



Our Ref: A5262P; TP4185
Enquiries: Katherine Gilpin

7 November 2019

Returned Services League
Attn: John McPherson and Matthew Holyday
PO Box 3023
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Via email: Johnmc@rslwa.org.au and ahmanager@rslwa.org.au

Dear John and Matthew

Proposal to acquire Lot 2 (29) O'Donnell Street, Wyndham

In response to previous discussions, the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley would like to put forward a submission to acquire the property at Lot 2 (29) O'Donnell Street, Wyndham, without the exchange of funds, committing the land as public open space for the community in the form of a RSL Memorial park.

Proposal:

The Shire proposes a staged plan for the property to include:

- Sourcing of funding to allow maintenance/refurbishment (as required) of the existing monuments and artillery on-site;
- Removal of the existing shed (long term);
- Installation of:
 - A footpath through the property to join O'Donnell Street and Foreshore Road;
 - Park benches or alternative seating options;
 - A water fountain;
 - Up-lighting to the monument/s and artillery;
 - Creation of a paved space for ceremonies;
 - Reticulation to the lawn/landscaped areas;
 - Further landscaping (trees, shrubs etc.);
 - A potential new shed/storage space for RSL use; this may also be accommodated at the former Shire Hall subject to discussion with potential lessees (as an alternative option).
- Establishment of car parking bays, including at least one (1) disabled car parking bay, within the road reserve along Foreshore Road abutting the property (in consultation with Main Roads) and refurbishment (as required) of car parking bays along O'Donnell Street road reserve abutting the property;
- Establishment of a new, disability access compliant, ablution building within the road reserve along Foreshore Road abutting the property (in consultation with Main Roads) to replace the existing ablution building located near Anthon's Landing (Community Fishing Jetty).

The proposal and subsequent plans would be prepared in consultation with the local community and would be designed to complement any future proposed upgrades to the foreshore area and be generally in line with the approved landscape concept for the area.

Funding options would be explored, together with an allocation of funds in the Shire's budget to commence and undertake the proposal in staged.

Preliminary concept plans have been prepared and are provided as attachments.

RSL Benefit:

The Shire will ensure continued access and use of the site for RSL and affiliated members and encourages the ongoing use of the site for memorial and celebratory services (i.e. ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day) and other uses as required.

An informal arrangement would be established with the RSL, that the Shire be notified prior to events occurring at the property, to allow relevant Shire Officers to ensure the property is in best condition (ie. lawn mown, site cleaned, reticulation is turned off or reset as appropriate). Part of the arrangement, would include access for the RSL to store goods and materials within the potential new storage building once established, or that the Shire may facilitate an alternative storage location.

The Shire proposes to seek funding to refurbish and undertake improvements to the artillery and existing monuments, including potential up-lighting, which will reinforce the significance of the local people who served and the RSL, whilst making this more of a feature of the site. Retaining the property as part of the historic Wyndham Port precinct will ensure the continuation and use of the area and also reinforce the significance and contribution of those who served from the community.

Community Benefit:

The acquisition of the property would provide a net benefit to the community by:

- Preserving and enhancing the history of the RSL and the RSL Memorial Park, and associated monuments and artillery, within the Wyndham Port area;
- Maintaining a historic link within the Wyndham Port area and the established heritage trail;
- Allowing for the establishment of a permanent open space link, with fully accessible footpath, between O'Donnell Street and Foreshore Road and which is in line with the Shire's previous intention to construct a link path at this location;
- Allowing for the establishment of a (disability access) compliant ablution facility for the community, which is directly opposite the boat ramp and within close walking distance of Anthon's Landing;
- Allowing for the establishment/refurbishment of parking bays, including disabled parking bay/s;
- Involving the community throughout the various stages of the project.

The Shire sees the retention, refurbishment and potential expansion of the RSL Memorial Park as a positive project for the Wyndham and wider community, which will contribute to the historic nature of the Wyndham Port Area and continue to promote the significant contribution made by past and currently serving personnel.

The Shire welcomes further discussion in relation to the above proposal. Please contact the undersigned via email: nick.kearns@swek.wa.gov.au or by phone: 9168 4100 should you wish to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Kearns
Director of Planning and Community Development