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# THE HILLIER VIEW

## Kevin Hillier takes stock of a surprise A-League bid

We all like surprises, whether they be presents, birthday parties, old friends turning up on your front door or plans for a 15,000 seat soccer-specific venue to be built in your backyard. Who doesn't love that sort of surprise?

Late last week it was announced that Wyndham was part of a bid for a new franchise in the A-League. Council has been in talks for more than a year with the West Melbourne Group and the official launch of the bid took place at Tarneit Soccer Club. The land where the world-class stadium is to be built is at 1160 Sayers Road.

I have mixed emotions about this news. As a sport and soccer fan, it is very exciting. As a resident/ratepayer, I can see a lot on the plus side, as well.

I query the phrase used in a story online: "Wyndham council has provided in-principle support to the bid by offering up the land for development." What exactly does "offering up the land" mean? Also used were the words "land provided by the Wyndham council".

Neither indicates the exchange of large wads of money.

I am not against these sorts of bold business dealings by council, provided they do not become standard practice. The bidding team wanted the surprise element as competition for expansion A-League licences is intense and any strategic advantage precious. All parties did a good job of not having a leaky boat.

Transparency is non-negotiable for local government, but that does not mean deals can't be done, with information becoming available to the public when the time is right – as seems to be the case here.

Bid consortiums over the years in various sports have been less than forthcoming with real facts and figures. I trust that council has been diligent, methodical and pragmatic.

History shows many organisations have been mesmerised and captivated by the smoke and mirrors of a presentation and have come down with a thud when reality steps in. I hope the surprise of the bid announcement last Friday is the only one we get in this process. ■

If you have any news or events, let me know at [kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au](mailto:kevin@howdypartnersmedia.com.au)



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**Briefs**

**New centre for Isuzu**

Isuzu Australia has opened a head office at the Dexus Industrial Estate in Truganina. The building includes a meeting and conference facilities, a showroom space to showcase current and historic vehicles and a training centre.

**Police in pursuit**

Police arrested a driver after a pursuit, after attempting to intercept his vehicle on the Western Ring Road in Laverton about 12.10am on May 31. The car, which was allegedly stolen during an aggravated burglary in Werribee on May 29, stopped on Heaths Road, Werribee at 1.45am. Police said they anticipated that the driver, a 26-year-old man, would be interviewed for offences including aggravated burglary, reckless conduct endangering life, theft, assaulting police and numerous traffic-related offences.

**Driver caught**

Police allegedly caught a 39-year-old drink-driver last Wednesday, after he was seen driving erratically on K Road in Werribee South. The driver returned a positive preliminary breath test and later recorded a blood alcohol level of 0.343. The Werribee man had his licence suspended for 12 months, surrendered his vehicle and is expected to be charged on summons.

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