



US RETAIL GIANT – COSTCO SETS UP AUSTRALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN SYDNEY

Thursday 15 April, 2010

US retail giant **Costco** will set up its Australian headquarters in Sydney – following planning approval granted by the NSW Government today.

The \$58 million retail warehouse will be built at Auburn – with the potential to support 130 jobs during construction and around 230 on-going jobs.

The NSW Government has given approval for a three storey development, including:

- More than 13,700 square metres of gross floor area (GFA) for a retail warehouse;
- Nearly 2,000 square metres of commercial office GFA for the Costco Australian headquarters; and
- 745 car parking spaces, bicycle parking, loading docks, landscaping, and infrastructure and stormwater works.

Premier Kristina Keneally, Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, and Member for Auburn, Barbara Perry, today met with Costco Managing Director, Patrick Noone to announce concept plan approval for the new Costco headquarters at Auburn.

Costco are one of the top ten retailers in the world. The new Auburn facility increases their presence in Australia and Australasia and cements Auburn as an important emerging location for business.

“This approval demonstrates the Government’s commitment to delivering jobs and economic investment in key economic corridors across Sydney,” Ms Keneally said.

“This is great news. Costco is a major global retailer and Sydney will be home to its national headquarters.

“The site itself is part of the Auburn Council’s strategic vision to revitalise this area as a large format retail precinct and will help council as it finalises its local environment plan.”

Mr Kelly said today’s concept plan approval would give Costco the certainty needed to move forward with this important investment and subsequent construction.

“This project will be a valuable new addition to the Auburn area, boosting jobs in this key economic corridor and supporting the development of a large format retail development along Parramatta Road,” Mr Kelly said.

“As a result of feedback received during public exhibition, the proponent made a number of revisions to the project addressing community and agency concerns.

“For instance, the proposed carparking area adjacent to Haslams Creek was replaced with a fully landscaped 10 metre setback from the creek, which will also assist in screening the building along its creek frontage.”

Mr Kelly said a new intersection with traffic lights providing access to the site from Parramatta Road would minimise traffic impacts by managing traffic flow to and from the development.

The associated project application which was lodged at the same time as the concept plan will now be determined by the Planning Assessment Commission.