

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Manager
DATE: 13 February 2007
SUBJECT: Proposed Hope Centre

PURPOSE / REASON FOR REPORT

The Hope Community Church has been operating from their Ranzau Road property since 1913 and are currently planning a new facility to cater for their expanding congregation. Two requests have been received from the Centre, one for financial assistance towards the capital cost of the facility and the other is for a waiver of the \$40,404 development contribution imposed by the Council.

BACKGROUND

The Church has a congregation of 275 adults plus 115 children and they work very closely with the Ranzau School providing them with a venue for indoor sports, arts, concerts, meetings, assemblies etc. The Church is also used by other groups and for weddings and funerals.

The new centre will be able to seat 450 people and includes a large foyer, a café with seating for about 50 people, crèche facilities, multi purpose meeting rooms, a catering kitchen, a youth hall and car parks for 250 vehicles.

COMMENT / DISCUSSION

The Richmond Ward Councillors have discussed the two requests and consider that while the proposed development will be a major asset for the area, it is difficult for Council to provide financial assistance when a commitment has already been made to the Headingly Lane Centre which is expected to cater for the majority of the needs of the Richmond and wider community. The Councillors also noted that the Hope Centre provides a much needed facility for the Ranzau School, however for the community within that area Council provides a hall at the Hope Recreation Reserve.

The request for major funding from the Facilities Rate will need to be referred to the Facilities Rate Committee when they next meet. However, the second part of the request being the waiver of the development contributions is always a difficult one to deal with as any waiver has to be funded from another source. In this case, it had been suggested that this would come from the Richmond Reserve DIL's account.

The Richmond Ward Councillors did consider this but felt that Council's support of the Headingly Lane Centre and the fact that the Hope Hall is catering for the Hope/Ranzau community that this request should not be supported.

OPTIONS

- 1 That the request for funding from the Facilities Rate be referred to the next meeting of the Community Facilities Rate Committee with a recommendation that the request be declined.
- 2 That the request for funding from the Facilities Rate be referred to the Facilities Rate Committee for consideration.
- 3 That the request for a waiver of the development contributions be declined.
- 4 That the request for a waiver of the development contributions be considered by the Community Services Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Richmond Ward Councillors have recommended that:

- 1 The request for funding from the Facilities Rate be referred to the Facilities Rate Committee with a recommendation that the request be declined.
- 2 The request for a waiver of the development contributions be declined.

Note: The reasons for the two requests being declined have been covered within the content of this report.

L L Kennedy
Community Services Manager