

COONAMBLE

SHIRE COUNCIL

BUSINESS PAPER

Supplementary Reports Ordinary Council Meeting Wednesday, 9 August 2023

Date: Wednesday, 9 August 2023

Time: 3.30 pm

**Location: Shire Chamber
Coonamble**

**Tim Horan
Mayor**

Order Of Business

8 **Mayoral Minute** **3**
 Mayoral Minute - Supplementary Report - Plaza Theatre 3

8 MAYORAL MINUTE

MAYORAL MINUTE - SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - PLAZA THEATRE

File Number: M3
Author: Tim Horan-Mayor
Authoriser: Tim Horan, Mayor
Annexures: Nil

PLAZA THEATRE

For some time now Council has seen a significant downturn in businesses in the Coonamble Main Street. Recently Council instigated a revitalisation program for the Main Street and Business generally across the shire.

In the last 10 days an opportunity arose to reinvigorate the picture theatre but came with a very tight timeframe.

As a result, I have held discussions with the Outback Arts Director and subsequently a proposal was put to the Outback Arts Board yesterday for them to purchase the theatre at a very reasonable price. I am pleased to advise that their board have agreed to progress the purchase and will commit most of the funds themselves.

However, given the tight time frame for the purchase to occur Outback Arts will be seeking financial donations and contributions from community groups for the purchase to occur, and following public fundraising campaign further afield for the refurbishment.

The new addition to Outback Arts will see a currently closed premises open to the community and will assist them in expanding the opportunities their organisation intends to offer such as touring live theatre, music, dance workshops, a space for community events to be held like school presentations, fundraising movie nights and singing lessons. Outback Arts believe this venue will attract new audiences to the town and the region as the only active historical venue of its kind in the western area of the state. It will be a place to celebrate for our community and extend the valuable life work of the late Chris Gray.

As such and given our priority on the main street revitalising program I would like to recommend that Council contribute to Outback Arts to have the theatre secured for the benefit of the community and the arts and cultural life of our shire.

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENT

Should Council wish to consider the following motion, funds would be sourced from the Coonamble Activation Fund \$20,000, the Mayoral Donation Vote \$5,000 with remaining possibly sourced from the unallocated Donations Pool.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the report be noted and received.**
- 2. That Council congratulate Outback Arts on their commitment to our Shire and their efforts to save and revitalise the Theatre and that Council contribute \$30,000 to Outback Arts to assist them in the purchase. Furthermore, Council enters into a partnership with Outback Arts in the ongoing operations of the Theatre.**