

9.2. Consultation Feedback Summary - Sale of Customs House

The Presiding Member sought and was granted leave of the meeting to reorder the items on the agenda to consider item 10.1 *Report from Heritage Advisory Committee – Sale of Customs House* at this time.

The meeting moved to Item 10.1 at 7.19 pm

9.2. Consultation Feedback Summary - Sale of Customs House

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Craig Maidment

That Council:

1. Receive and note the outcomes of the community consultation regarding the sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development.
2. Pause on the proposed sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development and hold a Council Workshop by the end of June 2025, to re-visit Council's objective for this historic building and site.
3. Note a report will be presented to a future meeting following the Council Workshop, with a recommended approach to further exploring opportunities for Customs House.

The mover Cr Milli Livingston, with the consent of the seconder Cr Craig Maidment, sought and was granted leave of the meeting to vary the motion as follows:

C078/03/25

Moved Cr Milli Livingston seconded Cr Craig Maidment

That Council: (as varied)

1. **Receive and note the outcomes of the community consultation regarding the sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development.**

2. **Pause on the proposed sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development and hold a Council Workshop by the end of April 2025, to re-visit Council's objective for this historic building and site.**
3. **Note a report will be presented within one month following the Council Workshop, with a recommended approach to further exploring opportunities for Customs House.**

CARRIED

9.2. Consultation Feedback Summary - Sale of Customs House

Information Report

Responsible Officer: Stacey Bateson (General Manager Community)

Report Author: Sarah Longden (Senior Economic Development Advisor – Industry and Projects)

Previous Decisions: October 24 - C24549, November 2023 - C23487 & C23483, October 2023 - C23382, June 2023 - C23227, April 2023 - C23112, July 2022 - ACM221592

Report Purpose

To receive and note the outcomes of the community consultation regarding the sale of Customs House for the purpose of a hotel development.

Recommendation 1:

That Council receive and note the outcomes of the community consultation regarding the sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development.

Recommendation 2:

That Council:

- 1. Pause on the proposed sale of Customs House for the purposes of a hotel development and hold a Council Workshop by the end of June 2025, to re-visit Council's objective for this historic building and site.**
- 2. Note a report will be presented to a future meeting following the Council Workshop, with a recommended approach to further exploring opportunities for Customs House.**

Background

Customs House was included in the Goolwa Wharf Precinct Activation - Phase 2, which ran through the first half of 2024 with a focus on attracting new leads and Registrations of Interest (ROI) for both the Wharf Shed (commercial portion) and the Customs House site. Stage 2 considered the connectivity of a tenancy mix that will contribute to the vibrancy and experiences of the Wharf, while supporting local interest, business and customer loyalty. This 'direct' approach drove a campaign to obtain further submissions of interest or solicit the type of operators and experiences required to 'fill the gaps' following the initial ROI. It was executed through a targeted campaign for the business and investment sector. In order to best support these goals, Council engaged the services of Savills Australia to run the campaign. Following this campaign, the results were presented to Council, along with a recommendation to proceed with the sale of the site for the purpose of a hotel development.

At this meeting, 28 October 2024, Council resolved, for the purposes of community consultation, to proceed with the sale of Customs House for the purpose of a hotel development (C24549).

A community engagement campaign was subsequently developed and consultation occurred between Thursday 09 January 2025 and Friday 14 February 2025.

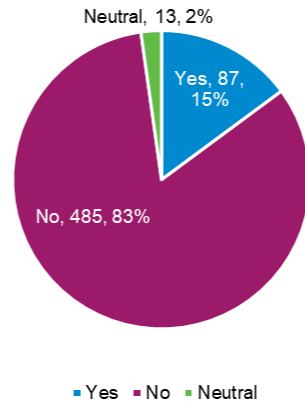
Discussion

The community engagement campaign was conducted primarily through the MySay platform and Council's social media channels, with a presence and hard copy information also displayed in Council's offices at Goolwa and Strathalbyn.

A detailed Consultation Feedback Report is available [here](#).

During the consultation period, 585 responses were received, 536 through the MySay platform and 49 hard copy or email responses. Of the responses received, an overwhelming percentage (83%) were not supportive of the sale of Customs House.

Q. Do you support the sale of Customs House for the purpose of hotel accommodation?



During the analysis of responses received, some clear sentiments were identified, the three (3) most prominent of which were that Customs House should:

- be retained by the community for the use of the community
- be made available to the Goolwa Community Centre
- be restored and be a key feature in protecting and demonstrating the heritage and uniqueness of Goolwa. A full copy of the consultation responses remains confidential and is located on the Council Member Portal.

These responses along with the analysis information are presented to Council for receiving and noting and will be relevant information in contributing to future workshops and subsequent reports that will be presented to Council regarding Customs House.

A Council Information session was held on Tuesday 11th March 2025, to discuss community feedback and potential next steps.

It is recommended that a Council Workshop be held by the end of June 2025, to re-visit Council's objective for Customs House. Following the Council Workshop, a report will be brought to Council with a recommended approach to further exploring opportunities for Customs House.

Financial Implications

In accordance with the Alexandrina Council's Adopted Budget / Long Term Financial Plan, the financial implications of adopting this recommendation are considered low as there is no expenditure associated with the recommendation.

There may however be an ongoing opportunity costs, should Council decide to retain Customs House.

Risk Implications

In accordance with Alexandrina Council's Risk Assessment Matrix, the risk of adopting this recommendation is considered Low as it is for information and accepting purposes only.

Attachments

Nil