

EXTENSION OF NAMBUCCA HEADS LIBRARY AND ACTIVATION OF CULTURAL SPACE

*Funding to refurbish and expand the Nambucca Heads
Library and Cultural Precinct*

23 Ridge Street Nambucca Heads

Funded by: Create NSW

Program: Regional Cultural Fund

Grant: \$1.5 m + Council contribution \$0.5 m



PROJECT OVERVIEW AND RATIONALE

Rationale

- Library is too small for the population (currently 240 sq m; benchmark 690 sq m)
- No staff facilities – no staff room, no disability toilet
- No meeting room/s
- Inadequate administration space and staff work space
- Inadequate storage
- Inadequate space to conduct programs
- Poor study spaces
- Library Strategic Plan and community feedback

Description of Funded Project

This project provides for an extension of the Nambucca Heads Library and Cultural Precinct. It will enable a better use of this cultural space in Nambucca Heads, and in turn allow for the increased number of visitors to the library.

The extension will almost double the size of the library space and allow for storage on the below ground level accessed by a lift. Staff will have a separate staff room, and work room in order to repair and maintain the extensive collection. Incorporated into the plan will be our small hall" - now called Hall No. 2 on the concept plans, and this space can be used for meetings and conferences at this centre. Council has secured funding for introduction of RFID for the collection, and the gates for exit and entry to support the technology. This project will add to the viability of the approved project.

A new amenities area has been incorporated in the design, including disabled facilities. The current "unused" concrete space between the existing library and Nambucca Community Arts Centre has been substantially utilised in this project to better serve the community and develop this cultural space, and increase the versatility and vitality of this precinct.

- Extend Nambucca Heads Library
- Construct a small hall for meetings and conferences
- Separate staff room, and work room
- Double the size of the library
- Storage on a lower level, accessed by a lift
- Remove existing amenities. Construct new amenities
- Better utilise courtyard area

PROGRESS TO DATE - GOVERNANCE

- Co-signed Funding Agreement
- Submission of first Project Status Report
- First Invoice sent to Create NSW—1st Milestone
- Endorsement of Project Control Group
- First meeting of PCG

PROGRESS TO DATE - CONSULTATION

- Community consultation (on-line, face-to-face and paper) – 241 online responses + small groups
- Meeting with Library staff
- Meeting with Nambucca Valley Community and Arts Centre
- Meeting with Nambucca Valley Arts Council
- NSC Library Strategic Plan Committee
- State Library
- Comments received from Phillida Hartley, Valley Performers, U3A
- Council Management regarding budget

SUMMARY OF ISSUES RAISED

- Concept Plans not widely supported.
- Creation of narrow walkway – loss of natural light, fire issues, safety, restricted airflow to large hall
- Toilets are “front and centre”
- Noise from road
- Storage – none at ground level, access to downstairs by lift (transporting tables, chairs and drama sets)
- Coffee shop and disability toilet – impact on gallery and access to projector room
- Loss of courtyard for parking and group assembly
- Loss of venue during construction
- Parking around the precinct
- Poor lines of site in proposed library
- Value of lower level – question of current value due to staffing levels
- Timing of Council’s allocation to the project (deferred to 2020-2021)

NEXT STEPS

- Wes and Coral meeting with U3A
- Circulate documents to PCG members
- Clarify PCG membership
- Current plans don't appear to be viable to proceed to procurement
- Revised plans needed
- Define required elements
- Review site survey done by Amos and McDonald 28/8/2017
- Review planning requirements – DA is required, Bush Fire issues etc

CORAL HUTCHINSON
MANAGER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
8 MAY 2019

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