

# MEDIA RELEASE



To the Community of Brookton

I am pleased to announce that Council has arrived at a point in time with the Brookton Memorial Town Hall that we are now seeking the Communities feedback about it's future. Council engaged Stephen Carrick Architect to prepare three options for Council and the Community to consider, stressing that these are concept designs and once a decision is reached (by Council) further design works will need to be undertaken. We asked Stephen and his team to prepare the following Options:

1. Town Hall Restoration – taking into account the Conservation Plan and local historical significance, restore the building and make it compliant.
2. Town Hall Refurbishment – taking into account local historical significance, refurbish the building to allow for increased and alternate usage.
3. A new Building – located at the WB Eva Pavilion Precinct, address the needs of the community through the provision of new "Town Hall" looking out onto the oval.

Stephen and his team have now completed and the Council has formally accepted those three designs at a Special Meeting last night, so today (Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December) marks the start of an 8 week consultation period, including two (2) public meetings to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We acknowledge that there may be some criticism of the timing, but in keeping with our commitment to the community to progress the decision on the Town Hall in a timely manner this is where we find ourselves.

## Where to from here?

Council is asking for you, the Community, to actively engage in the Public Consultation process. This is your chance to have a say on the future of a Community Hall. It is important to remember that the feedback you, the community, provide will help inform Council in its decision on the future of a Community Hall.

What I ask all community members, is that you give careful consideration of what a Community Hall really means and where it is best located be taking into account the type of uses, who the users are, and the adaptability, and durable of the building over the long term?

Stephen Carrick Architects will at the public information sessions provide an overview of each of the options, the concepts behind each of them and an estimated cost. This provides you, the Community, with a wonderful opportunity to actively participate in the final concept designs, ask questions, and provide suggestions. These sessions, while hosted by me on behalf of Council, will be facilitated and run by Stephen Carrick and his team.

The public consultation period will close on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Council with the assistance of Stephen and his team will then formally consider all feedback and make an informed decision in the best interests of the whole Community. This will occur at a meeting by March 2021 to allow Council to move quickly to commence works and seek grants funding to help deliver on the selected option.

In closing, I appeal to each and every member of the Brookton Community to get involved, as this is a very important decision, and will absolutely affect this community for many generations to come. It will be at the heart of Next Generation BROOKTON, so please no matter your feedback, short, long, for or against, send it in, so collectively the Council can consider all views and make a decision on your behalf.

Further information can be obtained from the Shire Administration Office or from the Shire website.

Cr Katrina Crute  
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