



City of
Melville

AGENDA BRIEFING FORUM

CD20/8135 – Response to Petition for retaining the Melville Civic
Centre Hall for General Use

1 September 2020



City of
Melville

CD20/8135 – Response to Petition for retaining the Melville Civic Centre Hall for General Use

Presenter: Cathy Day, Coordinator Cultural Projects

- A petition has been received from a group representing the current users of the main hall.
- The Melville City Centre Main Hall is being investigated for the relocation of the Melville Theatre Company operations.
- Melville Theatre Company, an award winning theatre group has 35 years standing
- The reason for the need for a new location is owing to the lease proposal at the Stock Rd Property - due to start 31 December 2021.
- The initial place for relocation planned was originally the proposed Library Culture Centre – as seen as an important culture group
- Options for the regular Main Hall users for ball room dancing are being investigated throughout the City - early research has revealed several possible dance venues with required functionality and availability – the City recognises the importance of ballroom dancing for health and longevity
- Currently an options report for the Main Hall conversion is being prepared by architects for three operational models to include the theatre and other current main hall users.
- This report recommends the current phase of option planning and alternative venue research be continued for the preparation of a business case for Council to consider.



Focus on current users and potential future use

Main Hall regular users - three small business enterprises

- Dance Zone Dancers - once a week
- Stan's Dancing group - twice a week – approx 80 loyal followers - many local residents
- Kramer Dance - approximately one per month
- Assessment to gauge needs for ongoing dance in the City
- Alternative venues found though some compromise needed

Melville Theatre Company

- 60 members, approx 100 volunteers jobs a year, 5-6 seasons of shows,
- 4,000-5,000 theatre goers pa.
- Needs assessment - specialist requirements that can't easily be replicated
- Research includes merging theatre groups, school options, community halls



Options going forward

Three options are being considered for converting the hall for use by the MTC – all options are taking into consideration other hall users and new theatre hirers

1. Short term option – lowest cost, based on an eventual move of MTC to the Library Cultural Centre
2. Long term Option – higher cost option based on unknown future of LCC
3. Complete revamp of Main Hall for long term use to include ability to totally switch from Main hall uninterrupted floor to theatre and back again



OFFICER RECOMMENDATION (8135) (APPROVAL/REFUSAL)

That the Council:

- 1. Notes the current strategy to look at options for the conversion of the Main Hall to a theatre for the Melville Theatre Company including models for other hall users to continue their activities**
- 2. Directs the CEO to send a response to the petitioners noting their concerns and informing them that research is being done for alternative dance venues, particularly for ball room dancing**
- 3. Directs that ball room dance operators and other regular users are continued to be involved in the option planning stage to include their future needs where possible.**