

19 May 2020

#### HEPBURN HUB AT THE REX PROJECT UPDATE

At last night's meeting, Council received a report on the Hepburn Hub at The Rex project as part of our commitment to provide a monthly update to the community to be open and transparent about the project.

Works onsite have not commenced since the awarding of the building contract at the September 2020 Council meeting, due to queries from the contractor on the condition of the building and additional works not included in the original scope.

"We fully understand the frustrations of the community with this project. We have asked Council officers to facilitate a workshop where Councillors can be advised of the implications, financial and non-financial, of exploring all options when it comes to the project, including ceasing it. It's important we explore the legal implications of any future decisions," said Mayor, Cr Lesley Hewitt.

"This is a complex project and works have not progressed as expected. We are currently negotiating with the builder and working with them daily to resolve some of these issues."

The Council report identifies a list of areas of investigation with the contractor. They include:

- replacement of a small 1929 "lean to" roof of to the rear of the Main Hall
- rectification of part of the fire proofing associated with water ingress
- upgrade of the stormwater drainage system to current standards for a 1:100 event
- Rectification of the existing acoustic treatment to the auditorium.

"We shouldn't lose sight of the importance of this project for the community and our staff. It will deliver a modern library, community auditorium, co-working space, customer service and Council offices."

"The \$3 million loan that was approved at last night's meeting will fund works that have already been approved. It's not additional money required for the project," said Cr Hewitt.

Due to these recent delays, the completion date has been delayed a minimum of four (4) months and the builder has not advised when they intend to commence works on site.

For the full report visit - <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Public-Agenda-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-18-May-2021.pdf>.

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