

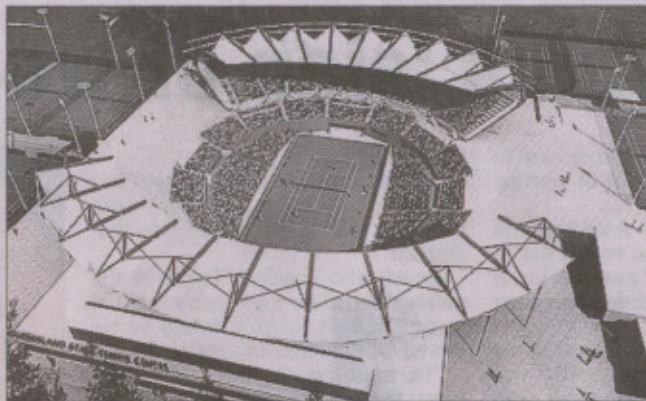
# Council gets ball rolling at Kedron

Paul Malone  
TENNIS

BRISBANE'S tennis players need another 200 courts built over the next 10 years despite the construction of two new tennis centres at Tennyson and Kedron, Tennis Queensland has warned.

The Brisbane City Council yesterday confirmed construction would start next year on a \$2.7 million centre — including about 10 courts — at Shaw Rd, Kedron, with a projected opening date of December, 2007.

Tennis Queensland chief executive Steve Ayles welcomed the commitment by the council in budgeting funds, in addition to a State Government grant, for a privately run Kedron centre, which he described as "a great first step" towards alleviating Brisbane's shortage



**FUTURE home of champions ... an artist's impression of the State Tennis Centre to be built at Tennyson in 2008.**

of tennis courts for hire.

The Kedron Tennis Centre will be opened about 12 months before the 23 courts at the \$77 million state tennis centre at Tennyson become available.

Ayles said the Brisbane metropolitan area had lost 200-250 tennis courts in the past 15 years, creating a shortage of courts, as Brisbane's real estate price boom in the 1990s

saw existing centres sold to developers.

"It sounds like very good news about the Kedron centre. Now we'd like to move on to where other centres can be established to address the deficiencies in court numbers in Brisbane," Ayles said.

"We anticipate we need another 250 tennis courts in Brisbane within 10 years.

"That figure anticipates a number of closures of existing centres in the (next) five to seven years for the same reasons (residential development), so the net gain would be 100-150 courts.

"We'd also look forward to having an involvement in (deciding) what facility will be developed at Kedron and which court surfaces."

The State Government said in June it would provide

\$1,136,050 for the Kedron centre and a council spokeswoman said up to \$1,355,000 had been allocated in the council's 2007-08 budget.

Kedron-Wavell Services Club would contribute at least \$250,000, she said.

Construction was due to begin in July and expected to be completed by December 2007.

"The current proposal is for a 10-court centre, subject to outcome of construction and operator tenders," the spokeswoman said.

There will 23 courts, including hardcourts, grasscourts and claycourts, at the Tennyson centre, which is scheduled to be built by the end of 2008 on land made available by the State Government.

The development includes residential and commercial buildings.