

A letter from Mayor Denise Knight to the residents and ratepayers of Coffs Harbour on the Cultural & Civic Space:

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the Gumbaynggirr people, who for thousands of years have occupied the land on which we live, do business and welcome visitors.

Several inaccuracies have come to my attention about the proposed Cultural and Civic Space Project (including Council offices). I understand these are circulating throughout our community and I wanted to ensure these myths are busted before people are misled by false information.

The Cultural and Civic Space Project has been planned with the intention of bringing our community together:

- It will not negatively impact on council services to the community;
- It will not increase your rates;
- It will not result in job losses;
- At no stage has any component of this project been kept hidden.



Denise Knight
Mayor
Coffs Harbour City Council

The Project has been planned and budgeted in a way that delivers the best facilities in the best location for Coffs Harbour residents and ratepayers now and into the future. The total project budget of \$76.52 million is inclusive of all costs, including fit out. There are no hidden extras. Its location in the heart of Coffs Harbour will ensure the facility is accessible to both locals and visitors, while also providing flow-on benefits to local businesses.

The Cultural and Civic Space will incorporate the Coffs Harbour Regional Museum, Coffs Harbour Regional Gallery, Harry Bailey Memorial Library, family history group, multipurpose meeting rooms, co-working space, shop, café, Council offices and Council chambers. For those of you with friends and family who work for our wonderful Council, the new space will provide a functional workplace that will blend seamlessly with an exciting, technologically advanced cultural hub.

Importantly, this space will provide our community's tireless volunteers with the wonderful place they deserve and give our school and community groups access to technology and facilities rivalling other cities of our size. Coffs Harbour City Council has successfully managed projects significantly larger than the Cultural and Civic Space Project; this will be no different.

We recognise there are many questions being raised about the Cultural and Civic Space Project in the community and we are very happy to provide any additional information or clarification. If you have further questions about the project or are unsure of the facts, I encourage you to contact Council via ccsproject@chcc.nsw.gov.au, visit haveyoursay.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/cultural-and-civic-space or call 6648 4000.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Denise Knight".

Denise Knight
Mayor, Coffs Harbour City Council

