

Submission
No 6

INQUIRY INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OUTSIDE THE SYDNEY CBD

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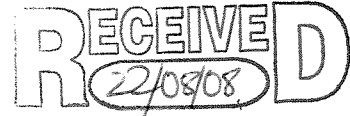
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Mr D Borger MP
Chairman
Legislative Assembly
Standing Committee on Public Works
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Borger

Council appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the Inquiry into the Development of Art and Cultural Infrastructure outside the Sydney CBD.

Over the past 8-10 years this Council has identified its cultural and heritage assets as an area that can be promoted to enhance the economic development and lifestyle of the communities within this Local Government area.

To this end Council has been actively promoting its increased participation into providing heritage and cultural infrastructure assets to further enhance the quality of life for the local community.

As a background to its direction, in 1997 Council purchased the Up-to-Date Store, a significant heritage building in Coolamon's main street, Cowabbie Street. Since that time Council has identified a pathway in an attempt to provide its community with the opportunity to experience these cultural activities. Since 1997 the following activities have occurred:

- i) A Conservation Management Plan prepared by Dr Michael Pearson.
- ii) In 2001 Council commissioned the Up-to-Date with Heritage, A Plan for Cultural & Economic Development prepared by Sue Boaden and Alison Ziller of the Australia Street Company.
- iii) In 2002 a Cultural Heritage Development Officer was employed to assist in the implementation of the Cultural & Economic Development Plan. This role was funded through a partnership between the Department of State & Regional Development and the NSW Heritage Office and auspiced by the Coolamon Shire

Council. At the completion of that Contract the Cultural & Economic Development Officer was employed by the Coolamon Shire Council at a current role being that of Cultural Heritage Development Officer.

- iv) Increased provision of Council funding.
- v) Appointment of volunteer committees to promote the cultural activities within the Up-to-Date Store precinct.
- vi) Provision of a Static Library built similar to the original buildings in the Coolamon business district to enhance the Up-to-Date Store area.

Over the years Council has been successful in receiving grant funding from a number of State Government Agencies. A list of this funding is provided hereunder:

Name of Funding	Name of Program	Amount	Details
NSW Ministry for the Arts	Capital Infrastructure Program	\$25,000	Develop the Up-to-Date Store precinct as the Coolamon Cultural Centre.
NSW Department of State & Regional Development	Main Street/Small Towns Heritage Incentives Program	\$60,000	Employment of Cultural & Economic Development Officer.
NSW Heritage Office		\$35,000	
NSW Ministry for the Arts	Museums Program	\$50,000	Stage 4 Interpretation of Up-to-Date Store & Garth Jones Agricultural Collection.
NSW Heritage Office	Heritage Incentives Program	\$18,000	
NSW Heritage Office	NSW Heritage Grant	\$20,000	NSW Heritage Grant.
UTDS Committee	Coolamon Shire Council	\$20,000	Painting of the exterior of the Up-to-Date Store.
NSW Library	Library Development Grant	\$199,940	Installation of a Static Library adjacent and connected to the Up-to-Date Store.
Private Sponsorship	Mavis Furner Collection	\$41,000 \$6,000	Mavis Furner Committee Coolamon Shire Council

It should also be noted however, that Council in obtaining this funding has redirected considerable amounts of its own funds towards these projects. Detailed hereunder is the total expenditure from Council's financial records for the following years:

Year	Expenditure
2006/2007	\$217,000
2005/2006	\$114,000
2004/2005	\$160,000
2003/2004	\$132,000
2002/2003	\$83,000

The provision of this funding has placed pressures on other areas of Council's Annual Budget.

Private Partnership

The only Private Partnership that Council has been able to establish is that with the Mavis Furner Committee. This came about in 2006 when Council acquired the Mavis Furner Collection of croquet garments. The exhibition of this collection was funded by the Mavis Furner Committee who are responsible for its ongoing care and maintenance. This Collection is of national significance as a rare collection of extensively province hand made clothes that interpret the life and experience of Mavis Furner and her work in the Community of Coolamon.

Although Council has been successful in achieving one private sector sponsorship, its ability to create any further significant partnerships with the local business sector, would be extremely difficult to achieve in the future.

Drawbacks

The major issues relating to provision of art and cultural infrastructure is Council's ability to increase its funding to this area when it is continually being pressured to provide a significant increase in all other areas of the community without being able to attract additional funding sources to allow for the expansion of these types of services. Council is particularly mindful of its obligation to not only the area of art and culture in the provision of services but also to all other areas of the community that are desirous of being recognised in Council's annual budget provision.

Council does however, acknowledge that it has been favourably recognised by the provision of grant funding towards the art and cultural activities, however, in order for it to continue to provide these types of services funding from other government sources will have to be continued in order to maintain its existing position. The issue facing Council is striking a balance between what is desirable and what is achievable in the future.

Yours faithfully



Gerard Bradley
Executive Manager, Corporate and Community Services