



Central Highlands Regional Council  
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## Media Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### ***Planning Appeal against Council Dismissed***

An appeal against the Central Highlands Regional Council's decision to approve an application for a discount department store made by Lascorp Development Australia was dismissed by the Queensland Environment and Planning Court this morning.

The site in question is on the Capricorn Highway east of the Caltex Roadhouse in Emerald.

Acting Mayor Cr Paul Bell AM said, "I welcome Judge (Alan) Wilson's decision."

"Expert retail analysts for the appellant and Lascorp both accepted that there was a need for a discount department store in Emerald. Council understood this and hence supported the development application, believing it to be appropriate and consistent with our planning objectives for Emerald and indeed the region. We need to continue to support and attract a variety of business and employment opportunities to sustain our communities, but they also need to meet our planning and development guideline. We have an obligation to our existing and future residents to take a long term strategic view."

Cr Bell said "The decision means Lascorp now have a direction in which to move forward and the way is clear for the development to proceed."

"In dismissing the appeal, the Court has recognised Council's role and authority as representative of the community to determine future growth and development within its areas." Cr Bell said.

"I would like to acknowledge on behalf of Council and the community the professionalism demonstrated by our planning staff throughout their dealings with this matter," Cr Bell said.

He added, "It is very satisfying for Council to see that their original recommendations and our subsequent decisions have been supported in the Queensland Environment and Planning Court."

In handing down his decision, Judge Wilson concluded that “This development proposal, approved by the local Council, meets a proven need within the local authority area. While it does not sit in perfect harmony with the terms of the planning scheme (something which, in any event, rarely occurs) any conflict between it and provisions of the scheme is less than troubling; and is, here, readily overcome by planning grounds resting upon obvious community benefits, reflected in support from the community and the local authority.”

Ends

*For further details or to arrange an interview please contact:*

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