



COFFS HARBOUR CULTURAL
AND CIVIC SPACE PROJECT

NEWSLETTER
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Mayor's Message

I'm delighted to welcome you to this project newsletter for the Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space Project.

As you know, Council is pursuing a Cultural and Civic Space at Gordon Street in Coffs Harbour CBD and we are now at the stage of developing a schematic design and preparing for development approval.

Imagine what this space could be like with an exciting cultural and civic building housing a central library, regional gallery and museum, and centralised council facilities to improve services and opportunities for our community.

The new Cultural and Civic Space is being designed to create a vibrant cultural and civic precinct in the heart of Coffs Harbour to be accessible, inclusive, attractive and welcoming to all.

It is also being designed to bring life, vibrancy and economic benefits to the CBD outside of business hours and to place the cultural community in the heart of the city.

I'm really looking forward to being involved in this exciting new facility and I'd encourage you all to show your continued support for the new Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space Project.

Cr Denise Knight RN
Mayor, City of Coffs Harbour

What is the Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space Project?

The Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space is being designed to combine arts, community and culture to create a lively community, civic and learning hub for a vibrant and active City Centre.

This reimagined space could create an exciting cultural and civic precinct to house the central library, regional gallery and museum and centralised council facilities to improve services for the community of Coffs Harbour.

The Cultural and Civic Space Project potentially includes a youth area and digital media studio, exhibition space, parking, workshops and makers studios, public art, a café, small events space and technology resources, which would encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to visit.

How will the project proceed?

From 2016-18 Coffs Harbour City Council sought extensive feedback from key stakeholders, groups and interested community members about the co-location of the central library, regional art gallery, museum and council facilities to create a dynamic cultural and civic destination.

The key findings from this consultation in 2018 indicated that the community and stakeholders of Coffs Harbour were seeking an environmentally sustainable and efficient 'statement' building that reflects the place we all call home.

The consultation revealed that people wanted the library, gallery and museum on the ground floor and the design should involve the local Aboriginal community in discussions over appropriate cultural elements. The building should also incorporate covered outdoor public and event spaces, be accessible for all and weather protected, have adequate parking options, and be practical and safe for people movement.

Important considerations for the design include being light and spacious, open, airy and welcoming, affordable and easy to maintain, and should provide improved urban design and streetscapes in and around the site.

The proposed facility is about our economic and cultural future, as well as our growth as a major regional hub. The Cultural and Civic Space for the Heart of the City is being designed to transform the CBD into a vibrant, busy destination that draws in locals and visitors alike.

In June 2018 Council endorsed the project to progress to the next stage of schematic design. In November 2018 Turner & Townsend Thinc firm was awarded the contract for project management service and a firm of architects is expected to be announced in late January 2019.

Schematic design work is expected to be completed in the first half of 2019. Subject to approval, this work would be followed by a detailed design step and then construction, with proposed opening of the new Cultural and Civic Space in 2022.





How can you get involved in this project?

The engagement activities in early 2018 provided Council with a very clear picture about what key stakeholders and the community were looking for in this facility. The next phase of engagement will see the key stakeholders working with the design team to help

develop schematic designs that include all the elements and deliver that earlier vision.

The wider community is scheduled to have the opportunity to learn more and provide feedback on the schematic designs between March and May 2019. Council is planning for a range of community engagement activities including various forums as well as being able to follow the project's

progress through the **Coffs Harbour Have Your say** page and static displays. A targeted engagement campaign is also planned to engage with youth, people of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and the local Aboriginal community.

Updates will continue to be provided for the community as the project moves forwards.



Have any questions or need more information?

Please contact Elise Petty, Project Officer, at ccsproject@chcc.nsw.gov.au or (02) 6648 4000

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