

I had a meeting with the Burnie City Council GM Simon Overland today and have written a summary of the meeting.

I reiterated the importance of arts and culture to a community and why it is vital Local Government continue to support this aspect of our community even if there may not be a statutory requirement to do so. He agreed and reassured me the Council shares this view and they are seeking to achieve a more efficient operating structure to create some of the needed savings.



I was assured the Council are not stopping support and funding of the arts and culture but doing this differently. Including different ways of delivering support to arts and culture in the Burnie municipality both in and outside the Burnie Arts and Function Centre (BAFC). This will include opportunities for supporting art in public places as well as the gallery and taking art and culture to areas of the community often not included/engaged in the current framework. This includes our youth, our indigenous people and others in marginalised areas.

Part of this is the restructuring of staffing in this area.

New positions to be created:

- A 'cultural leader' who will be manager of the new cultural centre which will result from the redevelopment of the BAFC.
- Function and event coordinator
- Function and event officer
- Curator position
- Collections officer – 1 new position to make 2 collections officers (together will manage the museum and art collection)



This means there is likely to be nett staff loss of 15 positions – 20 positions likely to be abolished – 5 positions to be created.

The Art Gallery to be repurposed during the redevelopment to be used as multipurpose – events such as TasArt will continue, as will exhibitions and functions utilising this space. I will be lobbying the State Government to provide additional funding to support the \$5m Federal funding to ensure we get a fully integrated and inclusive cultural centre that the BAFC is central to.

Plans and design concepts for this redevelopment are being worked on currently and being prepared and expected to go to council for consideration late July/August. I did note the imperative of seeking broad community engagement and public input into the design before final decisions are made.

The new position of the 'Cultural Leader' will be advertised in 2-3 weeks. This person will play a key and important part of leading community engagement in all these changes.

I also discussed alternate spaces to hold events during refurbishment including the Eisteddfod as these events are such important opportunities for participation by many school children in the arts. This is a matter that is still to be considered.

Sadly Creative paper – will close in June. It is intended an Expression of Interest process will be undertaken to see whether there is a community venture or other operator that may be willing to take this on as a commercial or community venture. It would be tragic to see this lost to our community.



I am assured there will be deep and ongoing engagement throughout this process with volunteers and arts organisations and I encourage all interested people to remain alert to these opportunities and participate. I did seek an assurance that all sectors of the community are provided with the opportunity to have a say. I was assured community engagement will include lots of community conversations, individual engagement if sought, online surveys and community gatherings (including going to community not

just expecting them to come to council).

Regarding events, Council will continue to support and fund events but not run them – e.g events such as Burnie Shines, New Year's Eve Foreshore Festival, the Burnie 10, 321 Go, etc., will still be supported financially to go ahead run by community groups or contractors (as currently occurs for some events).

I was assured the Makers Workshop will not be closed. What continues inside the building will subject to community engagement in concert with UTAS and Council.

Visitor Information centre in the Makers Workshop will close in its current form. Visitor information will still be provided but it will be provided differently. Opportunities including a mobile pop-up facility is currently being progressed that will include a digital option when not open physically. Visitor information will also be progressed in partnership with other key stakeholders including West by North West.

I am assured the plan is not to weaken arts and culture but to strengthen it via an integrated arts, museum and cultural centre with community outreach under a different delivery model. A model that includes our wonderful volunteer organisations and arts groups who have given so much to our community over the years.

I am happy to assist with further community engagement. I highly value the arts and culture of our community and appreciate the health and wellbeing benefits this has for individuals and communities. If members of the community need any assistance or other information I can assist with, feel free to contact my office.

