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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FEDERAL FUNDING BOOST  
FOR COMMUNITY CENTRE AND LOCAL  
ECONOMY**

Manningham's Civic Precinct Community Centre has moved one significant step closer with the announcement by Federal Minister for Infrastructure and Local Government, Anthony Albanese that the Federal Government would contribute \$5 million towards the vital community project.

Manningham Council Chief Executive Lydia Wilson said the announcement by the Federal Government is wonderful news and is a major boost to the exciting \$28.35 million project that is to be built adjacent to the Municipal offices in Doncaster Road.

"Manningham Council had made a submission to the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure program for funding for this major integrated Community Centre. The visit to Manningham by Minister Albanese to make this significant announcement was a very pleasant surprise."

"The Civic Precinct Community Centre will incorporate best practice in terms of Ecologically Sustainable Design and will be a community focal point in the proposed civic heart of Doncaster Hill that will encourage social interaction and meet the growing needs of the community."

"A hub of neighbourhood life, the Community Centre will provide family services; child care, maternal and child health; pre-school facilities, welfare services, aged care and volunteer services, a community youth activity space, a library, an art gallery, a café and a community arts facility for the Manningham community," she said.

Manningham Mayor Cr Charles Pick said the Civic Precinct Community Centre will not only bring direct benefits to the community in terms of providing an outstanding community facility but will also bring the added benefit of providing real economic stimulus to the local economy.

"Residents and their families are doing it tough and its the role of all levels of Government to ensure that the economy strengthens and people remained employed."

"This Civic Precinct project will create 500 jobs in our own backyard. We're talking about construction jobs and increased retail trade for local businesses," he said.

Cr Pick welcomed the Minister's announcement and highlighting the fact that the outstanding facility will be created at no cost to rate payers.

"We're particularly proud that rates will not be levied for our Community Centre. It will be financed by a combination of funds from Westfield, Doncaster Hill developer contributions, land sales from the relocation of services to the Civic Precinct and grants from the State and Federal Government."

"The recent Federal Government announcement of \$5 million represents Council's total funding submission and goes a significant way to address the identified funding gap for the multi-million dollar project."

Cr Pick said Council is very optimistic that there will be a State Government funding announcement later this month regarding the Community Centre project.

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