



Ekka!
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Upgraded RNA Pavilions ready and waiting

Thousands of animals and their owners will soon call the RNA Showgrounds "home", when exhibitors commence moving in to the recently upgraded beef, dairy and horse pavilions for Queensland's biggest and best-loved Show, the Ekka.

The RNA is ready to accept thousands of exhibitors and visitors after a comprehensive fire safety upgrade which involved improving various Show facilities including the heritage listed beef, dairy and horse pavilions.

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards said the RNA was committed to providing safe pavilion facilities for exhibitors and visitors and to respecting the history and traditions of its long-term exhibitors who sleep in the animal pavilions during the 10-day show.

"I commend the great work of the RNA team together with engineering and consulting firm Arup. I would also like to thank the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) for providing the RNA with their time, support and expertise over the past year. It's been a team effort and we'll continue to work together with QFRS and other emergency agencies to ensure a great, safe EKKA this year and beyond," he said.

Leader of Arup Fire, Chris Gildersleeve said the project team worked hard to address the site's fire safety challenges by adopting a proactive, open and consultative approach to securing approvals from the RNA's members and superintendents, and local and State Environmental Planning Agency (EPA) representatives.

QFRS Assistant Commissioner of Brisbane Region Iain MacKenzie said he was pleased to see the implementation of the recommendations which offered significant improvements to the safety of occupants.

"It was challenging to establish the most effective way to upgrade buildings of such diverse age, use and construction, and I believe this is the first time such an upgrade has been undertaken in Queensland."

With the fire safety upgrade complete, the RNA is looking to the future with a Redevelopment Masterplan for the 22-hectare RNA Showgrounds. The long-term vision for the site respects and retains its character and at the same time provides a road map for possible future enhancements.

Stud Beef Cattle competitors start arriving at the RNA Showgrounds on Thursday 4 August. Horse competitors commence arriving on Sunday 7 August.

For media enquiries:

Andrea Sackson (0414 672 318) / Ann Rainbow (0411 482 792)

RNA Public Relations

T: 07 3253 3923 E: pr@ekka.com.au

The Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland

RNA Showgrounds, Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills QLD 4006 Mail Locked Bag 1010, Albion QLD 4010

Telephone 07 3852 1831 Facsimile 07 3257 1428 www.ekka.com.au