



JOINT STATEMENT

Moreton Bay Regional Council Mayor and Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group

Suttons Beach Pavilions: Council Commits to Positive Community Outcome

Council and the Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group met on Thursday 17 February at the Strathpine Council Chambers to discuss community concerns about the future of the Suttons Beach Pavilions.

Mayor Peter Flannery and Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group Committee Leader, Ms Jodie Starr, agreed the meeting was positive with the two parties committing to continuing dialogue and collaboration going forward.

Both parties agreed the community connection to the Suttons Beach Park was long and strong, and that the community's views should hold a rightful place in the decision-making processes.

There is currently a degree of misinformation circulating in the community and both the Council and the Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group would like to ensure members of the public have accurate information on which to base their opinions.

The Mayor confirmed that Council had not yet made a final decision to demolish these buildings but is obligated to respond to the significant concerns raised in a series of independent structural engineering reports to ensure public safety.

The Council acknowledged that communication to the community of the poor condition of the buildings, and the proposed pathway to resolve the situation, could have been better delivered.

The Mayor confirmed that, should the invasive testing result in full or partial demolition being unavoidable, the Council had proposed to provide a grassed area on the site as an interim measure only whilst the Council consulted with the community about options for a replacement building on the site.

The two parties agreed to continue to work together to achieve the best outcome, balancing the wishes of the community and the economic viability of all options.

The two parties agreed the next steps in the process will be:

1. All options are on the table

While the expert reports commissioned by Council to date have indicated that partial or full demolition of the buildings was a possibility, Council agrees with the Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group that all three options are open for the future of the buildings and must be considered by the Council:

- fully rectify/restore,
- partially demolish (and replace) and partially rectify/restore, or
- demolish and replace

2. Tenant vacates buildings

The buildings will be vacated at the end of the current lease on 28 February 2022 to maintain public safety and enable the necessary invasive testing of the structures to be undertaken. Options to avoid this had been considered but public safety and compliance with food and safety legislation must come first.

3. Building security

Council will ensure that the building is secured and kept safe from further damage after the tenant vacates. This will include security fencing, CCTV surveillance and night patrols.

4. Invasive testing of the buildings

Council will commission independent experts to undertake invasive testing of the buildings after the buildings have been vacated. The invasive testing will confirm the internal structural integrity of the buildings and form part of the consideration in determining the future of the buildings. Council acknowledge SBPPG have a heritage report which will be tabled at a general meeting to be included as part of future considerations. Heritage restoration expertise within marine environments will be included in the requirements; possibly as an additional specialist advisor/consultant.

5. Evaluating the options

Following the advice from the invasive investigations report, Council will be able to get a definitive answer on whether it is possible for the buildings to be (partially or fully) saved and, at what cost. Fully costed options will be developed and released to the public to keep the community fully informed and to ensure this a transparent and inclusive process. Heritage restoration experts will assist in the formulation of options. The options and costings will be made publicly available.

6. Deciding the future of the buildings

The decision on the fate of the buildings will be informed by the invasive testing results, community survey findings, heritage experts and detailed cost analyses to ensure the chosen option represents good value for use of public funds. This decision will be made by the Council in a public live-streamed General Meeting.

Council and the Suttons Beach Pavilion Preservation Group encourage everyone to participate in the current community survey. Closing on 11 March 2022, the survey can be completed online at <https://yoursay.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/suttons-beach-public-space> or paper copies can be collected from any Council Customer Service Centre or Library.

Community members are also encouraged to register their interest in the project on the same website, so they receive updates on the Suttons Beach Public Space project and future community engagement relating to the longer-term park master planning.

Suttons Beach Public Space Project

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