

COFFS HARBOUR CULTURAL AND CIVIC SPACE PROJECT

This project has been thoroughly researched and carefully thought through. It will bring many benefits to the Coffs Harbour community including:

“Library and art gallery meeting current standards.

Consolidation of several Council activities onto a single convenient site.

Introduction of new compatible uses into the commercial centre.

Making several sites in or adjacent to the centre available for commercial or residential revenue producing activities.

Creating an attractive, interesting building on a site that is currently unused.”

There has been considerable community interest in the later stage of this project driven by, in my view, lack of understanding, an active disinformation campaign and concerns regarding financial risk due to the effects of climate change and the vagaries of the international financial system. The proposed financing arrangement does have some risk which would be reduced by active Government support with a contribution towards the cost of the cultural components of the project.

The community has an ongoing interest in the establishment of an “entertainment centre” as a standalone facility on an existing site remote from the commercial centre.

There is an “entertainment precinct” adjacent to the commercial centre that is operated by a community organization on a semi commercial basis and which has expressed an interest in expanding its facilities. Encouraging the pursuit of this option seems to be preferable.