

Thursday 16 December, 2022

Key messages – Ray Walsh House Staff Relocation

- Council staff who regularly work on Levels 1, 2 and 3 of Ray Walsh House in Tamworth have been relocated or requested to work from home due to an issue with the heating/cooling system in the building.
- The work required on the heating/cooling system to restore functionality cannot be undertaken due to the presence of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) in the building, and subsequent risk management requirements under Council's Asbestos Management Protocol.
- Ray Walsh House was built in the 1970s, and purchased by Council in the 1990s. In recent years, despite ongoing maintenance and work to ensure a safe work space, the building's age has started to show. The increased frequency of immediate issues and a need to find a long-term solution to limit disruption to Council operations and services is accelerating long-term plans that were already on the horizon to rectify issues with the building.
- The project will be rolled out over two phases:
 1. Relocation of impacted Council staff
 2. Assessment of the future of Ray Walsh House structureCouncil anticipates that this project will take place over a number of years.
- Right now, Council is prioritising the relocation of all Ray Walsh House staff to Council-owned venues, and exploring commercial options. A number of key considerations have been acknowledged, including a preference for keeping as many staff in the Tamworth CBD as possible so as to ensure access to Council for the community, and limit impacts on the local economy.
- In the mid-term, Council will be engaging with experts on the future of Ray Walsh House, and the best way forward for both the community and our staff. Any decisions concerning the future of the Ray Walsh House building will be considered by the Council on behalf of the community.
- Currently, there are no impacts on Council operations or services for the community, including our Customer Service frontage on the Ground Floor and Development Hub.

- Updates on this project will be communicated to both staff and the community through multiple channels, including the Tamworth Regional Council website (www.tamworth.nsw.gov.au) and our social media channels.

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