

Recap

Sufficient funds are included in Council's Capital budget for 2019/2020 to produce floor plans, secure an Exemption Certificate and to construct new toilets within the Sugar Wharf. The Sugar Wharf has been blocked out for January and February 2020 to allow for construction and at this stage we are on track to deliver within this time frame.

Feedback Re the Toilets

There are presently two unisex toilets. One option is for two ladies toilets, one male toilet, one urinal and one disabled toilet which would accommodate and meet building standards for 200 people. There's potential to have three ladies, one male, three urinals and one disabled toilet which would accommodate up to 262 people – but take up slightly more space.

Relocation of the toilets to the back of the building (i.e. behind the dividing wall) is an option and would increase capacity within main building.

Feedback thus far is for Council to also consider including a dividing wall outside the toilet doors so people aren't walking out of the loo directly into the action.

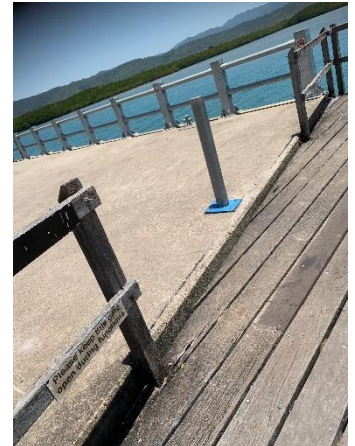
If you have any views on the above please send through to Gaye Scott as soon as possible.

Wish List

The following improvements / suggestions were raised at an onsite meeting held on 15 October 2019. They are not in any particular order, and while Council has put in a grant application to do more improvements, none are funded in the 2019/2020 budget. All comments will be provided to the architect for consideration when doing the floor plans, they will be considered for future grant applications and for inclusion in Council's capital works budget for future years.

- Changing the floor inside and maybe taking it back to the original wharf (which is thought to be underneath) was an idea. There would need to be no gaps as high heels hate gaps, as do table and chair legs. The Tin Shed did something similar and put strips of timbers in the gaps and then sanded it back and this appears successful. The existing patchy flooring is functional, but does nothing for the ambience.
- Possibility of installing air con. This could fill in empty months between November and April/May. Especially for corporate events. System at Cruise Liner terminal in Cairns is hidden, and temp. set at 27-30°. By setting it at this higher temperature the capital expenditure and operating costs can be significantly reduced. May be an optional extra on top of hiring fee which could be cost neutral for users if it saves the cost of hiring industrial fans or portable air con.
- Lighting - because of the stylised lighting most users install to suit theming of event, there is no requirement to go down the track for elaborate lighting. Options discussed include the idea of lighting the beams and adding some decorative spot lights that can easily be dimmed or turned off if not required.
- There's track lighting in place which was organised by local artist and installed by DSC. This should be retained.
- There's a hanging system on the walls – these should be retained.
- There was discussion around removing the dividing wall to open up the space which was supported by some who don't use the end room so it is often wasted space. One company does find the area useful for storage of spare chairs, etc. Potential for the installation of a dividing wall which can be opened/closed.
- There was discussion about taking out the wall at the very end, or significantly increasing the size of the window to take advantage of the sea view.
- Putting a sink in the little room by the car park and replacing wooden benches with stainless steel. One suggestion was to block off the door into the hall which would allow for increased bench space in a U shape. Cable ties on the wall suggest this entrance is often blocked off for events.

- Lifting the tap outside is a no brainer. The sewage pipe is close by and the option of installing an outlet with a grease trap in same area was discussed. This would enable caterers to discharge grey water onsite rather than having to take it away.
- There's a small step where the concrete ends and wharf begins. (see right). It would be useful to install a permanent ramp as event organisers often bring portable ramps to more easily trolley equipment back and forth.
- Additional power outlets higher up the wall would be useful. Sometimes when installing lighting on the rafters, cords hang down to plug into the power outlets which are generally down low close to the floor.
- Putting an opening in the corner of the concrete slab to enable easier access to the little room would be fantastic and save some serious "steps"!
- Windows on eastern side could be refurbished or replaced to allow them to be opened to let breeze through. It was noted that this side of the wall is used to display projected movies, so increasing their size would not be supported.
- Some are disappointed the wharf may no longer be booked for art exhibitions - use now appears to be primarily wedding industry. The wharf can be booked by anyone, however it is acknowledged art/craft exhibitions which extend over several days, or perhaps weeks makes it expensive, and because weddings are often booked 1-2 years in advance, finding a gap of several days, particularly in the season, is challenging. DSC's approach is to accommodate art groups in the Port Douglas Community Hall.
- Shade structure at end of wharf. Often event organisers bring in poles which they attach to the wharf balustrade and then erect a sail cloth to the building to provide shade. Shade extends from down pipe to the end of the wharf – see right. The balustrade is wonky in places. If no permanent shade can be installed, it would be useful to have permanent steel poles in place which would be sturdier, and enable poles to be slipped inside.
- Fans were discussed. If installed they would be above the timber trusses so as to not interfere with lighting. Black coloured fans were suggested so they blend in more. Important that the fans can be turned off and/or put on low speed. Fans at high speed can blow over table centrepieces.
- Question was raised about the wharf structure underneath which was investigated by Cairns Regional Council during amalgamation. With de-amalgamation work was not pursued. DSC is looking at this again and has commissioned the same engineering company. Any essential work required will be covered under Council's 2019/2020 Sugar Wharf maintenance budget.
- Three phase outlet is outside. Question asked if three phase could be inside. Perhaps in the long term.
- Noel Weare from Historical Society has provided Australian Heritage Specialists with a set of files which includes a number of photos which describe the shed building and structure over a number of years.
- Noel Weare has also provided the Allom Lovell study (CMP) done for Cairns Regional Council in July 2008 and some background on the unsuccessful proposal for a Maritime Discovery Centre for part of the wharf.
- The sugar wharf is an outstanding icon of 'the port', it is a unique venue which is highly valued by event companies in the region, and all want to see it safely secure for the foreseeable future.



Further Comments

If you have anything to add to the above points, require clarification, or want to add more, please contact Gaye at gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au or on mobile 0418 793 009.