



Media Release

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After a decade the showman hangs up his hat

After a decade of running one of Australia's most popular events and playing a key role in Brisbane's world-class \$2.9 billion RNA Showgrounds Regeneration Project, RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny has announced it is time to step down.

Well known for leading the team which stages the annual Royal Queensland Show (Ekka) Mr Tunny has decided it's time for new challenges and opportunities after more than 10 years at the helm of the association.

Mr Tunny said the RNA started the process several years ago to ensure the Ekka remained at the RNA Showgrounds, the 22 hectare site was regenerated and the association's financial future was secured through creating new business streams.

"I always felt that once this was in place it was time for the next generation to take the reins, and now stage one of the regeneration project is well underway, I feel the RNA is in great shape for the future," he said.

"The RNA has a talented team in place and I have enjoyed the many friendships formed throughout the community, industry, the media and government.

"It has been a very exciting journey for my family and I and it has been wonderful being a part of the Ekka - an event that has brought such joy to countless generations while bringing the city and country together like no other.

"It's also been a privilege to be involved in the regeneration project, which will create an historic once in a lifetime legacy all Queenslanders can be proud of."

RNA President David Thomas said Mr Tunny, as a consultant, would continue to provide him with expert advice and guidance on the \$2.9 billion regeneration project.

"Jonathan has spent the last decade guiding the RNA through its most ambitious and pivotal period - ensuring the Ekka remains at our iconic Showgrounds and securing the long-term viability of our association," Mr Thomas said.

"His knowledge and expertise has been crucial, we are grateful for what he has done and we look forward to his continued contribution," he said.

Mr Thomas announced that RNA Chief Operating Officer Brendan Christou will become Chief Executive in line with the association's succession planning.

1/2



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“Brendan joined the RNA in 2004 and has risen through the ranks from Finance Manager to Chief Operating Officer,” he said.

“He has worked alongside Jonathan to stage the last seven Royal Queensland Shows and has been heavily involved in creating our new business streams and in managing the regeneration project.

“We have every confidence in him and look forward to a wonderful Ekka this August.”

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Ekka



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