

9 May 2016

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Dear residents

FINLEY SCHOOL OF ARTS AND WAR MEMORIAL HALL

The Council is presently consulting with the Finley community regarding its preferred future for the Finley School of Arts and War Memorial Hall.

While the Council has been conducting this consultation it has become clear that many community members are unclear about both the Council's reasons for suggesting a change and also what the change actually entails.

Why a change?

- Both of the halls suffer from very low usage. Over an eighteen month period both Halls only generated about \$1,800 which equates to about 160 hours usage over the same period.
- The toilet facilities at the hall are very poor and have no disabled facilities. When using one of the halls both facilities have to be operated as the toilet facilities are shared.
- There is no disabled access to the facilities or parking for users whether disabled, aged or infirm or not.
- The kitchen facilities form a part of the School of Arts facility and if required by users of the War Memorial Hall then again the School of Arts must also be used.

What is the Council's preferred future?

- The Council believes that the existing impediments cannot be remedied while the two halls continue at the site.
- If one hall was removed, all of the above issues could be addressed and one usable facility retained and improved to, again, address the above issues.
- The Council believes that it would be best to keep the School of Arts hall as this can provide for a wider range of future uses and it is listed in the Council's Heritage Register.
- The Council cannot see that retaining and renovating the two halls can be justified as the underlying impediments cannot be addressed and the limited usage cannot justify spending even more money on two largely unused halls.
- The concept plan overleaf reflects the Council's current concept for the site which the Council believes, if it is adopted, will result in a facility for Finley that will be 'fit for purpose' and will generate an invigorated level of usage that justifies the required expenditure.

How to express your view

You can participate in the Council's consultation program until **18th May 2016** by:

Emailing a response to feedback@berriganshire.nsw.gov.au; or

Returning the option 'tear off' that was provided with the last information from the Council.

CR BERNARD CURTIN, OAM

