

## 6.7. NEWELL BEACH PLACEMAKING PROPOSAL

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**DEPARTMENT** People and Community Services

### RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to:

1. **Allocate \$50,000 from the 2023-2024 Emergent Discretionary Fund to deliver a placemaking project proposed by members of the Newell Beach community, of historical artefacts commemorating the nautical history of the area, and**
2. **Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute matters in relation to this project.**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council recognises the importance of providing recreational, placemaking, and beautification initiatives that embrace the history and heritage of Douglas and help shape the region's sense of place, liveability, community pride, and diversity.

The Newell Beach wharf precinct has been identified by the community as an ideal setting to install an historic placemaking piece that recognises the long-time fishing & residential community dating back to the 1940's.

The proposal has been workshopped with the Councillors on 21 January 2023 and 5 December 2023.

This report recommends that Council resolve to allocate \$50,000 from the 2023-2024 Emergent Discretionary Fund to deliver the Newell Beach placemaking project.

### BACKGROUND

In November 2021 Council was approached by a Newell Beach resident to erect an historical placemaking installation at the site adjacent to the Newell Beach boat ramp.

The project had garnered the support of a range of community stakeholders including Mossman Boat & Fishing Club, Douglas Historical Society, and Newell Beach residents.

There was great community support for the project however there was not the capacity to deliver the project as there were several challenges including developing a final design, costings, engineering, landscaping, installation, and maintenance plan for the project.

Therefore the project was put on hold in January 2023. There is now a renewed effort and commitment to revitalise the project with Council's Arts and Culture Officer leading the project, in collaboration with the Open Space Department, in a concerted effort to provide support to overcome the obstacles and move the project forward.

## COMMENTS

Council has the opportunity to consider these works as a placemaking initiative and deliver the project under their program of capital works for FY 2023-2024, budgeted for under the emergent discretionary fund.

Council's officers estimate that an allocation of \$50,000 towards the project should cover the design, manufacture and installation of the works including: site preparation, landscape plan, engineering, plantings, hard landscaping such as seating, concreting, surface treatment and installation of historical placemaking components.

Supporting this proposal through the design, engineering and installation process would ensure the final outcome carries the high standard of aesthetic of other works planned or delivered along the Newell Beach foreshore and across the Shire.

Council's Community Development Officers would work with relevant stakeholders to finalise the design and community engagement components.

Council's Open Spaces Officers would develop final costings and project manage the installation of the works based on the final design, materials and site specifications.

Public art and memorial proposals are considered and assessed against Council's strategic directions, policies, and corporate documents.

## PROPOSAL

That Council resolves to

1. Allocate \$50,000 from the 2023-2024 Emergent Discretionary Fund to deliver a placemaking project which includes historical artefacts commemorating the nautical history of the area, and
2. Delegates authority under s 257 of the *Local Government Act 2009* to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute matters in relation to this project.

## FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council has unallocated budget in the 2023-2024 Emergent Discretionary Fund that can be reallocated to deliver this project.

## RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council Officers will complete the contract / project management and ensure that the project meets the required quality, cost and key performance indicators.

## SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- Economic:** The cost of any required maintenance and/or repairs will need to be considered in future Council budgets.
- Environmental:** Placemaking initiatives add substantially to the Shire's ambiance and aesthetics. The installations historical components and landscaping will enhance this area of Newell Beach.
- Social:** The development of the Newell Beach placemaking initiative represents an excellent opportunity to enhance community well-being, foster a deep sense of community, and increases inter-personal connections and interconnectedness in the community.

## CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

### Corporate Plan 2019-2024 Initiatives:

#### Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

Douglas Shire Council embraces the diversity of our communities and values the contribution that all people make to the Shire. We recognise that it is a core strength of the region. We acknowledge our past so that it may guide us in the future. We recognise the wrongs done to our Indigenous community and we actively seek to reconcile so that we may all benefit from and enjoy our Shire. We acknowledge early European settlers who forged an agricultural base for our economy and we welcome all new arrivals as part of our broader community.

**Goal 1** - *We will celebrate the diversity of our community and ensure that all infrastructure, programs, and services are underpinned with inclusiveness and accessibility.*

**Goal 2** - *We will deliver programs and services that protect and enhance the liveability of our beautiful Shire.*

**Goal 4** - *We will promote arts and cultural programs and events that bring vibrancy to the community and compliment the tourist experience.*

#### Theme 2 - Fostering Sustainable Economic Growth

A robust economy is at the heart of a thriving community and enables investment in environmental protection. While our remoteness is a key attribute, it also presents challenges for attracting new business and investment.

We must also meet the challenges of fierce competition in the tourism sector. Council will partner with industry to build, diversify and promote the Douglas economy. Council will design and deliver infrastructure, strategies and services that support the local economy and businesses.

**Goal 2** - *We will work with partners to promote the Shire as the World's leading sustainable tropical destination and encourage business investment.*

### Operational Plan 2023-2024 Actions:

- New project arisen during the financial year.

## COUNCIL'S ROLE

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:

<b>Advocate</b>	Council makes representation on behalf of the community on important issues, funding opportunities, projects and programs. Council will use its influence to seek the best outcomes for the community.
<b>Agent</b>	On occasion, Council delivers services or builds infrastructure on behalf of other levels of government or organisations
<b>Builder/Owner</b>	Council makes a significant investment every year in the infrastructure that underpins the Shire through its capital works program. Council will manage its assets with appropriate frameworks and deliver its projects through robust project management.
<b>Custodian</b>	Council owns and manages infrastructure, facilities, reserves, resources and natural areas. In fulfilling its role as custodian, Council will be mindful of the community, the economy, the environment, and good governance.
<b>Facilitator</b>	Council often brings stakeholders together on important issues, projects or for service delivery. In this role, Council can act as a mediator, connector, collaborator or initiator.
<b>Funder</b>	Council often partly funds services, events or community organisations through grants, donations, subsidies and in-kind support. Council will apply robust governance to ensure that such funding is fair and appropriate.

## CONSULTATION

**Internal:** Open Spaces  
People & Community Services  
Councillor workshops 21 October 2023 and 5 December 2023

**External:** Nil

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Consultation with the community has not been undertaken by Council at this stage.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil