

21 June 2021

HEPBURN HUB AT THE REX PROJECT UPDATE

At the meeting held on 15 June 2021, Council heard a confidential report on the Hepburn Hub at The Rex project and options available to it in relation to progressing the project.

Mayor, Cr Lesley Hewitt, said that it is clear the current staff accommodation and customer service area are inadequate, and the library service in Daylesford does not cater adequately for our population and its projected growth.

“The Hepburn Hub at The Rex project will address these issues and deliver some important community spaces, including a community auditorium and co-working space,” said Cr Hewitt.

The construction of the project has not commenced despite the awarding of a building contract due to a dispute regarding the condition of the building and the agreed scope of works with the builder.

“Council made some critical decisions at the last meeting. The CEO has been given 21 days to negotiate with the builder to resolve these issues, or termination of the contract will be enacted, and we will then proceed to a new procurement process to appoint a new contractor.”

“We understand the frustration of the community regarding the delays associated with this complex project, so we will be establishing a Project Advisory Group, including community members, to promote greater transparency. A draft terms of reference is to be developed and announcements will be made regarding the calling for membership.”

“The need for additional funding has been identified and this is being worked through by the Project Control Group and Council. We are aware that this is not what the community wants to hear, but we also understand the importance of delivering this transformational project,” said Cr Hewitt.

Following the 21-day period (7 July) we will update the community on our progress.

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