

SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS FUND 2006

Auckland Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Shows Board: Redevelopment of Auckland Showgrounds' Building

This project will receive a grant of up to \$4.7 million.

The Auckland Showgrounds is one of New Zealand's premier exhibition centres, hosting more than 140 shows and exhibitions and more than 1.2 million visitors in 2005.

The redevelopment of the Auckland Showgrounds' building is part of a massive transformation of the Showgrounds into a multi-dimensional facility, capable of attracting some of the world's leading shows, events, and exhibitions. Stage one is already underway and includes construction of a new hub including food courts, function rooms, a wine bar, entry and registration areas, and extensions to two exhibition halls. The full transformation is expected to be completed by April 2007.

Administered by a non-profit body, the Auckland Agricultural, Pastoral and Industrial Shows Board, the exhibition facilities and grounds are a significant asset for Auckland, providing important economic benefits and hosting a range of exhibitions and other events that cater for a diverse cross section of Auckland's commercial, ethnic and community groupings.

The project will provide New Zealand with the capacity to host large national and international exhibitions and trade shows by increasing the Auckland Showgrounds' building from 14,100 m² (including 10,000 m² of exhibition space) to 18,200 m² (including 15,000 m² of exhibition space).

The upgrade is expected to secure the Auckland Showgrounds' ability to attract major exhibitions and other events into the future, while enhancing its ability to attract new events to New Zealand.

The grant is towards the completion of a new exhibition hall.