Cassowary Coast Regional Council

Innisfail Regional Library and Community Hub Project

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Background

- 2001 SLQ report identified inadequacies of existing building
- Cyclone Larry, in March 2006, damaged the building housing the 600sq m library resulting in library services to the ex-Johnstone Shire being reduced for 11 months to three bookcases and a shelving trolley of material circulated from the cashier’s cage in the Shire Hall
- The library reopened in temporary accommodation in February 2007 in a 400sq m Council-owned property, sharing with the local Meals on Wheels kitchen at 49 Rankin St., Innisfail, opposite the Shire Hall
- Council sacked; Administrator appointed; LGA Amalgamations; Financial distress; Backlog of capital works.
- RRIL deputation to Council
- A new facility was only possible with external funding. Initially the push was for purpose built facility on land adjacent to the Shire Hall.
Work completed 2009-10 by AEC group

- Identified community needs for regional library and community hub through consultation and research
- Assessed demography of catchment
- Developed concept plans based on needs identified
- Had costing estimates prepared
- Applied for funding under Local Community Infrastructure Program grant – *(unsuccessful as needed to be “shovel ready”)*
Work completed in 2011-12 by AEC Group

- Identified relevant case studies
- Identified and met with potential stakeholders to clarify needs and opportunities and clarify vision. (Phone and face to face interviews and ongoing liaison.)
- Met with funding providers to discuss projects
- Developed revised scope of works and spatial needs analysis
- Prepared background Information for LGGSP Funding
- Completed a case study for FNQROC NBN rollout submission
- Completed submission for Regional Development Australia funding
Community and Stakeholder Consultation

- A symbol of community strength and recovery from ‘Larry’ and ‘Yasi’
- Multipurpose, broad based community utility
- Promoting a sense of cultural identity – sense of place for Cassowary Coast – a strong regional presence promoting our heritage
- Activity based services catering for all age groups including youth and seniors
- Foster and create community cultural content
- Safe, social sanctuary that is inclusive
- Community learning and capacity building.
Space needs identified

- Multipurpose space - providing flexible sized meeting, community learning and activity spaces;
- Environmentally sound housing for collections and staff;
- Increase in access to information technology and information;
- Youth space; children’s area; and heritage / local history area;
- Increased reading areas that are quiet and comfortable and exhibition / display areas to showcase community and cultural content;
- Spaces to foster community engagement;
- Business development and support focus for the region; and
- Space available for community health and other key providers on a lease basis.
Vision for the Hub

- A building of design excellence, showcasing the local character and aspirations with a distinctive image;

- A dynamic, innovative and adaptable place: allowing for changes in emphasis and services over time, and able to accommodate emerging service opportunities;

- A safe, vibrant, interesting and exciting space;

- A community place, generating a feeling of ownership and welcome;

- A building providing connections to the outside and continuing the rejuvenation and activation of the CBD precinct; and

- A space for showcasing innovation, local talent and fostering the creation of cultural content.
Recalculations

- Federal funding application unsuccessful;
- Cost of building adjacent to Shire Hall prohibitive (approx. $9 million);
- Council concerned with adding to existing assets;
- Potential Queensland Health partners ceased to exist.
- $2 million of State funding secured - LGGSP

Allan Maruff House redevelopment decided on
COMMUNITY HUB
LIBRARY
ADMINISTRATION