

11.7 Red Hill Exhibition Space

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY
TO 17 AUGUST 2022 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400098, P1114611

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Community on the Red Hill Exhibition Space;**
2. **provide in principle support for the concept of developing a new exhibition space at the Red Hill Precinct; and**
3. **amend the 2022/23 budget to include an initial project budget for the Red Hill Exhibition Space of \$50,000 to be funded from unrestricted cash.**

Executive summary

Council has been offered an exciting opportunity to be the permanent host of a world class fossil collection. One option available is to include this collection as part of the tourism offering at the Red Hill Precinct in Gulgong. This could potentially be an excellent addition to the quality destinations available in the town and support the economic development of the area.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

An approach has been made for Council to consider housing an important collection of fossils owned by Michael Durant. It is thought to be one of the finest private collections in the world. One option would be to house the collection at the Red Hill site in Gulgong in a purpose built exhibition space.

In terms of the Red Hill site, Council endorsed an update to the Red Hill Master Plan in October 2019. This included provision for an exhibition space on the site and this is consistent with the Plan of Management for Red Hill.

Some thought will need to be given to presenting the fossil collection within this Red Hill precinct, given the important role that Red Hill plays in telling the story of the history of Gulgong. However, this project represents an opportunity to continue to develop Gulgong as a tourism destination with complimentary exhibitions throughout the town. As an example, the National Fossil and Mineral Museum in Bathurst receives approximately 30,000 visitors a year.

This report seeks Council's in principle support for the project so that initial work can be undertaken.

This would include:

- Transport and storage for parts of the collection.
- Liaison and further work with the collection owner to ensure that interpretation and display areas are developed.
- Planning work for the development of the exhibition space including applications for funding.

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

An initial budget of \$50,000 is sought to allow for early work on this project. If the project is supported and develops well, a further report would seek budget for the capital works required to develop the exhibition space. It would be anticipated that this project would be partially grant funded.

Associated Risks

It would be appropriate for a business case to be developed for this project, likely required for a Capital Expenditure Review. As part of this process, risks would be considered as for any sizeable construction project.

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

3 August 2022

Attachments: 1. Red Hill Master Plan endorsed Oct 2019.pdf.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER



2019 RED HILL MASTERPLAN



STAGE 1 - COMPLETED WORKS

- 1 Mine shaft completed at a cost of \$1 million. Successfully operating.

STAGE 2 - COMPLETED WORKS

- 2 Construction of a Bus and Car Parking area. Completed at a cost of \$40,000.

STAGE 2 - FUNDED WORKS IN PROGRESS

- 3 Restoration of the Miner's Cottage so it can become the entry to the complex. It will be used as tea rooms, gift shop and visitor information centre. The estimated cost \$60,000.

STAGE 3 - FUTURE WORKS

- 4 Creation of a new exhibition space and public toilets. Approx cost of \$400,000. To be created in a style that references historical buildings depicted in old photographs from the Red Hill site. To be used to exhibit 'old trades' such as a blacksmith, leather products, wool spinner.

STAGE 4 - PROPOSED FUTURE WORKS

- 5 Children's mining themed playground to be constructed and also two unisex and one disabled toilet. At an approximate cost of \$250,000.
- 6 Security Fencing for the entire complex at a cost of approx. \$200,000.
- 7 Create a 'Billabong' of running water to give the true experience of Gold Panning. When not in use the water can be turned off and it will become a dry river bed with rocks and suitable planting. Approx. \$200,000.
- 8 Construction of additional visitor parking to be built at a cost of \$40,000.

