

Media Release

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New Year, two new buildings on the way

Swan Hill Rural City Council are thrilled to have received approval to proceed with two new building developments, enhancing their premium cultural heritage and tourism offering.

Under a new funding variation agreement, Council is seeking community input and ideas to help carve the future for these new buildings.

According to Swan Hill Rural City Council Mayor, Cr Les McPhee, Council is delighted to have had a variation agreement successfully approved by the funding body.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for us to begin a fresh new year with a bang! After dealing with a global pandemic, floods, and everything in between, it's fantastic to see our region now has something to celebrate," he said.

"Council is pleased to be commencing concepts for the Swan Hill Art Gallery redevelopment and the Swan Hill Tourism and Cultural Hub at Pioneer Settlement – with both of these projects to be suitably named, in the future," Cr McPhee said.

"A funding extension and project variation means that we can now create two new buildings, instead of one" he said.

"The two new single story buildings will provide immense benefit to Swan Hill and neighbouring communities, upgrading the overall existing tourism experience and helping to ensure the tourism sector can come back bigger and better than ever," he said.

Cr McPhee said the proposed Tourism and Cultural Hub would be a new purpose-built entry for Pioneer Settlement, Visitor Information Centre and Aboriginal Cultural space and encompass the redevelopment on Pental Island.

"We will work alongside Heritage Victoria, to ensure that this building is complementary of Pioneer Settlement and its rich history.

"Similarly, the new Art Gallery redevelopment is set to be developed on the gallery's existing site and will enhance the capacity for major exhibitions and visitor attractions and create new engagement and public spaces for the regional community," Cr McPhee said.

Cr McPhee said community were invited to provide feedback on building design ideas, prior to initial concept designs being prepared.

"We look forward to working closely with our community, to ensure these buildings best reflect our municipality. Our residents deserve great arts and cultural facilities - we look forward to delivering this for the long-term future of our community," he said.

"A new year brings new opportunities, and we are thrilled to be able to put Swan Hill on the map!" Cr McPhee said.

To provide your feedback, or receive project updates, including upcoming consultations sessions —please visit <https://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au/> to have your say and register your interest in these projects.

For more information, please contact Council on 5036 2333

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