

MEDIA RELEASE

Full steam ahead for the Goolwa Wharf Precinct

27 February 2023



At Monday night's Council Meeting in front of a packed crowd, the Council made the important decision to allocate the space within the Goolwa Wharf Shed, resulting in the internal space being divided to allocate the PS Oscar W 102.4m² and the Commercial Tenant 105.6m² plus both tenancies are to receive outdoor area allocations.

Before making the decision on the space allocation the Council listened to deputations from Mr Nigel Robinson on behalf of the Friends of PS Oscar W, Hectors and Market Stallholders, and Mr Steve Ramsey Director of the Wharf Barrel Shed.

Councillor Christie Thornton, asked her fellow councillors to support the motion she was moving saying, *"Firstly I'd like to say that I and all the other councillors value each and every one who is a part of the Wharf, the volunteers the businesses – everyone! And the decision we make today is based on a lot of information and what we truly believe is the right direction for the Alexandrina."*

This proposed layout is what is optimal for all parties involved but importantly for any future tenants for years to come. After being spoken to about the importance of council assets to tourism and revenue, it is my opinion that this layout will be what's best for the future of the council, the community as a whole and all who visit the wharf.

Council are very much looking forward to working with Oscar W in the fit out of their space to make it fit all their needs and requirements. Also noting that offsite storage locations have been offered. This layout puts safety in the forefront and provides more space to work safely. The commercial space needs enough room for a kitchen to be installed as well as ample seating. If ample seating

can't be provided due to not gaining this additional bay, then this business or any future business may not be viable.

This new proposed layout provides an equal share of the shed to both parties and will benefit all involved, Oscar will be able to use the area outside for their hard stands giving them even more useable space than the commercial tenancy. Commercial space brings revenue that'll benefit council for years to come and help pay for the wharf and other projects.

This decision needs to be made now, so many people are waiting on us to be able to move forward and make plans," said Cr Christie Thorton.

Following the vote by Council Members, the motion was successfully carried.

Alexandrina Council's Chief Executive Officer Nigel Morris said it was an important and well considered decision on Monday night.

"The Wharf Precinct Project is about renewing our riverfront assets while activating the space to create a vibrant riverfront, enriched with culture and history.

The allocation of space was one of the final pieces of the puzzle to be locked in, which now allows us to go full steam ahead with the project to meet the tight completion timeframes required to by the \$5,000,000 grant funding received for the Wharf Precinct Project and the \$980,000 grant funding received for the Signal Point Experience Centre.

Council is committed to reconstructing the historic Wharf Shed with improvements such as internal lining and glazing and we have also committed to fitting-out the Oscar W tenancy at the cost of around \$250,000 to ensure the space meets the needs to Oscar W Volunteers and maximises the space to create an iconic visitor experience in the River Boat Centre. Council are in the process of organising a meeting with the Committee of Oscar W to work out next steps for the space including designing of a fit-out to fully utilise the space.

In addition to the internal space allocation of 102.4m² for the Oscar W, they will be provided with 112m² outdoor hardstand adjacent to the shed to safely perform work including the loading of wood onto the paddle steamer, which will reduce the conflict of pedestrians walking through a work area.

Increasing the size of the commercial tenancy to 105.6m² will provide enough space to install a kitchen facility, increase the seating capacity and allow for outdoor activation that will be able to be seen from the roadway when coming down to the Wharf area. Being located on the north side will also provide more undercover outdoor entertainment space with plenty of room to retain the family friendly public pedestrian pathway along the wharf.

In addition to the Wharf Shed allocation, the Riverboat stories, including those of the Oscar W will be told in the Signal Point Experience Centre, a new story telling exhibition to be opened late 2023, the exhibition will include a range of mediums to engage visitors of all ages, including interactive learning experiences, photography, videos and sensory activities i.e. soundscapes and touchscreens.

The proposed public toilets have been removed from the Wharf Shed to maximise space for both the Oscar W facility and the commercial tenant, with the council resolving that the toilet facility will be relocated as a stand-alone building. The toilet location was selected after Council considered the architects analysis of 6 possible sites, choosing the most viable which is west of the Wharf Shed and is also central to the Distillery and Markets.



Now that the space allocation and the toilet location have been finalised, we will be cracking on with the project,” said Nigel Morris.

Read more about the Goolwa Wharf Precinct Project here
<https://www.alexandrina.sa.gov.au/goolwawharf>

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