



The King Island Hub Community Comment

August 2020

Submissions received

Community Consultation around the Location Options Analysis Report opened on 22 June on the Council website following the receipt of the Feasibility Study at Council's ordinary meeting on 19 June. Over the course of the following weeks, a total of 37 written submissions were received via the website or in hard copy, 2 petitions with a combined 284 signatories were delivered to Council offices, 100 individuals responded to an online survey, 40 individuals attended four public meetings, and private feedback was sought from six businesses / community organisations, including all Yr 7 to 12 students enrolled at KIDHS.

Support for the Project overall

Overall there was significant support shown for the project to proceed, with only a handful of respondents expressing a strong view that the Hub was not required or did not represent good use of federal government funds at this time. Proportionally, this aligns with the views expressed during the location options analysis consultation conducted earlier in the year.

Preferred location

Across the written responses and the SurveyMonkey data there was significantly more support for Site D – 28 Edward Street, than for Site E – Les Ross Park. Roughly speaking, the ratio was about 3 to 1 in favour of Site D. Both petitions received – a total of 284 signatories – specified a preference for Site D, with the larger of the two submissions specifically stating that the Hub should not be built on Site E.

Again, a small handful of responses suggested alternative sites, with the original Site F – FoKI site being mentioned in four or five responses, and two other parcels of land (behind Council Chambers and the vacant block adjacent to Elders) getting two mentions each. One response also referenced the land opposite the museum as a potential.

It is therefore clear that community sentiment, as articulated in this process, is overwhelmingly in support of Site D – 28 Edward Street.



Scope of Services

In the online survey respondents were given a list of 23 potential services to provide within the Hub and asked to indicate their top 5. This list consisted of all the suggestions made by the community during the earlier consultation process and the list considered by the Councillor Working Group in their early discussions with the consultant on the feasibility study, Core Collective Architects.

A tourist information office was the option chosen most frequently, with 71% of respondents putting this in their Top 5. KIRDO – Business Services was the next most highly selected, with 46% of respondents prioritising this service. The full list is provided below for your reference:

Service	%age
Tourist information office	71%
KIRDO - business services	46%
Online Access Centre	29%
Cinema	25%
Gym / exercise studio	24%
Exhibition space - arts and crafts	19%
Service Tas	18%
Retail - local produce	16%
Open lounge area	16%
Coffee shop	15%
Training room(s)	13%
Meeting room(s)	13%
Library	12%
Exhibition space - natural environment	10%
Public showers	10%
Private office space(s)	9%
Co-working space(s)	9%
Health practice room(s)	7%
Commercial kitchen for events	6%
Outdoor gathering space(s)	6%
Performance space(s)	4%
Individual study space(s)	4%
Youth Services	4%
Pizza restaurant	0%

The top 3 on this list are all services currently offered at 5 George Street by the King Island Regional Development Organisation.

Some of the other highly ranked services included in this list could be delivered elsewhere, if it was decided that they could not or should not be included in the Hub. For example, Council is also in the final stages of entering into a grant deed for \$1M to construct a gym at the Currie Oval. A cinema service could arguably be provided within the Town Hall, if it was not deemed possible to include this in the Hub.



Petitions

As detailed above two petitions were submitted to Council in response to this invitation for feedback. A full list of signatories will be made available to Councillors, confidentially, but they are summarised here for your information.

Petition #1 – 277 signatories

We, the King Islanders listed below, hereby respond to KI Council on the draft Feasibility Study for the King Island Hub:

- 1. We would like the Hub to be at Site D 28 Edward Street, Currie, on the old Barr's store site.*
- 2. We would like a simple building as similar as possible to the Barrs' store and one that will "fit in" with other main street buildings. WE DO NOT WANT THE BUILDING WHICH APPEARS IN THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.*
- 3. In the Hub we would like:*
Basement: a gym, a youth centre and an outdoor space.
Main Street level: A small (eg 35 seat) cinema and 2 "pop up" shops to sell island produce and tourism.
- 4. On the top floor, a coffee shop / restaurant / wine bar, etc. which can open later in the evenings and have floor to ceiling windows to enjoy island views up north, down south and over Currie harbour.*

WE WANT KING ISLAND COUNCIL TO LEAVE THE CURRIE WHARF JUST AS IT IS.

Petition #2 – 7 signatories

We King Island residents listed below, hereby respond to King Island Council regarding the King Island Community Hub and the site which it will eventually be placed.

We wish the Hub to be placed at the Site "D" – 28 Edward Street. NOT AT THE LES ROSS PARK SITE.

Important reasons we wish it to be placed in the Main Street are as follows.

- Since the tragic loss of the previous historic building to arson, the Main Street has suffered a very disjointed presence, which in our opinion, will never be rectified by any other than a government funded project. The loss of the previous building is still being very much mourned by a large group of our community members, to this day. The ghastly gap remains a continuous reminder of what we sadly no longer have.*
- Since the previous building was taken, the cold southerly winds are no longer blocked by the presence of the tall building that once stood. Hence, the Street is now very much more exposed to the bitter southerly weather. Consequently, we would like a tall – two story (from street level) building placed there. Perhaps a wheelchair access ramp could wind gradually around the back of the building to the top level, so the need for a lift could possibly be eliminated.*
- The town centre could certainly do with a new building which could carry it into the future. It is up to the people of this community to see that it happens.*
- Our wish is that Les Ross Park remains the delightful green open space that it is at present.*

We ask Council to please conduct a community meeting to brain storm any ideas the people feel would be appropriate to incorporate into the project and to discuss ideas relating to car parking etc.

