

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 24th January 2022

To the Community,

Brookton Memorial Hall Update

As I have previously communicated Council has adopted the Design Option 2, this will see a refurbishment and repurposing of the Town Hall, at the time of this decision, early in 2021 it was estimated to cost \$2.5million. We are all aware the building industry is under considerable pressure and the cost to undertake any building or renovation works has seen significant cost escalations.

To understand what this may mean for the project and how we might fund the works, Council has recently had a conversation with Tara Whitney Consulting about funding opportunities. Following this meeting Council decided to engage a suitably qualified Architect to prepare Construction Drawings for Option 2, after which Council would be able to go out to Tender for a suitably qualified builder to provide us with the actual costs to undertake the works. With this known a business case will be able to be prepared, and grant applications can then be written. In late 2021, Council formerly invited qualified architectural businesses to submit a quote to prepare the necessary construction drawings and specifications, following a detailed assessment process Stephen Carrick Architect was awarded the contract.

Council has formed a working group that consists of two members of the public, three councillors, Stephen Carrick, and staff to finalise the design decisions.

It is anticipated the Working Group will meet in the coming weeks to commence the work required. It is hoped that by July Council will be able to commence the Tender process. It is timely to remind the community that the final cost of the works will determine how Council proceeds with the project, a timeline for works is yet to be determined.

Brookton Railway Station

Council would like to thank all those community members who took the time to submit their feedback and views on the future of the Railway Station.

At last week's Council meeting, Council formerly endorsed Option 1 – Railway Station Restoration as the preferred way forward, Council has included a forecourt and ramp access as requested by several community members. All internal walls are being removed with the retention of the fireplaces in both ends of the building. The current toilet facilities will be replaced with a Universal Access Toilet and a storage room, to be fitted to the building. The final concept drawings will be on the Shire website. There will be other heritage considerations as we move through the finer details of the project, some of which have come through during the public consultation period.



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As with the Hall, the final cost of this project is largely unknown, with the indicative cost likely to be higher than the estimated \$1.4million. Council has decided to consider alternative modern materials to repair the station so that it presents as close to original as is possible, this is because we may not be able to source original materials at a reasonable cost and compromises may be required. Council is committed to retaining the heritage look of the station as its priority. A final decision by Council will be needed for the Railway Station project subject to further structural reports being obtained, if necessary, as well as an updated cost estimate being provided by a Quantity Surveyor, and any possible funding opportunities to be considered.

Council will be calling for suitably qualified Architects to quote on the preparation of construction drawings & specifications.

Once again, Council would like to thank the Community for your active participation and patience as we have moved through the required processes for the both the Hall and the Railway Station, whilst we would all like a quick outcome, unfortunately that just won't be the case. Council is committed to ensuring both projects do not take any longer than is necessary.

Should you require any further information on this matter please contact the Shire Administration or myself.



Cr Katrina Crute on behalf of the Shire of Brookton Councillor's.
24th January 2022

