

## **Submission re: Old Power House Reserve Plan of Management – Crown Reserve R22044.**

The above document for public exhibition is an improvement on last year's work (Concept Design legend was illegible) however our 3 page submission is based upon various aspects and issues that are not clearly addressed or acknowledged.

The several names are confusing – Church Park on one of the maps, Crown Reserve, Tenterfield Youth Precinct, Youth Precinct and Mountain Bike Trail Head.

The current title - Old Power House Reserve (OPHR) – indicates this park is culturally significant and should be acknowledged and historically documented as such. The park is surrounded by listed heritage buildings – Church Hall in Scott Street, "Old Mill" house in Manners Street and the Jubilee Rotunda in the park opposite.

The Band Hall, located in the park and not shown on the Concept Design, is also listed as a Heritage Item Schedule 5. The Heritage Report, commissioned by Tenterfield Shire Council in 2019, recommends it remain in situ or be relocated nearby, noting its historic link to the rotunda. A recent privately commissioned Heritage Report on the band hall has not been made public. The POM states ..... potentially Heritage listed band hall (further investigation required) p.17. Onsite meetings were held with school groups, the indigenous community and key stakeholders. Did they include the two community groups who were using the hall for many years? There is no need for a new café as the Band Hall can be modernised for a café, community meeting room and toilet on site. Its location on the ridge would provide an unobstructed and attractive view of the park, particularly if a surrounding deck is installed.

The existing skatepark is not labelled, instead its location is 7 Existing half court .....

Why is previously grant funded and expensive infrastructure (the skatepark and a section of bike path not shown on the Concept Design) to be demolished for this proposed design?

The Tenterfield Local Environment Plan 2013 does not identify the OPHR as a significant item of Environmental Heritage. There is no reference to the reserve's trees in the POM, only grass vegetation. Maintained wetlands and flood ways are noted in 3.12 Management Actions and including/adding shade trees is vital for public recreation areas.

Once data has been collected by researchers, platypus may be listed as a threatened species. These creatures have been seen in different sections of Tenterfield Creek over the years. Ecologically sustainable development is important for this park (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016).

The first reference to Youth Precinct is on p.7 with no background or explanation as to the origin of this proposal and its source of funding. The NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program date for completion of construction was December 2022. TSC nominated Jennings Park upgrade (finished) and the creation of a youth precinct in Tenterfield including construction of a new mountain bike trailhead. The Program website states funding is not for staff, maintenance, construction of organised sporting facilities, commercial operations. Other similarly funded councils proposed projects supporting green space, tree coverage, waterway and riparian corridor, biodiversity and fauna conservation, visual and landscape amenity, landscaping, passive recreation. All of these apply to the OPHR that is ripe for similar improvements. The Concept Design appears very busy with many paths too close together, many zig zags and some of the established trees appear under threat.

The recently installed pedestrian crossing is very close to the narrow, busy Coles Supermarket car park entrance/exit. The accident risk is increased if the planned parking spaces opposite are located in close proximity to the crossing as shown on the map. There is space further north along Crown Street for car parking, currently used informally. The proposed Crown Street parking allocation appears inadequate considering Coles staff use the area at present.

The anticipated increased vehicle traffic with the proposed development on the corner of Rouse, Crown and Miles Street must be safely accommodated.

The Aboriginal Land Claim for Lot 12 is still pending.

Council's Resourcing Strategy – are there sufficient financial and human resources to provide services and infrastructure assets for this proposed development?

Public recreation in a Park and Natural Area-Watercourse – how will material harm be identified, monitored and remedied?

Important heritage and tourism value in historic information signs for the Band Hall and the site of the Old Power House.

The optimistic request for Community Assistance from this lower socio economic shire will be a challenge for new and existing facilities.

Tenterfield Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040, issued 2020, states projected population in 2041 will be approximately 5,450 with 47% over 60. Facilities to include the needs of the increasing older demographic will be worthwhile. Peaceful enjoyment, casual playing and passive recreational pursuits would be popular in a carefully landscaped and managed park with shade, seating etc.

Planning Priority 2 Nature-based, heritage and cultural tourism. ... protect those lands most important to tourism and ensure land conflicts do not occur. Planning provisions support tourism and conservation outcomes.

PP 3 .... Unique character of the towns ..... protect, enhance and conserve places and buildings of heritage significance.

PP 6 ..... tourism destination grounded on heritage.

Last year's State of the Environment Report is relevant to this Crown Reserve.

The sculpture is not mentioned in the text.

The environmental impacts of the proposed facilities – hard wearing and safe footpath and track surfaces. The granitic sand footpaths (15) are erodable and impractical. Two rubbish bins are inadequate for the area, dog waste bag dispensers may be necessary.

A basketball court is planned as part of Stage 2 works in Jubilee Park. Its proximity to the nearby children's playground is not made clear. What else is proposed and where is the plan and funding?

The swale requires cleaning up to and beyond Crown Street with subsequent appropriate restoration/environmental work.

The Google Earth image below is the Old Power House Reserve in Tenterfield, December 2021. Note the current path, skatepark and Band Hall.

