

Overview: Freshwater Bay Museum Redevelopment

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 21 July 2016, Council adopted a five year plan “*Future Directions 2016-2021*”, which includes the redevelopment of the Freshwater Bay Museum. The Council agreed to upgrade services and facilities to enable the Museum to continue delivering outstanding programs, facilities and exhibitions.

The Freshwater Bay Museum was originally constructed in 1862 as the Freshwater Bay School. The Town of Claremont opened the building as Claremont Museum in 1975. The Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits the cultural heritage of Claremont and Freshwater Bay. It also offers an award-winning education program attended by 2,000 children each year. The Museum has five part time staff and more than 20 volunteers who work to enrich and extend the services, skills and resources that the museum offers to the community.

1. What will the redevelopment project involve?

- Gallery space for exhibitions and community use
- Upgraded office area with an entry point
- New storage space
- Small café area
- Improved visitor flow between museum buildings
- Carpark upgrade, including bicycle racks
- Upgraded public toilet facilities

2. When will the work commence and finish?

The work will be implemented in two stages:

Stage 1 - Planning and development - July to December 2016

Stage 2 - Implementation of building phase – January to July 2017

The Museum is estimated to reopen to the public by August 2017.

3 Why is the Council undertaking this project?

The Freshwater Bay Museum is a valued and significant community facility and Council is committed to maintaining, managing and enhancing the museum for future generations to enjoy. As community expectations, technology, demographics and funding opportunities change, it is important the Museum continues to strengthen its role in learning, community building and economic development.

INFORMATION SHEET

The decision to redevelop the Freshwater Bay Museum facilities was based on extensive community consultation which included elected members, Museum stakeholders, such as volunteers, Friends of the Museum and teachers, as well as interested members of the community.

4 Who will undertake the work?

The Town of Claremont will call for quotations from qualified consultants to undertake a Facility Development Plan. The successful submission will consider the whole Museum precinct and how the facility interacts with its surrounds.

5 Will the Freshwater Bay Museum remain open during works?

Freshwater Bay Museum, including the education program, will be closed to the public from January to July 2017. Staff will continue to work at an alternative office.

6 How will the project be funded?

The redevelopment is funded by the Town of Claremont 2016/17 budget which includes:

- Museum redevelopment: \$500,000
- Toilet facility upgrade: \$200,000
- Carpark upgrade: \$80,000

The Town intends to apply for additional funding to develop the gallery / community space.

For further information please contact the Freshwater Bay Museum Manager on 9340 6981.