

Project update – Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub

July 2016

Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub – project update

The Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub project (redevelopment of the Mechanics Hall) has come to life, with the injection of \$700,000 through the Commonwealth's Drought Communities Program. West Wimmera Shire Council and the Edenhope community have supported this project for a number of years, however it is now becoming a reality.

The development of the Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub project represents a significant investment in community infrastructure, wellbeing and community strengthening. Supporting this project is a business case commissioned by council and prepared by SED Advisory (May 2016). The Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub project is an important initiative for the community and building on the foundations of work completed to date, the report provides a strategic approach to realising this project over the longer term.

Tender documents have been prepared to engage a contractor to undertake architectural and structural design of the building. Tenders close Thursday 18 August, with a report scheduled to be provided to the September council meeting for decision. This will mean that a dedicated architect will be appointed to finalise a concept design and costings. During this time, further community consultation will be required, to ensure the design will meet the needs and expectations of the community.

Council and Vision and Voice are preparing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, regarding the proposed funding commitments. Sara McDonnell, spokesperson for Vision and Voice, is thrilled at this significant step forward. "Vision and Voice, the previous Hall Committee and the Edenhope community have been advocating for this project for a number of years and it is exciting to see it move forward to the next stage. As a committee, we have developed a fundraising strategy with the aim of raising approximately \$250,000 initially. We will be seeking pledges from enthusiastic partners over the coming months."

The Edenhope & District **Community Bank**® Branch are also a key partner in this project. James Ackland, Branch Manager, explains, "The Bank fully supports the Edenhope Cultural and Community Hub and is committed to assisting the community with fundraising efforts to ensure this project is realised."

For further details on this project, please contact
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