

Media Release

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Pental Island, Aboriginal tourism precinct

An opportunity for Pental Island to become a community-led Aboriginal tourism precinct is currently being explored by Swan Hill Rural City Council.

Council has released details and concept designs for a reinvigorated space, set to become a major draw card for Swan Hill tourism.

Director of Planning and Development, Heather Green, said it was an exciting vision for the space, for the community to consider and provide feedback.

"We've received some really fantastic ideas from local cultural and tourism experts - we are excited about the potential for Pental Island to become a place of culture sharing and education," Ms Green said.

"The initiative would provide an amazing tourism destination, showcasing the significant culture and rich history of our region, whilst bringing more people to our town and creating an associated economic flow-on effect,"

"Our concept designs are in the early stages and require community consultation as well as the ability to secure funding to progress," she added.

"Initial concepts include a space for the local Aboriginal Community to commence delivering cultural, tourism and educational experiences. Other ideas include a native botanical garden, with bush tucker garden and nursery and tree-top adventure climb, as well as nature play adventure playground.

"There are also suggestions of an all immersive Pental Island experience; a cultural camping area with opportunities for on Country community knowledge and culture sharing camps, education camps and a more exclusive 'camping with custodians' visitor experience," Ms Green said.

To view proposed plans for Pental Island, have your say or register to be kept informed regarding this project, please visit: <https://letstalk.swanhill.vic.gov.au/>

Community members also have the opportunity to attend a drop in session on Wednesday, 19 July between 10am and 12pm at the Swan Hill Information Centre, to find out more, or register their interest in the project.

For any questions on the project, please email Jacinta Chaplin, Aboriginal Community Development Officer at Jacinta.chaplin@swanhill.vic.gov.au