

**From:** Bennett, Paul  
**Sent:** Friday, 5 August 2022 8:53 AM  
**To:** RWH Staff  
**Subject:** Ray Walsh House Relocation Project Update

Good morning everyone,

After another busy few weeks for the project team, I am bringing you an update on the status of the Ray Walsh House Relocation project.

We are pleased to have identified and secured locations for the relocation of the majority of our Ray Walsh House-based staff, with the priority of keeping as many as possible in the Tamworth CBD front-of-mind. Having said that, we can't quite confirm all of the detail just yet as the team works through some of the logistics. However, the teams involved should be aware of the plans affecting them. We are currently in discussions in relation to another commercial property which would provide a location for the remainder of the teams and hope to have this secured very soon.

As disclosed previously, fantastic options that are Council-owned include Peel House, Parry House and 474 Peel Street. Walkthroughs of these buildings and renovation plans are continuing in the background, with the hope that some physical moves will be able to begin towards the end of this month.

For a list of teams and their confirmed moves so far, check out the MILO page [here](#).

There are a significant number of logistical considerations that Marie Resch and members of the Project Team are facing to make the physical moves happen. They will begin meeting with some teams face-to-face starting next week to discuss these including IT and Document Management requirements and considerations.

In terms of IT, the team is working to utilise existing infrastructure wherever possible, and are working to "harvest" equipment to facilitate physical moves. However, there will be additional hardware needed along the way and due to shortages in the sector, wait times on some of this equipment may mean that there is a delay on our ability to "decommission" the building. To be clear, these shortages should not delay the relocation of teams, but may impact when we can begin Phase 2 of this project - assessment of the future of Ray Walsh House.

There is no doubt that this process will be difficult for us all, and we'll all be required to challenge the way we currently think and work to ensure that we are making the best decisions for the future of the organisation.

With regard to the future of RWH, Tribal Council had two thought-provoking visits to Lake Macquarie City Council and Maitland City Council earlier this month. This was the first step for us to begin to gather ideas on what the future of work could look like for TRC, and on-the-whole, it was exciting! You can read more about it in last week's edition of Enews.

A few stories about this project have popped up in the media over the past few weeks, which you may have seen.

Last week, a report went to Council seeking authorisation to enter into a lease agreement for the old Northern Daily Leader building on the corner of Brisbane and Marius Streets. Whilst an agreement is worked on, we aren't able to provide further information to you all. However, we would hope to relocate a number of Regional Services, and Strategy and Performance team members there, alongside the Mayor and Executive Team. We hope to have an update on this for our staff (prior to any media announcements) in the coming weeks.

We are also working with one of our Section 355 Committees, the Tamworth Regional Film & Sound Archive, on relocation options for them. Some promising options are on the table, so stay tuned!

Finally, tape testing that was undertaken over the weekend and on Monday by Envirosience have returned negative results for Asbestos Containing Materials. This testing was being carried out as an extra precaution ahead of staff packing up workspaces. With less staff accessing Ray Walsh House, there is naturally occurring dust settling on all floors, and so this testing was simply for peace of mind.

These updates from me are becoming much less frequent as we settle into the day-to-day logistics of relocation, however I will continue to communicate project milestones this way. The Project Team will continue to engage with individual teams as necessary, and I encourage you to keep an eye on both Enews and the dedicated project MILO page for other updates on this project.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend.

Paul

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*Tamworth Regional Council acknowledges the Gamilaroi/Kamilaroi people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. We would like to pay respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in and visiting our Region.*