

I am writing for the consideration of the performing artists in the region. The project is named a cultural and civic space but the only provision that has been catered for is the artists. The Coffs Harbour Conservatorium is NOT funded by local government and it does not provide adequate support for professional musicians in the area in the region, with very minimal support for the touring musician (exhoritant and fluctuating venue hire or unresponsive communication). Currently the options are extremely limited and most performing artists struggle to flourish in the region and eventually relocate. I am on the board of both the Coffs Harbour Music Society and the Coffs Harbour Eisteddfod Society. Both important musical events for Coffs Harbour, both struggling to find an adequate venue to host these events. Bellingen Town Hall, though not ideal, is a venue with very reasonable hiring choices (currently\$180 for a 4 hour period which includes use of the grand piano). Bellingen Youth Orchestra is able to rehearse free of charge in the venue, hold concerts, and many community musical events are able to be hosted free of charge. The foresight not to knock down a civic space and to foster ALL artists in the area is an example of how an arts community is able to flourish in a rural community. Where is the provision in these plans for the performing artist? Where is the future for our young musicians to return to the area? Where is the inspiration and nurturing of the performing arts in this scheme? I would strongly urge the NSW Government to reconsider this proposal and allow for an inclusive cultural and civil space to be erected in Coffs Harbour.

Sincerely

Alice Jamison