

THE WAY FORWARD



Developer wants to create a world-class market hub

GIUSEPPE TAURIELLO

PROMINENT developer Theo Maras has taken over management of the Adelaide Central Market, with a vision to transform it into one of the best markets in the world.

Mr Maras, pictured, who transformed the East End of Adelaide in the 1980s and 1990s, has been appointed chairman of the Adelaide Central Market Authority, replacing businessman Nick Begakis.

He will help the Adelaide City Council choose board members for vacant positions on the authority, which will oversee a multi-million-dollar upgrade of the arcade beside the historic market.

Mr Maras said he was excited by the "once in a lifetime" opportunity to transform the precinct into a "world-class" tourism and retail destination.

"I've been going to the Central Market since I was a child so I've got a long-term history and passion for it," he said.



"At the end of the day, the market belongs to the people of Adelaide and I'm keen to deliver to Adelaide one of the biggest and best markets in the world. This will shape the market for the next 50 years."

Under plans revealed by the council last December, a 35-storey residential, commercial and retail building will be built next to the market as part of a \$400 million redevelopment.

The council, which owns the site, has entered into a partnership with Melbourne-based developer ICD Property to deliver the long-awaited project.

The tower would include specialty retail, food and beverage areas, a central public hall, public rooftop gardens, a 249-room hotel, 210 apartments, a supermarket, offices, 260 carparks and a childcare facility.

Mr Maras said securing the right tenant mix was key to making the project a success.

Lord Mayor Sandy Verschoor said Mr Maras had been chosen from "a truly impressive field of candidates" to help oversee the expansion project. Demolition of the Adelaide Central Market Arcade is scheduled to start next year, with 91 traders affected.

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dream of a theatre, having finally scotched all the modernist modifications of the past - blocked sightlines, misplaced seating, poor acoustics, a low and narrow proscenium, laughable entrance and nightmarish backstage.

Now there are public spaces and bars on each of its three - note, three - levels. Yes, the upper dress circle has been reinstated.

Thanks to the acquisition

of 62 Grote St next door, the bars and public spaces look through a huge curtain of glass across to the Central Market, while lifts now provide disability access.

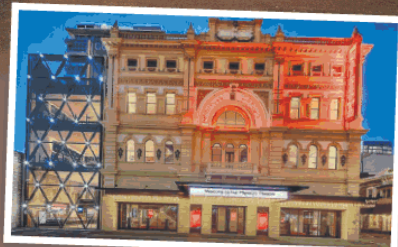
Gautier said the property acquisition was crucial to the project, since it had allowed the auditorium to swell from 900 to 1500 seats, a sweet spot in theatre size that commercial musical presenters loved.

State Opera will be there,

32 years since Her Majesty's was last its home. Bigger State Theatre and Australian Dance Theatre shows, and smaller Adelaide Symphony Orchestra ensembles, should all find space there.

Taxpayers footed most of the bill for the revamp, along with \$45 million in donations.

WATCH A TIME-LAPSE CONSTRUCTION VIDEO AT ADVERTISER.COM.AU



IMPRESSED: State Opera soprano Desiree Frahn with Festival Centre CEO Douglas Gautier and State Theatre artistic director Mitchell Butel on stage at Her Majesty's, and the theatre's Grote St frontage. Picture: MATT TURNER

Red tape risks economic boost Huge surge in apprentice numbers to lead recovery



CLAIRE BICKERS  
FEDERAL BUREAU CHIEF

Prime Minister Scott Morrison and state leaders will today look at ways to fast-track approvals.



Planning Minister Stephan Knoll was granted emergency powers in April to "call in" development approvals if councils were taking too long.

But the industry is urging the state to slash red tape further.

There are also concerns families could miss out on \$25,000 HomeBuilder grants if approvals take more than three months.

With tradie jobs on the line,

complicated applications, some clients are waiting three to 12 months to get planning approvals," he said.

Housing Industry Association of SA executive director Stephen Knight said bank loans and council approvals could take up to six months.

Families would miss out on HomeBuilder grants if the Government did not extend the requirement for construction to start in three months of a contract being signed, Urban Development Institute of SA boss Pat Gerace said.

A Local Government Association of SA spokesman said applications were given the green light quickly if they complied with standards.

THE apprentice and trainee sector can play a key role in the state's economic recovery, Skills Minister David Pisoni says.

His confidence comes after new figures show mature-age apprentice and trainee numbers in South Australia surged in the months before the coronavirus pandemic.

National apprentice and trainee data released yesterday shows SA experienced a 114 per cent increase in starts for mature-age apprentices and trainees for the quarter ending last December.

Apprentices and trainees aged 45 and over rose from 310 in December 2018 to 670 last

year. Mr Pisoni told *The Advertiser* the growth in mature-age students demonstrated a transition to new roles and sectors as older workers upskilled or retrained.

"In our transitioning economy, more South Australians are accessing paid training opportunities to gain the skills required to work in new jobs," Mr Pisoni said.

Figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, showed SA recorded a 138 per cent increase in paid training starts for the year ending December 31, compared with a year earlier. It's the largest percentage increase in Australia.