities, construction of new facilities, upgrades to emergency lighting, alarms and exit lighting and the installation of new fire hydrant lines.

The 2005 Ekka runs from 11 – 20 August.

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