

SUBMISSION

Invercargill City Council

Annual Plan - What do you want for our Museum?

Prepared for:

FREEPOST – ICC
Roadmap to Renewal
Te Unua Submission
Invercargill City Council
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On behalf of:

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INTRODUCTION

This submission outlines views of The Southland Business Chamber Board, Management team and our members' on the following:

- Plans for the Te Unua Museum Redevelopment
- The proposed change to reserve status for Tisbury Reserve to enable storage for the Museum project to proceed
- 2022/2023 Fees and Charges, and
- The Annual Plan.

WHO WE ARE

The business community generates the wealth on which our region and its residents depend. It is for this reason that we make this submission. The Chamber is pleased to be able to present this submission on behalf of the 567 Southland businesses that are our members.

The businesses that we represent are a broad cross-section of business demographics with regard to size, location and industry. Furthermore, these businesses are representative of the region's wealth generators as well as being owned, managed and staffed by the region's core residents. As such, the Chamber's members are large stakeholders in the economic, social, cultural and environmental future of the Southland Region.

The Chamber has submitted on and been involved in discussions on a number of issues relating to Invercargill City, and we thank Council for your open dialogue with us.

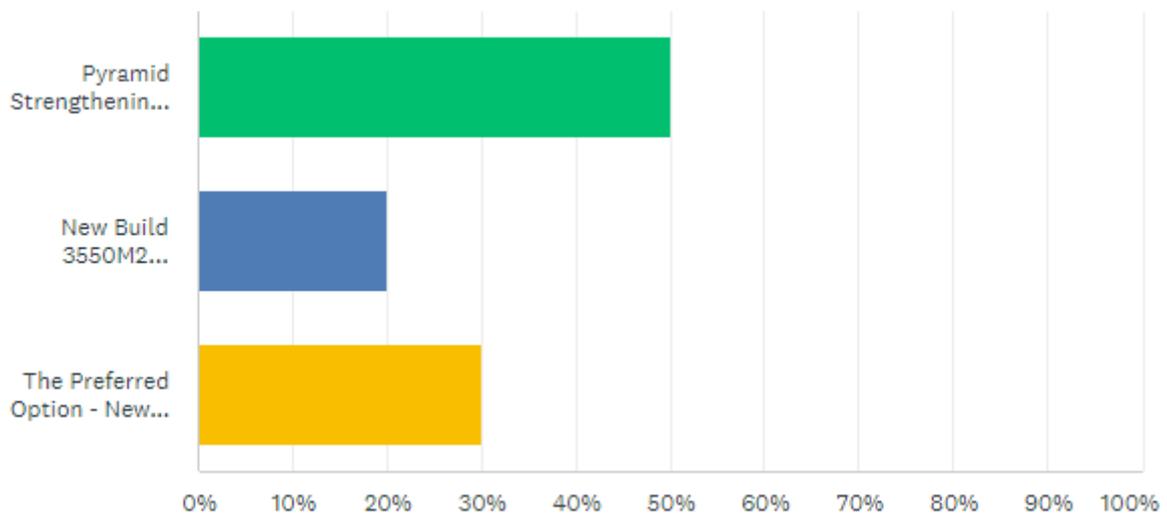
SOUTHLAND BUSINESS CHAMBER SUBMISSION

The Southland Business Chamber surveyed its membership on the **Annual Plan - What do you want for our Museum** consultation.

The following is a summary of the feedback received from our membership.

Te Unua - Museum Redevelopment

Q1. Do you agree with ICC preferred option for Te Unua, or do you support another option?



Pyramid Strengthening and Refurbishment (Option 1) - 50%
The Preferred Option - New Build 4150M2 (larger) (Option 2) - 20%
New Build 3550M2 (smaller) (Option 3) - 30%

Option one is the preferred option for Te Unua with 50% of our members agreeing with Pyramid Strengthening and Refurbishment.

Comments for Option One

- Believe the museum's location in Queens Park is ideal. It ensures attractions are respectfully spread across the town. Not everyone wants to be in a busy town centre with shoppers to be able to visit a museum. Personally, it would put me off as you have too much else to do while in town and just want to get in and get out again.

The environment of Queens Park compliments the relaxed Museum experience, with the beauty of nature of the park, the casual pace and openness eg Sunday strollers. Having the museum at Queens Park, makes the location of the museum a destination in itself, not just a museum amongst other concrete buildings - too much of a hassle to get to. Spread the joy / fun around the town and keep it at Queens Park. It adds to the value of the Queens Park experience.

Also allows easy access for perhaps the elderly and physically challenged as going to the museum located at Queens Park is more relaxing, appealing and believe accessible that going to a museum in a busy town centre.
- The council, has already had massive budget over runs on its last construction project. Now is not the time to foist more cost and burden once again on to the struggling Invercargill ratepayers and business. Some fiscal restraint would not go astray.

- I believe that the museum should be opened up, at least then we could be getting some income from it. Perhaps a warning at the door with regard to the earthquake risk. Really, is this risk any greater than walking down the west side of Dee Street?!
- The existing museum is fine for the size of Invercargill. This will be the lowest cost option and was always a great venue.
- The museum has sat unused for a considerable period of time. Whilst we do need to look ahead, now is not the time. We are coming off the back of two years of uncertainty and stress, which will likely continue for the short term, especially with inflation here to stay for now. It would be grossly reckless of Council to push forward with the most expensive option at such a time.

There is enough poverty in parts of the City that need dealing with before Council has something new and shiny to point to. The City Centre redevelopment scratches that itch (and it is needed of course). But a museum? No. Not now. It can wait and waiting would be both the prudent and responsible thing to do.

Comments for Option Two

- I ticked the new build option but would like to say that in most cities around the world, museums are in the centre of the city. Ahead of a new build look at utilising space in the inner city. Be it the new development or refurbished of another space for example, SIT arcade (Don – Esk Street).
- This should be a something we can be proud of and will encourage people to come and visit Invercargill by having exhibitions and events.

Comments for Option Three

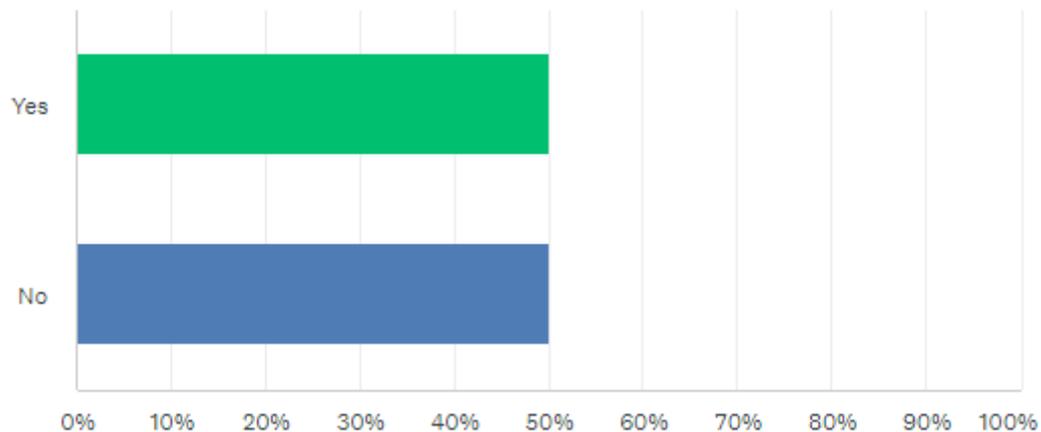
- Let's future proof so we aren't spending millions in another 15 years.
- We are a smaller population in Southland so a smaller option seems the reasonable thing to do and there will be cost over runs that the community will be expected to fund.

Definitely a new build rather than sinking money into something that is already past its used by date. I think the size of option 3 can retain the friendly community feel and enough options for international displays are a higher priority than the few international displays that we might miss out on.

It is exciting that there will be separate storage to protect the artefacts and that we can have more international exhibitions that we had with the original building. Options 3 I believe provides Southland with enough exciting international exhibitions to serve the Southland Population and our visitors.

Storage facility for the Museum - Tisbury Reserve

Q2. Do you agree with the proposal to change the reserve status of Tisbury Reserve?



Yes 50% | No 50%

It is a 50/50 split for the Council's proposal to change the reserve status of Tisbury Reserve. As such we do not believe the Council has the mandate from our membership to change the status of the Tisbury Reserve.

Please review the comments below:

Comments in favour of changing the reserve status of Tisbury Reserve

- Agree with the reasons that Tisbury location meets the requirements to keep the artefacts safe - as these are the important things the museum building is there to provide a shell to tell the story of our ancestors via the exhibitions of artefacts. No artefacts no story.

This may be the difference in winning international exhibitions coming to Invercargill if we can guarantee storage that keeps the artefacts in the best condition possible, rather than the museum building itself being the deciding factor:)
- It is needed.

Comments against changing the reserve status of Tisbury Reserve

- Utilise the space we have. I remember years ago having the opportunity to go up to the top of the Museum Pyramid and see the stored items. It was fascinating and I think that somehow the stored items should be incorporated so they can be seen. If they're not worth showing, why have them?
- No, don't do it.

Fees and charges

Q3. What is your submission on the fees and charges schedule?

- This is needed and comes at a cost.
- There is a detachment from reality here. People are suffering and struggling. At the same time Council is proposing a more costly Museum project and wanting to increase rates and fees.
Whilst inflation is an issue so is unnecessary spending. The Council needs to exercise some financial prudence, even austerity, to help the residents through this time. We have families who cannot afford food, send their children to school hungry, and rely on the generosity and charity of others to survive. At the same time, Council wants to spend more and take more. Yes, you need to take more to do the same. But the answer is to take less and do less at the moment. That includes trimming budgets (including personnel) where necessary.
- Retain pyramid and keep access costs low as possible to encourage use.
- We should be able to use most facilities free of charge. Adding a fee if something special is going on is OK.
- The museum needs to provide the best ROI so happy with the financial team's calculations on that.
Happy for user pays to rise a little more as Southlanders need to value our facilities and understand that visitors will value that which we put a reasonable price on people visiting. This can then enable Southland can afford to reinvest and keep these facilities running long into the future.
- As a Business owner, I have witnessed, over a 10% year on year increase in these fees from just one small area of the council, this has well supposed the level of inflation over this period.
Conditions have been extremely tough enough for business and ratepayers of Invercargill.
There seems to be a major disconnected between the council's grandiose expectations and general economic environment. Maybe time and effort could be better spent investigating shrinking the size of council and the bureaucracy, while cutting cost to the ratepayers of Invercargill.
- I haven't seen the schedule but I'd make it free to all Southland District members (show a utilities bill less than three months old for free access - can apply for a yearly pass), and a fee for anyone visiting from outside the district. For example, \$5.00 per person. Under 5's free.

Annual Plan

Q4. What is your submission on our Annual Plan?

- I fully understand and money is needing to be spent.
- I think the Annual Plan includes some unnecessary increases in spending and a detached view of people's ability to fund any rates increase. And to be honest, given the obvious dysfunction within council, in-fighting and general lack of productivity, I would suggest now is the time for the Council to show some restraint, come together and work at streamlining their own operations.

Mortgage rates, fuel, food, clothing and everything else are rising uncontrolled. Don't add to it. Show some compassion, wisdom and strength. And get your own house in order. It's about time. I'm tired of funding people who are clearly incapable of doing the job.
- Need to prioritise community facilities which unfortunately means we need to say goodbye to some of these as we cannot afford to pay for everything at once. Somethings need to go.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The Chamber submission is made in the positive spirit of developing a partnership with Council that supports and encourages business friendly innovation and growth for the benefit of all Southland residents. It is submitted on the bases that it provides feedback and the opportunity to further engage with the Council on a number of issues.

We are committed to joining and working with the Council to achieve our shared objective of attracting and encouraging the development of business opportunities in Invercargill.