

SNOWY VALLEYS MULTIPURPOSE AND EVACUATION CENTRE PROJECT - CONCEPT DESIGN

This supplementary information relates to report item 11.2 on Ordinary Meeting Agenda Thursday 20 February 2025. It provides a summary of the consultation feedback received from Drop-in Sessions held 12 and 13 February 2025, and Online Feedback closing Sunday 16 February 2025.

Drop-in Sessions (held 12 and 13 February 2025)

Note that nine people attended the open day on 12 February and a further six people attended one-on-one appointment sessions on 13 February.

Main discussion points:

- Consider increasing car parking, if necessary for those complaining of a lack of parking, by the addition of another car park off Robertson Street in the space above the proposed retaining wall and the Music Bowl.
- Consider heating the building with thermal heating to minimize operating costs – given site is excavated this could be easily achieved.
- Consider putting the rainwater harvesting tanks buried behind the retaining walls.
- Consider relocating the excavated material to a site close by as a beneficial reuse to build a pump/bike track of an advanced participant level.
- The facility should be available to groups in the community like elderly wanting to meet and participate in activities like cards – don't make it exclusive for basketball and sports.
- Consider light shades of grey for the building colours.
- Happy the facility will attract use for the benefit of economic growth of local business
- Satisfaction that the concept has addressed the concerns expressed in the park around carparking and noise impacts.
- An access road should be built around the facility. Don't worry about saving the elm trees, it is better to plant new screen trees which are evergreen and low maintenance plantings.
- Score benches for sports should be elevated, recessed and fixed on the side of courts.
- Consider providing an unloading dock for trucks to unload gear during emergency evacuation use, perhaps near the front entrance.
- Consider additional storage under the bleachers, particularly for long items such as netball posts.
- Against two entries/exits from car park which were discussed at the community meeting.
- Question raised on stormwater discharge for the development.
- Clarification required on the requirements for percentage of hard stand/green space for the development.
- A question raised on energy requirements for lighting due to lack of windows in the sports space.
- Clarification on evaporative air conditioning airflow requirements.
- For any landscaping buffers planned please specify large, advanced trees for instant effect.
- Consider the location of basketball scoreboards like Wodonga courts, which have middle and end scoreboards.
- Concept adequately addresses the room between courts, and inclusion of fans for air flow will minimize the need for air conditioning.
- Consider providing an ice machine in the kitchen, for sports injury treatment needs.
- When in use as an evacuation center, please ensure there is plenty of power and phone points.

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- Concern expressed that the emergency exit doors will be opened for air when being used for sports, creating an escape for noise.
- Consider including an adult changing table facility.
- Concept plans adequately address the accessibility requirements, particularly by lowering the site to another 400mm.
- The project is supported, but not at the Richmond Park site due to visual impact (building height of 9.5m), taking green space, noise and traffic impacts in a residential area.
- Question raised about Crown Land process.
- Concerns raised that a business case has not been prepared on how the facility will be used and the future cost impacts to Council.

Online Feedback (closed Sunday, 16 February 2025)

Note that there were 851 visits to the site, 431 document downloads, and 42 submissions received. It can be noted that in excess of 80% of submissions were in support of the project at the site.

What people liked?

- Built into landscape
- Layout
- Can be used for multiple sports, emergencies and events
- Modern design
- Great parking
- Landscaping
- Location, central and ease of walking around town
- Relocation of the park
- Internal facilities look good
- Good visibility from control space
- Getting rid of the eyesore of a bowling green
- Aesthetically appealing
- Energy efficient features

What people don't like?

- Taking away green space
- Creating traffic noise
- Location
- SVC can't afford
- Dark grey colour – heat absorbing

What could make the design better?

- More parking
- Angular parking
- two entrance/exit points for car park especially wide enough for emergency vehicles and buses (for basketball championship transport / disability groups) Consider a loading zone type access on Richmond Street side
- One exit and one entry for drive through
- Remove trees on the back side of building to allow for additional parking
- possibility of creating circuit roadways around the building by removing trees and replanting new trees.
- shade shelter across car parks

MEC Concept Design Feedback

- shade/rain protection along front corridor of the building for drop offs/pickups (for all users)
To be the entire length of car park
- electric car chargers in car park and or allowance for in future pending budget (more than one!)
- doors between basketball courts and other areas to reduce noise levels
- Ensure the window from control room to court and admin room to court can be opened for comms reasons
- Suggest large lockers on roller wheels for canteen goods and a storage space for these.
- Suggest looking into a roll out flooring option for cricket and potentially functions- this would need allocated storage space.
- More solar panels to enable fans to be able to run on solar alone?
- I would potentially reduce the amount of seating to make accessibility to storage areas easier.
- If it came to saving space, I believe the cafe seating and meeting room could be left out, Day to day this would not be used.
- There is no outdoor shade. There needs to be some shade, even if that means decent shade over the playground next door.
- Can it be something other than dark grey? A lighter less intrusive colour scheme would be nice.
- A curtain of similar divide that could be used to separate sleeping areas from supply distribution etc. These centers operate 24/7 and people trying to get to sleep need a separate space. This should also be a consideration as depending on the incident if there is a need to separate families/singles/ men/women - for their own safety and wellbeing.
- changing stations for phones and digital devices via USB-B +C ports (for emergency providers and community users) Suggest consult with library on provision of these
- Addition of a heated pool for aqua aerobics and therapy.
- I would suggest a bit more room between the courts and then the benches placed in the middle of the courts. This keeps parents and spectators away from the benches and a safer environment for all.

Further questions?

- Cost to hire
- What will happen to the current basketball facility on Elm Drive
- Evaporative air conditioning in office/meeting room areas
- Lighting in the car park
- Is it capable of operating with an independent power supply in emergency situations?
- I see evaporative cooling is preferred for environmental reasons, but is this sufficient should it be filled with people during a bushfire event?
- Does the car park space consider that most rural people drive SUV's or 4x4's? Will they be able to maneuver safely in the car park? Too many car parks are made for little cars.
- will Business Snowy Valleys be consulted and used to facilitate business ventures, meetings, conferences and other usage of this precinct to support council ongoing costs and give influence for monetary gains to this new asset

Letters

There have been 75 letters sent to the Council since the 3 February 2025 and prior to the presentation of the concepts to the community on 11 February 2025. 72 letters are in support of the project and 3 letters are against the project. These are tabled at the meeting.

ENDS