

Item 11: Community

11.1 70 Court Street Mudgee - operation of a community education facility

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY
TO 04 AUGUST 2021 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400088, P1122711

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Community on the 70 Court Street Mudgee - operation of a community education facility;**
2. **endorse in principle the submission by Mudgee Arts Council Incorporated to assist Council in operating the community education facility at 70 Court Street Mudgee;**
3. **authorise the General Manager to finalise negotiations and establish a Memorandum of Understanding with Mudgee Arts Council Incorporated for the joint operation of the community education facility at 70 Court Street Mudgee; and**
4. **note that a different site will be considered for Council to provide the agreed assistance to Housing Plus for emergency accommodation support.**

Executive summary

This report seeks to provide information on the Request for Interest process undertaken to consider the operation of 70 Court Street as a community education facility. One response was received by Mudgee Arts Council Inc and it is deemed that this submission forms the basis for a successful relationship for the ongoing operation of the facility.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

The former TAFE site at 70 Court Street Mudgee was purchased by Council with ownership changing hands in April 2021. At the April Council meeting it was resolved that Council seek expressions of interest from appropriate local community groups to coordinate the facility for community use.

One expression of interest was received from Mudgee Arts Council Incorporated. It is noted that this submission was supported by letters from Mudgee District U3A, Mudgee Performing Arts Society and the Mudgee Concert Band.

The submission proposes to use the site in line with Council's intent as a community facility for education and to support other creative pursuits such as the performing arts and music.

An annual fee of \$3,500 is proposed as a rental payment to Council. Alongside this, Mudgee Arts will also coordinate the regular cleaning and maintenance of the building and the grounds. They will also coordinate the use and booking of the facility by other not-for-profit groups. Council will remain responsible for the overall site and any major building considerations.

Council is also considering its own use of the site and there is the possibility of complimentary services being provided to university students on the site. As such, while the proposal is generally acceptable, it is recommended that negotiations with Mudgee Arts be finalised and a Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
Strategy	Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Community Plan

Council Policies

Not applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

By entering into an agreement for Mudgee Arts Council Inc to assist in the operation of the 70 Court Street facility, Council will keep ongoing maintenance and operational costs to a minimum, as per the current operational plan.

Associated Risks

70 Court Street is a substantial asset with a great deal of potential. Is it vital that Council retains a level of oversight over the site to ensure that it can be well used by the community and develops further as an important education and cultural resource for the community. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed that allows Council to retain an overall strategic consideration for the site and potentially use part of the site for its own education purposes while ensuring that the responsibilities of Council and the Mudgee Arts Council are clear.

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

19 July 2021

Attachments: 1. CONFIDENTIAL - RFI 70 COURT ST MUDGEES.pdf. (Confidential - separately attached)

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER