

Paul Bridges, 150 West Road, Bassendean

I write to express my concern and objection to the proposed gifting of the Surrey St site to the 'Museum of Perth', an organisation that provides training courses for the unemployed for jobs that largely don't exist. The last council voted to return to the original Surrey St Option 1 plan – a simple period restoration and adaptive reuse of the existing buildings as a museum and community centre. The current council then revived the expensive Option 2 proposal and paid the architects more money to amend the plans to incorporate the Infant Health Centre. With a cost now of \$1.6m it blew the budget. Council should then have taken the logical and honourable course of utilising the Option 1 plans, the Lotterywest grant of \$375,000 and the \$150,000 reserved from the sale of the Masonic Hall and restored Surrey St. This amount (\$525,000) was adequate to complete the necessary works. Instead they handed back the grant and pocketed the reserved fund. They then offered the site to the 'Museum of Perth' without any prior consultation with the Bassendean Historical Society. Council should retain the site, reapply for the grant and fulfil its social obligations by restoring the buildings that they have neglected for years. Alternatively transfer the site to the BHS to do the work and who would then ensure ongoing public ownership by transferring it to the National Trust.

Coleman, 11A Harcourt Street Bassendean

I find it extraordinary that the Town Of Bassendean (TOB) is giving away our heritage listed pensioner guard cottage for 50c and also the heritage listed house next door for 50c! The Town council has said in past statements that they cannot afford to maintain or refurbish these two buildings or other historical buildings in the town which are at their end of life. Council's recommendation is to sell both properties for a combined \$1 to Museum Of Perth (MOP) even though their executive director Reece Harley has declared in the ER article "PENSIONER DISCOUNT" June 17th, that the group would take a streamlined and simplified approach to the buildings restoration and are on "a very small budget" and "we would be able to chip away at it" over a number of years. I believe that there is a misconception in the community by way of misleading statements that our pensioner guard cottage needs a full and expensive restoration. Our Pensioner guard cottage which is a tiny two room cottage (one bedroom and one kitchen) in fantastic condition with no renovations required but perhaps modest annual maintenance. My suggestion is to subdivide the block keeping our cottage and selling the house. As a local professional gardener, if the cottage were to stay in public hands I would be very pleased to donate my time maintaining the gardens. The TOB strives for – COMMUNITY IDENTITY – COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS – COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS which would be greatly eroded if our most prized possession were given away to some private organization not connected to the town.

Coleman, 11A Harcourt Street Bassendean

I am writing a submission regarding our Pensioner guard cottage and adjacent residence being sold to the MOP for \$1. I find it very disappointing that the Town wants to dispose of such an iconic historical asset for \$1 to an organization who by its own admission is on a very tight budget and will chip away at the renovations over the years.

Obviously it is also very disappointing that the Council has let this fester over the last 35 years (I understand current council has not been to blame for all of this, however they are the ones who gave back the lotterywest grant for \$375,000, which would have gone a long way if not all the way to restore the residence next door and turn it into a community hub/centre). The cottage does not require substantial renovation and is in good condition and would only require ongoing maintenance, and I am sure there are volunteers in the community who would be prepared to assist. I am disappointed that the Town did not look at other avenues and also communicated more with the community. As you have already proposed this at a meeting it does feel like the "horse has already bolted", I would have thought that community discussion and input would have been asked for prior to this decision if the Town was actually interested in what the community thinks.

In my opinion our history is being taken away from us, jetties being demolished, history book being thrown in the bin at a cost of \$150,000 to ratepayers apparently because it would damage the reputation of the Town. This does not give me cause to have confidence in the decision making of the staff or councilors. \$375,000 and \$150,00 = \$525,000 could have been well spent on the renovations. I understand the surveys and drawings for the development of the residence have already cost \$250,000 plus. A BIG NO to your proposal. The Bassendean Historical Society have every right to be outraged by the Town's decision, what a disappointment the Town and its councilors are.

Moller, 30C Bassendean Parade, Bassendean

On behalf of the residents of 30c Bassendean Parade, I am writing to express my support for the sale of 1 Surrey Street including the Pensioner Guard Cottage to the Museum of Perth with the conditions listed by the council. The sale will relieve rate payers of further burden while maintaining the unique history of the area. The addition of the museum of Perth to the area will complement the Bassendean historical Society although I am disappointed in their current views. Community access once per month is certainly sufficient in my view.

Quinn, 57 Kenny Street, Bassendean

We fully support the sale of 1 Surrey Street (and adjacent property) to the Museum of Perth group.

Benz, 9 Parnell Parade, Bassendean

My concern with the Museum of Perth is that they did NOT supply financials for the year ending in June 2020, and the financials of the previous year (ending 30.6.2019) seem to indicate Liabilities exceeding Assets by \$34988, and expenses exceeding income by \$53920. Based on these numbers I am unsure how they will meet their financial commitment to spend \$50000 per year for the next four years. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June I sent an email supporting the Sale of the Pensioner Cottage to the Museum of Perth. Since then I have spent some time trying to understand the governance of that organisation, but have not been successful. I therefore retract my support of the sale.

Lewis, 2/32 Bassendean Parade, Bassendean

Why doesn't the shire use it to display the history of Bassendean and maybe a café

Law-Davis

I just want to let u know that I am so disappointed with the idea of selling 1 Surrey St in Bassendean as it a part of my family Heritage, I always thought that if anything was heritage listed, it shouldn't be sold or pulled down,

White, 55 Third Avenue, Bassendean

With regards to the proposal to sell 1 Surrey Street as published on the Town's website, I am in full support of this proposal. Maintenance and upkeep of this asset is a burden on the Town and outside the Town's area of expertise. Selling the property to a body more experienced in the restoration field who can commit to providing community access is a great outcome for the property, the Town and the Community

Fletcher, 30 May Road, Eden Hill

I just wanted to provide you with my feedback regarding the proposed sale of No 1 Surrey Street Bassendean (the pensioner guard cottage and the old residence). My wife and I both support the proposed sale of the property to the Museum of Perth which will ultimately see a restoration plan put into place for the dilapidated residence in particular. Further to this I'm sure the new custodians will also ensure both buildings receive the necessary maintenance and ongoing repairs that both buildings will require over the coming decades. I hope that appropriate caveats can be included in the sale contract which will ensure both buildings remain protected for future ToB residents to enjoy. On this note I want to be clear that I have never personally supported ToB ratepayers footing the full bill or any funding shortfalls for the proper restoration of the old residence and ongoing maintenance of both buildings. I would prefer to see ToB rates spent on projects that will benefit a much larger section of the local community. This would include projects that encourage improved health and well-being such as a major upgrade to Jubilee Reserve's sporting and exercise facilities or a new floating pontoon style jetty at Point Reserve. New council administration offices are also well overdue or at least a significant renovation to the existing building including the civic / function spaces that are made available for public use. I hope that the council can gain the support required to proceed with the sale of 1 Surrey Street Bassendean to the Museum of Perth. The sooner the restoration project can get underway the better.

Seidel, 55 Broadway, Bassendean

The Town Councillors bought 1 Surrey Street in the 1980's for the community as a long term benefit for the Town, the residence built in 1893 would be for community use and displays and the only remaining pensioner guard cottage built 1856 which is now the last remaining Pensioner Guard residence in WA. It still provides an important historic significance that is open to the public that shows what it was like in early settlement here in Bassendean and in the wider State and metropolitan Perth. Now in 2021 this current Town of Bassendean's Councillors are wanting to hand over the house and the pensioner guard's cottage to either a community group or a not for profit organisation which is really disappointing because it's all too hard for the Council, this move is really disappointing and shows there is no vision for the Town's future. The Town Council is the appropriate owner of this significant property in the long term. It should not spend more money on architects or consultants but implement a 5 year plan to restore our community asset so that it can once again be by the community - not disposed of it because it seems all too hard.

Dewar, Morley Drive, Morley

I will buy it for \$500 and fix it and live in it at my own cost so no one wrecks it or pulls it down so it stays there for years.

Lewis, 40 North Road, Bassendean

It would be a shame for the property to be sold to outside interests, being the Museum of Perth. The Bassendean Historical Society would have a greater interest in the buildings as they are local. Perhaps the state government could help with regard to maintenance etc.

Name and Address Withheld

I support the Town's recommendation to sell the property with caveats to the Museum of Perth for the following reasons

- The buildings are (or should be) of national interest and thus it is logical they are in the care of an entity that has a broad outlook
- Restoring and maintaining heritage buildings is a specialised field and it is impractical to expect a (small) local government to have the relevant expertise
- The current facilities are not well used (they are idle most of the time), continue to deteriorate and have absorbed material funds in studies and reviews over many years. It is time the "bleeding" and deterioration stops.
- The Town has not demonstrated an ability to run projects on time, on budget and to a high quality and therefore is not seen as being well qualified to oversee restoration and maintenance work
- The proposal preserves access to the Pensioner guard cottage for local residents
- It is argued the Town has numerous other facilities that the few community groups who use 1 Surrey St could use for their activities

Love, 51 Ashfield Parade, Ashfield

We, My wife and myself would like to express our very great displeasure in the proposed sale of the pensioner cottage. We think it should be sponsored and handed to the preservation group taking care of it at present. Please re-submit for the Grant to help us the ratepayers to finance the care and maintenance of both places.

Hall, 2 Tapper Lane, Claremont

I wish to comment on Council's proposal to dispose of the Pensioner Guard property at 1 Surrey Street. I read in RWAHS's *History West* (June edition) of the Bassendean Historical Society's endeavour to secure the right to refurbish, maintain, and continue to show and occupy (as their meeting place) the Surrey Street property. Subsequently, through contact with fellow RWAHS members who are well acquainted with 'what is happening' in this regard, I have been told that BHS has been thwarted in this quest, which is surprising and disappointing to say the least. I strongly urge that TOB Council refrains from its proposal to dispose of the property by selling it to the Museum of Perth. I will not comment on the latter's capability to perform the required refurbishment and operation of the property; rather, I humbly suggest it would be much more in keeping with Council's vision and stated plans to entrust BHS with these responsibilities. If TOB reneges on its commitment to local heritage in this manner, it runs the risk of committing an act of sheer hypocrisy and of insulting the numerous BHS volunteers who have laboured to maintain and operate the property for the past 25 years.

Woodward, 77 Whitfield Street, Bassendean

The outcome I would like to see is faithfully restored buildings which are financially self-sufficient, actively in use for a contemporary purpose, contributing to the documentation of local history, freely accessible by interested rate payers who can be educated in a historically and culturally interpretive way that doesn't impede the experience of visiting. I was impressed by Reece Harley's representation to council in November 2020. I'm impressed by the work that Museum of Perth has done in Fremantle, Bunbury and London Court. It seems clear to me that Museum of Perth is far better placed than the Bassendean Historical Society to deliver my desired outcome. Therefore I am in support of the proposal.

Wellstead, Bassendean

I wish to register my disgust with this council with the decision to give this historical building away for one dollar to an outside group that will turn this building into a call centre. This building should be retained in the hands of Bassendean and a full disclosure of the amount of money that has been spent on the infant child centre proposal that was scrapped after it was clear this build was not fit for purpose. As a long time Bassendean rate payer I will be committed to find the truth and inform the residents of Bassendean how this disaster has occurred .

Military Historical Society of Australia

We consider the Pensioner Guard Cottage to be unique because of its associations with the early military history of WA. Built by convict labour under the direction of Lieutenant Edmund Du Cane of the Royal Engineers it provided basic accommodation for the convicts guards who were retired or pensioned British soldiers and their families. Wording of the National Trust plaque on the front of the cottage states that it may be the only remaining structure of its kind in the state. The importance of the cottage was recognised in March 1987 when it was added to the register of the National Trust of Australia and in September 1994 it was included in the WA State Register of Places. We are extremely concerned that should control of the site pass out of the property of the Council the future of the cottage would be placed in jeopardy. Considered as the oldest building in the ToB it carries much history of WA in its simple structure. I would suggest that in the general community there is an appreciation that decision makers in local government are also custodians of our cultural heritage and for the cottage to have been maintained so well is to the credit of the Town of Bassendean. For these reasons we are totally opposed to the proposal transfer or sale of the cottage and the attached residence to the Museum of Perth.

Blampey, 5 Daylesford Road, Bassendean

I object to this proposed sale of 1 Surrey St , Bassendean W.A. to a Private Company , Trading as " Museum Of Perth " ---( No connection whatsoever to Western Australian Government Museum – Boola Barip .) The sale price is \$1 ( one dollar) . The sale is subject to the Purchaser entering into a " DEED OF AGREEMENT " with the Town Of Bassendean. This Deed Of Agreement is to be secured by an Absolute CAVEAT; registered upon the Certificate Of Title at settlement. This is concerning the ramifications of any Legal Action being instituted by the Town Of Bassendean in the Supreme Court , - regarding the Caveat to be registered upon the Certificate Of Title at settlement .(In the case of Fire or Storm and Tempest / Malicious Damage , both buildings on this site could be completely destroyed . ) The proposed Deed Of Agreement and Sale Price of \$1 ( one dollar ) , indicates that this is a " Related Parties Transaction " , Not at " Arms Length " . Bassendean Rate Payers are not receiving the Market Value for the Land ( 937 SQM ) and assets / improvements etc. In view of these circumstances the W.A . GOVT's Valuer General will be required at law to assess the current fair market value of the land and buildings , - and the purchaser will be liable for payment of W.A.DEPT Of FINANCE Stamp Duty ( Taxation Assessment )—based on the Valuer General's valuation .

Warner

I am prompted to respond to this submission as I spent some of my childhood living in the adjacent property on the corner of Surrey Street and North Road (38 North Road), from late 1950's. I am concerned over a few details contained in the proposal and website of the "Museum of Perth":

1. People are unaware, as I was, that the Museum of Perth does not mean the Government body - Western Australian Museum.

2. Their staged implementation plan provided to the Town appears not to be available for me to see.

3. On the proposal for the Conditions of Sale there is no mention of any restoration or maintenance of the Pensioner Guard Cottage only to the residence.

4. It is also stated restoration of the existing residence adjoining the cottage would be done over a period of up to 4 years - What happens after 4 years with respect to maintenance?

In respect of the mentioned absolute caveat; this does not guarantee ongoing protection of the site as the caveat can be removed at any time in the future. What restrictions would be in place to stop any further sale of the property in future years should this tender be successful? Whilst I understand that the Town of Bassendean does not have the financial resources to commit to the restoration of the Residence and Pensioner Guard Cottage the strongest ongoing support should be from the community. I believe to secure the long term future of the site including buildings, transfer to the care of the National Trust would be the best solution.

Humphrey, 127A Whitfield Street, Bassendean

I am deeply disappointed in Council's proposed solution for the future of 1 Surrey St. For many years I have watched as the house was allowed to deteriorate with negligible maintenance, while significant funds have been spent on professional advice. In recent years a lot of time and money has gone into architectural design. In my view insufficient attention was directed to business planning for a viable museum operation in this work and the project started to lose its way. The recent proposal to integrate it with an Infant Health Clinic indicated to me that Councillors did not understand the place as a cultural asset. I should therefore take some heart that this latest proposal favours a recipient that states an intention to work with community cultural groups. And if the deal was a lease agreement I would be likely to support it. But sell or transfer ownership? No. The place is owned by us – the Town of Bassendean bought it with our money and it is wrong to give it away. Heritage is what we have today that we want to pass on to the future – if we pass it into private hands then its future is with property law and market forces. There have been errors of judgement obviously, but let's take a long view - not walk away because we can't afford a quick fix. Overseeing clause (ii) of the proposed legal agreement will demand staff resources and risks embroiling the Town in time consuming and expensive legal business in four years' time. Work on 1 Surrey St can be staged by the Town over time - bit by bit. The Historical Society has already mapped a course of action, based on the solid work already done, that staff could use as a guide. It doesn't all have to be done at once but it should remain completely ours.

Smythe, 57 Chapman Street, Bassendean

Bassendean Town Council bought the town's oldest building, the Pensioner Guard Cottage, about 32 years ago, to preserve and maintain for future generations. If the town is committed to its history, then I would ask, that it maintains the cottage, and not sell it for \$1 to the private organisation, the Museum of Perth. That would be devastating to the people who have worked so hard, including previous councillors, to maintain this heritage listed site, for the public, owned by the public.

### Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust

The Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust suggests that the best course of action is to maintain the Pensioner Guard Cottage within public ownership and to develop an occupancy and use agreement with a suitable heritage oriented entity with security of tenure commensurate with proposed investment. Perseverance with this course of action is regarded as the best means of maintaining the heritage values of the place and continued community access and enjoyment. It is the position of the Defence Heritage Committee that the best course of action would be for the development of a local operating partnership with a heritage group with the Town of Bassendean retaining public ownership. The Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust of Western Australia was established as an advisory committee of the National Trust in 1997 to coordinate a series of events associated with the then upcoming centenary of the 2nd Anglo Boer War. Since then, the Committee's mandate has been confirmed as a source of research, documentation, publication and classification of places with a defence heritage significance. This has naturally included sites associated with the Pensioner Guards and their role in the evolution of defence forces in Western Australia. The Defence Heritage Committee has been involved in the heritage issues associated with the Pensioner Guard Cottage 1856-built Pensioner Guard Cottage at 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean, and the adjoining 1893-built Residence for over 20 years. Involvement has included site visits, community engagement, documentation as part of the National Trust's Defence Heritage Database and ongoing discussions regarding the interpretation of the site. The Committee is fully aware of community concerns regarding contending visions which have frustrated conservation and interpretation efforts over the years. Recent restoration grants (which have not been activated) confirm the consensus of the considerable heritage value of the site to the community. Exhibits at the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia, Royal Western Australian Historical Society, Fremantle Prison and Boola Bardip Western Australian Museum further affirm the State significance of the Pensioner Guard story. The Defence Heritage Committee feels that divesting public ownership of the site is not in the public interest and an abrogation of the leadership and continuity role of the Town of Bassendean in this heritage matter. The Defence Heritage Committee of the National Trust suggests that the best course of action is to maintain the Pensioner Guard Cottage within public ownership and to develop an occupancy and use agreement with a suitable heritage oriented entity with security of tenure commensurate with proposed investment. Perseverance with this course of action is regarded as the best means of maintaining the heritage values of the place and continued community access and enjoyment.



Jemerson, 6 Filkins Street, Bassendean

Again, we find our history is being given away to outsiders with, as far as I can see, no guarantee that it will not be kept in its original condition. In my lifetime I have seen a lot of Perth's history destroyed through silly choices with no consideration of the people in the future. The prime examples are the old Perth Pensioner guards Barracks, destroyed for a road which could have been moved a 100 metres so it could have been left there, the old Bassendean Homestead knocked down circa 1950 for what reason I do not know, and countless other important buildings gone in the name of progress (or maybe just plain money). If it was just money then why is a property with a potential value of more than several hundreds of thousands of dollars value being given away for one dollar! If it is given to the Museum of Perth and they do end up with it as a call centre with 45 staff working there, how can it possibly not be drastically altered for this purpose, toilets and other considerations considered. Please do not do this to the future people of Bassendean in particular & Perth in general as buildings such as this are getting very rare.

Douglas

I have been a long time member of the Bassendean Historical Society and I am writing to express my extreme displeasure at the sale of the Pensioner Guard Cottage and buildings at 1 Surrey St., Bassendean. I also heartily object to the council putting the ownership and control out of Bassendean hands. I grew up in Anzac Tce. and I've always enjoyed the country feeling Bassendean is renowned for. My parents were rate payers for many, many years. My mother spent a great deal of time opening the cottage and supporting Bassendean events in general. Please leave the Pensioner Guard Cottage for the history and benefit of the Bassendean residents.

Boyd, 43 Seventh Avenue, Bassendean

1 Surrey Street is a site worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars. It seems that this Council is planning to make a mistake that because of its scale would be scandalous and may even be deemed criminal. Because of its lack of logic it must be asked who put this idea on the table and do any Councillors have conflictive interests?

Hoy, 131 Whitfield Street, Bassendean

The proposal to relinquish the Surrey Street property to an 'outsider' for such a minimal fee has been very disappointing and I would earnestly ask you and the Councillors to reconsider your decision regarding the sale of the property and negotiate with a group who is passionate about retaining some of the history of Bassendean for future generations.

Gardiner

I have been following events regarding the abovementioned Cottage ("Cottage" also includes the 1893 Residence) for some time and despite my initial optimistic outlook on its future for it to remain in the hands of the Town of Bassendean as one of its significant examples of colonial built - heritage, I am now greatly dismayed to learn of most recent events that may see this most extremely rare building go into private hands. Most people would assume that the Museum of Perth is part of the WA Museum. Of course the Museum of Perth has no connection with the WA Museum and is a totally private business concern so the Cottage being sold to them for any amount, let alone the "peppercorn" value of \$1.00 is a travesty and to be strongly resisted. I am well aware that such buildings cost a great deal of money to restore and then maintain however this building is absolutely worth the money to preserve it and further, preserve it with the Town of Bassendean for the benefit of future Western Australians. I have a long Army museum and Australian military history background, so know of the terrific Grants that are available from LotteryWest which are designed for such projects as the on-going preservation of the 1856 Pensioner Guard Cottage. Money therefore largely taken care of. You also have plenty of skilled volunteers who are most willing to be involved with all aspects of the Cottage. The Town of Bassendean should use the City of Vincent's project in maintaining its historic 1916 ANZAC Cottage as a model. That cottage too has military historic importance and also serves as a venue for community events; a win-win outcome. The 1856 Pensioner Guard Cottage and 1893 Residence must remain under the ownership of the Town of Bassendean. Be strong and make this happen!

Visser

I OBJECT to the selling of the building to the Museum of Perth. I believe this is not the WA Museum and therefore there are no safeguards for its future protection. As this is a private organisation there is no justification for selling what belongs to the residents of Bassendean for \$1! It's the same as giving it away. What organisation GIVES away a valuable piece of real estate of historical significance?! Once this is sold to this business, the Bassendean Community will no longer receive any future benefits - it will be lost forever.

McEwan, Duncraig

I am strongly opposed to the selling of 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean to a private entity by the Town of Bassendean. My great, great grandfather was an Enrolled Pensioner Guard and arrived in Fremantle in 1863. He occupied Lots 122 and 125 Surrey Street from 1864 till his death in 1874. The land was then transferred to his widow, Eliza. My great grandfather, John Hyland, was born at Surrey Street in 1870 and then lived at 43 Harcourt Street, Bassendean until his death 1956. My grandmother was born at 43 Harcourt Street in 1900 and then moved to 45 Harcourt Street when she was married and lived there until her death in 1975. My mother was born at 45 Harcourt Street in 1931 and she lived there until she was married in 1950. John Hyland [1870 to 1956] was a councillor on the West Guildford Road Board from 1902 till 1908. I am very sure that he, along with his father, would be very disgusted to learn that a council that he helped established, has now deserted their civic responsibilities by disposing of this unique Bassendean historical site to an outside private organisation. On your own heritage register this site is categorised as Exceptional Significance. That is it is essential to the heritage of the locality. Rare or outstanding example. Recommended for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Place. It demonstrates the evolution of residential development on the site, from a two room cottage in 1856-57 that housed a family of 10 by 1870, to construction of the adjacent residence in c.1893, and the subsequent additions to that residence in c.1952, with the eventual demise as a residential function in the 1980s. It is a focal point for the Bassendean district's historical sense of place and community pride associated with the role in the state's history. I am a registered builder and can see that very little maintenance or repairs have been conducted on the residential house and minimal amount on the heritage listed cottage. There appears to be no prepared or implemented maintenance plan for these buildings. The residential buildings has been left to rot away. Now the Perth History Association Inc. will be given the site with many unanswered questions and they continually alter material to suit public opinion. The long term future of the residence and cottage are not known, nor are the safeguards completely confirmed. From a council meeting, the Town of Bassendean senior staff admitted that there was no way of enforcing any conditions without expensive legal action. For many years the councillors on the West Guilford Road Board and the Town of Bassendean have strived to recognise and maintain the local history of this area. It now appears that the current councillors wish to ignore their very important role and obligate their responsibilities to an outside party with little to no accountability. The proposal from the Bassendean Historical Society, working with the Town of Bassendean, to refurbish both buildings and then vest the control to the National Trust of Western Australia seems a far more controlled process, with guaranteed control in the public hands. I believe that this disposal process has been rushed and ill conceived. There are many unknowns and the outcome cannot be guaranteed. I respectfully request that the Town of Bassendean suspend this process until the public can be given more information to ensure the best outcome for the ratepayers and the long term viability of Bassendean's heritage.

Curran, 60 Kenny Street, Bassendean

I was surprised and disappointed to hear of the Town of Bassendean's proposed disposal of the historically invaluable Pensioner Guard cottage at 1 Surrey Street, Bassendean. I had always admired the Town of Bassendean as a council with a unique heritage and a progressive commitment to preserving it. I've worked in heritage my entire life, as a documentary filmmaker, curator and researcher, and I appreciate the incredible asset you have in the form of the Pensioner Guard Cottage. So too, apparently, does Lotterywest, who were willing to invest so much in its development according to this article: <https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.perthnow.com.au%2Fcommunity-news%2Feastern-reporter%2Fconcerns-over-future-of-historic-pensioner-guard-cottage-in-bassendean-c-1386567&data=04%7C01%7CRecords%40bassendean.wa.gov.au%7Cf630609fb3b04fb2722508d93d5ffef3%7Cd240965fed8c4f6cb46dacc954ea61ea%7C0%7C0%7C637608304788043808%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&:sdata=1LiDyUNocT5TzQDaIXEpHiGnj8PpS%2Fk9THRq96T9Y4I%3D&:reserved=0>. I'm sure with some creative management you could easily source more funds to preserve the cottage in a more appropriate way, with the support of the local community. I have nothing against the Museum of Perth, but they are not a government institution with all the protections, obligations and access to funding and support that comes from government institutions. Such a tremendous asset should remain under the long term protection of government, for the enjoyment and education of future generations. What a unique source of local pride and employment it has been, and should continue to be. To dispose of the cottage in such a short sighted way would be a great tragedy and one that would very likely leave a stain on the legacy of the council and executive team of the Town of Bassendean. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal and I sincerely hope you will reconsider these plans to dispose of the Pensioner Guard Cottage.

Griggs, 110 Whitfield Street, Bassendean

I write as a Bassendean resident to express to the Council the shock and disappointment caused by the decision to hand over the Pensioner Guard Cottage to the Museum of Perth, and to sell to the same organisation the adjoining property for only \$1. Many Bassendean residents have been misled into thinking the cottage will become the property of the W.A. Perth Museum and therefore of the State Government and secure from any action which would threaten it. The cottage is an asset which could be an important part of a possible future heritage precinct in Bassendean. The fact that the sale of the house closely adjoining the cottage has not been made subject to a caveat against its resale to anyone other than the Town of Bassendean threatens the cottage by the possibility of an unsuitable development of the land.

Simpson, 43 Geraldine Street, Bassendean

I wish to oppose the Pensioner's Guard cottage at 1 Surrey street Bassendean being sold to the Museum of Perth for \$1, or indeed, any amount of money, as this cottage and site has enormous heritage significance to the town of Bassendean in particular as well as to WA in general. I strongly support the town of Bassendean retaining or having ownership of this cottage and site to maintain as a cultural and historical treasure.

McDonald, 26 Kenny Street, Bassendean

I object to the proposal by the ToB to dispose of 1 Surrey Street to the Museum of Perth (MoP). I concur with the principles incorporated into the BHS expression of interest, namely that the Cottage and Residence should remain secure in a form of Government hands. As the ToB does not want to own the Land, then given the opportunity the BHS could arrange the renovations over a period of time and have 1 Surrey Street transferred to a secure statutory holder. The National Trust and the State Heritage Council are both secure organisations with a demonstrated commitment to the preservation of the built heritage of Western Australia, and especially to the preservation of the only remaining PGC in close to its original form. I object to the sale of 1 Surrey Street to the MoP, which has the stated intention of installing a large number of Computer terminals to run the training business funded by government grants to train the unemployed. Where and when does that leave room for Community use and access. The ToB is not giving out enough of the details of the proposed sale to assure residents that the proposed transaction presents good value for ratepayers. The Expression of Interest process permits negotiations with applicants but no such negotiations with the BHS have occurred. In order to seek informed community comment the Council has an obligation to disclose full and complete details of the proposed sale, and how the community is best served by the proposal. The recent publicity has created more interest and some supportive of our views, and some on the lines of *what is wrong with giving the land to the WA Museum Boola Bardip*. The ToB response to that is that we never said it was the WA museum, but it has no intention of correcting that position. The extent of the due diligence exercised by the ToB is questionable, as it has not been disclosed. Not have enquiries about membership forms made to the MoP. The question of the acceptance of Bassendean residents as members of the owner of the business or the MoP has not been answered and that does not seem to be of concern to the ToB. The Council would end up with a much better financial return and community asset if 1 Surrey Street was put, by lease or transfer, into the hands of the BHS. The members of the BHS have a variety of reasons and beliefs for supporting the retention of the PGC and Residence in public hands. While my reasons are my own this submission supports the BHS principles that the Cottage and Residence should remain secure in a form of Government hands, preferably initially in the hands of the BHS until the renovations are completed, and definitely not in the hands of the business of the Museum of Perth nor its owner.

Markham, 110 West Road, Bassendean

I wish to support the proposal for The Museum of Perth to take up the property at 1 Surrey Street on the terms set by the Town of Bassendean. I have examined the proposal to a reasonable degree, discussed it, and gained some information regarding The Museum of Perth. The proposal looks fair, reasonable, and advantageous to the Town, residents, and historians. My reasons for support are:

- There has been an ongoing problem of maintenance and lack of any resolution to address the problems, over very many years. The continued neglect and failure to act will ultimately lead to the potential loss of Bassendean history and heritage.
- The impost on the Town were it to undertake the major renovations and follow up maintenance would be a significant burden on ratepayers, without a corresponding benefit.
- The Town is not well placed in expertise and skills to undertake major remedial works that will maintain the heritage values.
- No reasonable and realistic alternative proposals, that do not require major funding by the Town, have been proposed.
- The Perth Museum has a reputation for expertise in renovating, preserving, maintaining and making appropriate use of historical properties, while managing to stay financially viable.
- The proposal appears to provide adequate protection for the interests of the residents of Bassendean, preventing inappropriate development, and allowing similar public access to that currently.
- There is opportunity for, and the Museum has a track record of, working with local historical groups and those interested in local history.
- Should The Museum fail to meet the requirements of the proposal, it appears to give the Town legal recourse.

I therefore support the proposal and urge the Town to take this opportunity, and welcome The Museum of Perth into our community.

Hendry, 15 Parker Street, Bassendean

I wish to voice my objection to the proposed sale of 1 Surrey Street to the Museum of Perth for \$1. I contend that there is more value in the asset (the residence), and that ratepayers money is being needlessly wasted. I suggest that the block is subdivided, that Council retains control of the Pensioner Guard Cottage and sells the residence with suitable caveats to ensure it is refurbished rather than knocked down. This should be done expeditiously to take advantage of current market conditions. Council's failure to maintain the building is of great concern. A possible solution is to engage the Men's Shed to a) make the residence habitable and b) undertake the necessary ongoing maintenance of the Pensioner Guard Cottage, Council paying for materials only. This will provide rate payers with a real return on the \$170,000 investment in the Men's Shed.

Edmonds, 13 James Street, Bassendean

I write to express my objection to the proposed disposal of 1 Surrey St, Bassendean, to the Museum of Perth (MoP) for the price of \$1. The reasons behind my objection include:

- I believe that the property should remain in public ownership, and leased, not sold, until it can be protected under State legislation as a reserve.
- I don't believe any other option than selling the property was seriously considered by the Town or Councillors, despite the term 'disposal' giving many options. If all options had truly been considered, I would have expected details of their viability to have been published, with a justification on the final option to have been made based on this careful consideration.
- The required restoration work to the property can be achieved with a lease option. I am aware that the Town already has long-term lease arrangements with a number of other community organisations. Can the information on the economic viability of these buildings and the associated lease agreements be made public for comparison with the 1 Surrey St property? Hopefully they are economically viable, but if not, should not these other properties also be sold?
- Although I object to the sale in any case, if the ToB insists on this path, it is illogical to 'sell' an asset that I suspect is worth well over \$500K based on land size and location. No group or individual would pass up this cash influx unless there are motives at play that are not being disclosed. That money could be used for all sorts of community projects if it were available.
- The Town has produced no detailed evidence on actual maintenance costs attributable to the 1 Surrey St property, although these ongoing costs have been used as a justification to sell. I have only seen high-level figures that seem linked to consultancy fees, not maintenance. I would call on such information to be released, again in the name of transparency.
- Further to this, if so much money has been spent on maintenance, how has the Town allowed the property to fall into such a state as it currently exists? Again, the stated reason for selling as 'ongoing maintenance costs' is in stark contradiction to the generally unkempt nature of the property in recent years.
- Linked to this, my understanding is that money previously allocated to a fund specifically for restoration of the property (from the sale of the Masonic Lodge) has subsequently been used for purposes other than what it was intended. I say this as again, there is no visible evidence of such restoration work having occurred at 1 Surrey St. I call for such information to be released to dispense with this sentiment in the community. If such work has not occurred, how has the \$150K been allocated as such?
- Although there was no obligation to do so under legislation given the intended buyer is a not-for-profit, I believe the market value of the property should have been included in the notice to the community for the sake of transparency. Do Councillors honestly believe that any buyer would want this property if it were actually worth \$1?

In summary, I don't believe Councillors are truly acting in the interests of the community, rather that they have made the decision subjectively. Again, I would gladly see any and all information that sits behind the decision-making process to convince me to change my mind.

The Town still has the opportunity to listen to the concerns of the community and through complete transparency, respond to their questions and allay their doubts. Please consider this before proceeding with the disposal of this one-of-a-kind property.

MacBeth, 27 Maley Street, Ashfield

I firmly believe that the Council will respond in good faith to the seriousness and deep commitment of the community, as demonstrated by their feedback, for the Town to retain ownership of the site. I also believe the Councillors will now realise that the Town has other realistic options for the future of the site than disposal to the non-local Museum of Perth organisation. A preferred option will keep ownership of the site by the Town of Bassendean and will allow for considerable community access to both buildings, particularly responsible community use of the Residence.

Bassendean Arts Community Inc

The Bassendean Arts Community Inc, formally recognised as the oldest community group in Bassendean and based in the residence at 1 Surrey Street for over 12 years,. With its subgroup Fibrant of 35 artisan members, BAC Inc held meetings, public workshops, classes, and wider community gatherings every week, & usually twice a week, regularly every Thursday morning and Sunday afternoons. We've lost Fibrant to Bayswater and BAC is based in my dining room. Not only is our Pensioner Guard Cottage of immense historical significance to our Town and WA, but also the dilapidated but roomy residence beside it has offered community access spaces for a large variety of activities over the years, spaces that have almost disappeared in Bassendean. Once gone, they are gone forever. Please reconsider the proposal to dispose of the site. Please consider options that will allow the site to remain owned and accessible by the community. Please consider options that will allow for refurbishment of the residence to a standard for safe use by diverse members of the community but without having to spend the previously suggested huge amounts of money expected (and already consumed) by commercial architects and non-local builders. Please consider the solutions suggested by knowledgeable members of the community on how the Council might proceed with renovations through the use of highly qualified and experienced local professionals and skilled tradespeople who are willing to do the required regulated work with small or no fees. Please allow the community to help save these buildings for the use by present and future generations of proud Bassendean residents and ratepayers.

Hoy, Bassendean

I think it is absolutely appalling that the current Bassendean Council would give away such a valuable part of Bassendean's history, especially to a private company that only has its own best interests at heart. Procrastination over many years has caused the site to fall into the state that it is now in and procrastination will cause it to fall into further disrepair. Council had the opportunity to start restoration work from 2017 having received a grant from Lottery West, but chose not to and the funding was rescinded. I would rather see my rates spent on preserving history than dressing up tree's, fancy street lighting and lookout platforms.



Joseph, 59 Harcourt, Street, Bassendean

I am delighted with the proposal to sell off the property to the Museum of Perth with caveats on the renovation and restoration of the residence and cottage. Unlike the negative feedback I have noticed on our community pages regarding this proposal, what residents don't understand is the upfront and ongoing financial implication on residents if this were to remain on ToB register. I currently deal in supermarket properties and proposals such as this is very common where sales have occurred for a \$1 sale tag but with capital contributions as a requirement from the purchaser to bring the supermarket up to scratch. As a resident of Bassendean, I approve of this proposal to sell the property to Museum of Perth in the hope it will be restored and bring about more community engagement through events and access.

Luliano

I write with reference to the proposal to transfer the Pensioner Guard Cottage at 1 Surrey Street to the Museum of Perth (MoP). I am concerned about the risk that MoP will not have sufficient resources for the restoration and ongoing maintenance of the property. I note that:

- MoP are reliant on federal Work for the Dole program as their main source of funding. If this program were to cease in future (e.g. under a future ALP government), MoP could lose its funding base.
- Work for the dole was paused in 2020 due to COVID-19 which has likely impacted MoP's finances and organisational capacity to undertake such a significant project.
- MoP are also proposing to restore and refurbish the state owned cottage at 34 Cheriton Street Perth which could put further burden on its limited resources.
- Should MoP become insolvent or unable to maintain the property at 1 Surrey Street, there is a risk that they (or appointed liquidators) will need to sell the property, resulting in the community losing a significant heritage asset.

To address this potential risk, the Town of Bassendean should seek a more detailed assessment of MoP's financial capacity, skills and track record in major heritage restoration and ownership and management of major property assets and make this information publicly available. The last publicly available financial information for the Perth History Association/MoP is for 2019 prior to COVID disruption. If the transfer proceeds, the Town of Bassendean should impose conditions requiring the new owner to work collaboratively with the town's Local Studies Centre and with established community groups such as the Bassendean Historical Society who have more extensive experience and skill in the delivery of public programs and in the collection and provision of information relating to the cottage.

Carter, 8 Hyland Street, Bassendean

We write to entreat the Town of Bassendean (ToB) not to dispose of 1 Surrey Street to the Museum of Perth (MoP). We truly believe such an action would be a failure of the Town's duty to future generations and an abrogation of responsibility to Bassendean residents. The Enrolled Pensioner Guard cottage (PGC) is recognised as the most important heritage building in Bassendean. Built by convict labour in 1856-57, it is an enduring symbol of the working class foundations of our town.

The cottage has survived largely because of the adjacent residence built in 1893. With a clear understanding of its significance, the Town of Bassendean purchased the property in 1988 and has made public commitments to valuing and preserving history and heritage in the Town, a commitment often reiterated by the current Council. The site has been a base for promoting the entire history of Bassendean from pre-colonial Aboriginal ownership of the land to the present day. The residence has been constantly in use by community groups and well cared for in the past. Bassendean Historical Society (BHS) volunteers have opened the cottage for visitors on a frequent and regular basis since the society's founding in 1991 and school groups have been particularly welcomed over the years. The cottage has been looked after by BHS and is currently in a good condition. Unfortunately, The Town has not carried out necessary maintenance on the residence for at least the last six years claiming that it was unnecessary because a complete refurbishment was imminent. With the help of BHS and several key stakeholders, a large Lotterywest grant of \$375,000 was provided to the Town to restore the residence and create a history interpretation space. It was a cause of much dismay when the grant was abruptly rejected by ToB leaving the residence now needing extensive repairs, and the PGC under threat of deterioration, as even a small allocation of \$37,000 from Lotterywest was also rejected. No opportunity was given to BHS and stakeholders to review the costings obtained by ToB and work with Lotterywest on a simpler renovation. It appears to both of us as the height of cynicism that the current condition of the residence has been touted as an excuse to dispose of the site to a private enterprise, the 'Museum of Perth', for \$1. The property is a valuable one being a large block near the centre of Town and close to the river. The land, which is freehold and zoned residential, will be entirely owned by the MoP or the Perth History Association (it is not clear which organisation will be given title) along with all the legal rights of private ownership and sole possession. We are aware that BHS also submitted an Expression of Interest to refurbish the residence and transfer the site to the National Trust WA, but no explanation has been provided to the public as to why the BHS proposal was rejected. We can get no clarity on what the MoP's plans for the site actually are as they have altered over the past weeks as public objections have been raised. Initially the cottage was not of concern to MoP and opening it to the public was to remain the responsibility of BHS. MoP's interest was in the residence which was to be used as a place for training people under the Federal Government's Work for the Dole scheme. Recently a piece by Reece Harley (CEO of MoP) published in the *Reporter* stated that community groups including BHS will be permitted to access a part of the residence. This is a fairly new development. The terms and conditions of the disposal of the whole site and what, if any, safeguards for the future of the cottage and residence are unknown, despite the public being asked to make submissions. However, this is a moot point because senior staff of ToB have conceded at a meeting of Council that there is no way of enforcing any conditions on the sale or caveats on the title without expensive litigation. There are so many unknowns in all of this, the ultimate benefit to the Town appears to be minimal at best, and there are no clear details of the proposed disposal on which to base an informed opinion. Given that this process appears rushed, *ad hoc*, and opaque, we respectfully request that the decision be deferred until the public can be given all the information needed to ensure the best outcome for the people of Bassendean.

Last, 34 North Road, Bassendean

I am concerned that passing this property to a private holder (Museum of Perth) may result in the later disposal of the property to others who will not be bound to take care of it. Will the conditions placed on the certificate if title be transferred if an on sale took place? If not, I think a treasure such as this would be best managed by the National Trust. I am wondering, what is the viability of this alternate proposal would be. Could we exclude the child health facility from a Lotterywest grant proposal and ask for a for a lesser sum of money, to repair the dwellings and then transfer the property to the National Trust? How much would this cost the Town of Bassendean rate payers?

Blampey, 5 Daylesford Road, Bassendean

As a long standing resident I strongly oppose this proposal. 1 Surrey Street has been owned by the ToB since 1988 and there has been plenty of time to restore the residence as a museum and community centre. There has been money for everything else except for the only truly unique historic building address in Bassendean. Not to have restored the 1893 residence by now is nothing short of a disgrace by neglect. There have been two proposals – the first options were rejected in 2017 and the \$375,000 Lotterywest grant was returned. The second far more expensive plan which included a new child infant health clinic was also rejected. We are now in the extreme position of a decision to give 1 Surrey Street to a private organisation with no local connection who could later sell the property for profit. In my opinion the best offer received by the Town was that proposed by the BHS. They would reapply for the grant of approximately \$400,000-\$500,000 and the site remain as asset of the Town. Your proposed action will alienate all members of the BHS. In an interview on radio 720AM, Reece Harley said that the restoration will cost \$50,000 per year for four years. The engineers report estimated a cost of more than \$400,000. At \$50,000 per year over four years when will it be habitable. What standard of work can be achieved through this ad hoc process? Four years minimum to complete the restoration is not acceptable. Council is taking this on trust in what should normally be a thorough financial and implementation programme. It doesn't have to be this way. There is still time and ways to keep the property in ratepayers' ownership where it belongs and restore credibility to the Council.

Frankel, 6 Hyland Street, Bassendean

As long term residents and ratepayers of Bassendean, we are surprised and most upset that the Town of Bassendean intends to just hand over the ownership of the land and the valuable heritage buildings on 1 Surrey Street to a not-for-profit group. The Pensioner Guard Cottage was bought in our time to be an asset for the people of Bassendean and we are proud of our long history. Please, do not give this land away, it belongs to all of us and should always stay in public hands

Koekemoer, 10 Swindells Lane, Kalamunda

It would be a crying shame to see WA heritage lost at the flick of a pen. The older community of Australia wants the younger community to understand the lifestyle that we oldies endured – no Dr Google? Please can every effort be made to ensure that the heritage is accepted – there will be volunteers including myself to assist in ensuring the building is restored to ensure public safety and longevity.

Bassendean Historical Society

We object to the proposed disposal of 1 Surrey to the Museum of Perth (MoP) for \$1. Our view has always been that this property should remain in public hands and not be sold off to a private entity. The 1856 Pensioner Guard Cottage and 1893 Residence building located on this site have a very symbiotic relationship in the each building owes its existence and survival to the other, giving the property a truly rare and unique place in Bassendean's history and heritage, with the Cottage being both the oldest building in Bassendean and the last remaining purpose built extant Pensioner Guard Cottage in Western Australia and should be considered the history and heritage 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Town of Bassendean. The BHS put forward a proposal whereby the Town of Bassendean (ToB) would give us (BHS) the authority to act on ToB's behalf through a lease agreement, allowing us to raise funds and complete the restoration in a staged process over a number of years, freeing ToB of the procurement policy restrictions of Local Government while still ensuring the property remains a public building. We believe the required restoration and renovation works could have been completed under this lease agreement, with the property then passed to the National Trust as was first proposed by ToB. However, our members believe this option was not given due consideration by the ToB Officers or Councilors, despite it being listed in the EOI definitions of disposal as an option of disposal. The members of the BHS feel a betrayal of trust in that for almost the past 30 years we have regularly and by request opened the Cottage to the public. This has been done by a dedicated, committed and passionate group of volunteers on behalf of the ToB and to now have the ToB propose to dispose of the site without consultation or clear transparency in the process is a breach of trust and shows no regard for all those years of hard work and effort by BHS. BHS Inc are puzzled as to what the financial and community benefits associated with the proposed deal with MoP are. To sell off the property for \$1 along with a suggested commitment from MoP of \$50,000 per annum for four (4) years on a property valued well in excess of \$500,000 given its location and land size, does not appear to serve the ToB's best interest. On the community benefit side, we feel the ToB has missed a golden opportunity to promote that the works were to be undertaken by a local community group using local trades and skills on a local Iconic heritage building, what better community benefit could there be? Bassendean Historical Society Inc. feel that this decision should now be deferred until full documentation and information has been released to enable a clear and transparent public consultation to be undertaken, ensuring the best possible outcome for the Town of Bassendean along with its rate payers and residents

Brown, Bassendean

Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to pass judgement on whether the proposal under consideration by Council is one that has strong community benefit. In my view it is only possible to make an informed comment on this proposal when at least the following matters are disclosed:

- The detail about the undertakings the Museum of Perth intends to provide Council. It is proposed that milestones will be included in the caveat/agreement that commits the MoP to complete certain works by a given date.
- The ability and cost to Council of enforcing any caveat on the property in the event that MoP does not comply with the under undertakings.
- What is the estimated cost of renovating the building.
- Does the MoP have the finances to meet that cost.
- What profit is made by the MoP from the business it proposed to transfer to 1 Surrey Street and is that profit sufficient to renovate the building.
- Can the MoP sell the buildings once ownership is transferred and if not, what mechanism is proposed to prevent that from occurring.
- What organisation is proposed to be party to the agreement with Council.
- Is the MoP an incorporated entity that can buy and sell property in its own right.
- Exactly what community benefit is provided by the sale of the property to the MoP.
- Is there any possibility in the legal framework that is to be established around this proposal that could result in Council and ratepayers losing a property of some value.

Collins, 24 James Street, Bassendean

Please accept my submission AGAINST the proposed disposal of the Pensioner Guard Cottage and the existing residence at Surrey Street for \$1. I am dismayed that the Town of Bassendean (ToB) thinks so little about preserving and valuing our heritage and built housing stock, despite the fact that so many of our residents choose to live here because of this reason. The Bassendean Historical Society (BHS) submitted an expression of interest (for the said properties) and I believe that they met criteria. What is your reason then for selling/giving it away for the paltry amount of \$1? These are my reasons against selling it to the Museum of Perth:

- I believe most people think that this company is affiliated with the WA Museum – which of course it is not;
- There will be no direct, or indirect benefit to the ToB and its community; in actual fact, there will be a significant historical, social and heritage loss to the Bassendean community;
- The BHS is a not-for-profit organisation, that has been operating for 30+ years and in this time has dedicated the majority of its time and resources to preserving and maintaining the iconic Pensioner Guard Cottage;
- The Museum of Perth is a business that aims to make money and appears to only be interested in acquiring property for the purpose of accumulating assets.

- I believe the Mayor of ToB is known to the Executive Director of the Museum of Perth, Reece Harley and her 'Conflict of Interest' makes this decision a dubious one and
- Reece Harley's experience with history is doing walking tours around bars and alleyways around the City of Perth. Researching his private business, the Museum of Perth, it appears that he receives his income by receiving government grants for 'Work-for-the-Dole' recipients. He will no doubt continue to make greater profits, especially when he in effect gets a property for free. Therefore, where is the benefit for heritage and the Bassendean community?

In conclusion. what organisation GIVES AWAY valuable real estate, walking distance to the Swan River, that has been classified (by the Heritage Trust), as having local and state significance, without an evaluation, to a private business, with no links to the Bassendean community for \$1?

#### History Council of Western Australia

We were disappointed to learn of the Town of Bassendean's proposal to dispose of the property by sale. As well as the place being of value as a local community asset, it is also a place of state significance as evidenced by its classification by the National Trust of Australia (WA) and inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places. It is rare as one of only two pensioner guard cottages entered on the State Register. We strongly encourage the Town of Bassendean to reconsider the planned disposal for several reasons. We understand that the Town has owned the place since the late 1980s and has been responsible for maintaining and conserving the building for over thirty years with assistance from the Bassendean Historical Society. Leading by example as an owner of a heritage place is an important role for the Town to model to other building owners. Disposing of the place in total seemingly contradicts the Town's own commitment to 'create a community closely connected to its history and heritage' as outlined in the *Town of Bassendean Strategic Community Plan, 2020-2030*. PO Box 229 Northbridge WA 6865 office@historycouncilwa.org.au www.historycouncilwa.org.au The History Council of Western Australia is registered as a charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 8338 3850 795. We understand the disposal does not indicate whether other options, such as short or long-term leasing, were considered by the Town. We are aware the Town received a \$375,000 grant from Lotterywest planned to be used towards 1 Surrey Street but that the grant was relinquished. It is unfortunate that the Town appears to be divesting itself of responsibilities regarding community expectations to conserve this significant place. Should the Town continue to favour disposal by sale as its preferred option then we believe the Town has a responsibility to ensure that the future owner has the means and expertise to conserve this significant place. While we are aware of the historical research work undertaken by the preferred purchaser, Museum of Perth, we are unaware of any track record they have in relation to conserving heritage places. We think this should be critical factor in considering something as absolute as the sale of the freehold title to a State significant heritage property and encourage the Town of Bassendean to undertake due diligence on this matter.

We respectfully suggest that the perceived benefits the Town articulates regarding disposal by sale are short-sighted and may not result in the intended outcome of community access and conservation. We object to the proposed disposal and encourage the Town to consider other alternatives.

Horn, Waroona

I learned of the plans for the sale of the Bassendean Pensioner Guard Cottage through my interest in and long association with the McNeece Pensioner Guard Cottage at Greenough. Bassendean is very lucky to have such a building in the condition it is, as McNeece's Cottage is now in ruins. I don't agree with this sale and don't understand the motives behind it, especially when the council had access to significant funding to spend on restoring the building but chose not to. I question how the property could be valued at \$1, given the uniqueness of its condition and location. If you are willing to give it away for so little, why would you not offer it as a long-term peppercorn lease to any interested organisation? You could then stipulate conditions in the lease to ensure its upkeep but retain it as an asset for the community. I hope the council will reconsider this proposed sale and continue to value heritage buildings, especially as their number continues to dwindle.

Palmer

I am writing this submission against the proposed action taken by the town of Bassendean to sell the Pensioners Guard Cottage. Surely the interests and sense of community are worth more than those of a private buyer.

Dalglish, 26 James Street, Bassendean

Residents proudly save old homes, one such one was in Palmerston Street where instead of knocking down an old fibro home the owners stripped the fibro, re stumped and reclad to preserve the property. Another on the corner of James St has recently been renovated and the lovely original character maintained. Parks are rejuvenated, roads made safer for the community and initiatives like the Repair Cafe help bring our wonderful community of Bassendean together. Yet, one of most historic buildings is to be practically given away?? Surely the Town of Bassendean can find a way to keep this piece of history in the hands of Bassendean Residents? The decision to sell it for \$1 seems short sighted and frankly makes me sad. Please keep this piece of history in Bassendean's caring hands.

Murphy, 1 River Street, Bassendean

We must congratulate Bassendean Council in their efforts to dispose of ownership of the pensioner guard cottage. Council should never have got involved in such an expensive white elephant using ratepayer funds so we fully support any moves to dispose of ownership and upkeep costs. You have my full support in this endeavour.

Jekabsons, 6 Barton Parade, Bassendean

The BHS have, over the decades, invested countless hours of dedicated volunteer time and expertise looking after the interests of this Town & Community asset and opening it to the public for tours on a regular basis. The current proposal to sell this historically & culturally significant site for \$1 with no guarantee that the required restoration works be undertaken and community access provided would be hard to believe if it wasn't just yet another in a growing list of questionable decisions. It is no secret that when a Local Government Authority requests tenders on works of any kind that the price is vastly inflated over what a normal customer might pay. This is due to several factors, importantly, that they are restricted to 'preferred' suppliers who are conversant with the extra bureaucratic requirements. This combined with Town Councillors bizarre decision to include an Infant Health Clinic ( "Family and Children's Services Facility" ) in the plans for the upgrade of 1 Surrey St contributed to the project becoming financially unviable and then shelved, resulting in the Town relinquishing a substantial Lotterywest grant. Meanwhile, an Engineer's report which was interpreted by Town staff but not released to the Surrey St community group stakeholders or the public, was used to justify evicting the community groups from the premises, leaving the site disused and vacant. The Engineer's report was subsequently made available only to those who expressed an interest as per the Surrey St disposal EOI announced early 2021 and has still not yet been made public. I shouldn't need to reiterate the substance of the Bassendean Historical Society EOI, however to summarise, the BHS have offered to do the right thing by the local community and complete the required works to the premises & ensure continued community access without cost to ratepayers and with the asset ultimately remaining in public hands. Their goal is to have both the Pensioner Guard Cottage and the associated 1893 residence restored and then taken on by the National Trust who retain an in principle interest in the site and have expressed such. At this point in time, the Town of Bassendean have called for Public Feedback on a proposal to dispose of the "land" for \$1. How can "the public" possibly provide informed feedback? The Town of Bassendean's consultation portal 'detail' raises more questions than it answers: a page mostly comprising justification (excuses) for disposing of the site and promotion of the MoP, but no detail ABOUT the site, no plans or what the 'conditions' of the sale are. The site is described in the heading as "Land". Presumably the actual detail is confidential because it isn't included here. There is mention of a caveat, but no information about that. It also states that the purchaser will "undertake restoration of the existing Residence over a period of up to four years, in accordance with the staged implementation plan provided by the purchaser to the seller dated May 2021 and as contained in its expression of interest submission ", again with no detail in the consultation portal or link to that relevant information. Does this mean the purchaser will relinquish the property back to the Town of Bassendean if works are not completed within that time frame? Does this mean the Town would need to initiate court action if the purchaser does not fulfil the requirements of their commitment? Where is the detail? What happens if MoP goes broke and can't get the works done? The portal provides a link to the MoP promotional website, where I note they state that they have been in touch with stakeholders the Bassendean Arts Community and have their support. This conflicts with a written statement from the BAC that they do NOT support the disposal of the site and instead wish to see it remain in public ownership.



The MoP website also states that they look forward to hosting BAC committee & events in the Residence building once restoration works are complete (4 years hence, if the time frame stated is anything to go by). This conflicts with a verbal statement made by MoP representative Reece Harley at a 2020 OCM, where he mentioned that the MoP would accommodate over 20 people in an office type environment in the Residence building in order to obtain the training funding the MoP requires, which would consume virtually all the suitable space. So, I ask, how will the Town of Bassendean ensure that the conditions of completing restoration works, community benefit & access will be met if the site is no longer in the Town's ownership? *A stitch in time saves nine*: The Engineer's report of May 2015 and subsequent inspection in August 2020 and related report indicate that in the intervening 5 year period the Town of Bassendean did not undertake remedial or structural maintenance works to prevent further deterioration of the buildings or ensure their ongoing safety. Contrary to the ToB staff interpretation, the 2015 report does not deem the residence uninhabitable, nor is removal of the concrete slab recommended. Instead, a program of remedial works, inspection and maintenance is proposed, as removal of the concrete slab would require invasive demolition works that would negatively impact on the integrity of the heritage of the 1893 building. So why then, did ToB staff evict the community groups from the site, and then propose works to the building which are not only expensive but requiring removal of the concrete slab structure? Why wasn't basic maintenance undertaken? The term "demolition by neglect" comes to mind. And now, faced with quotes that are more expensive than anticipated, the Town would prefer to give it all away? It's short term thinking to not invest in basic maintenance to retain a public asset, as we have seen with the loss of the iconic and much loved jetties from Point Reserve. Instead of disposing of this historic site for \$1, I would prefer to see the Town retain public ownership and take responsibility. If the MoP can achieve all they propose in their EOI, there is no reason why they need to own the site to do this, with the consent and understanding of the Town of Bassendean. Indeed, a collaboration between multiple stakeholder groups may achieve a better overall outcome, rather than a competitive acquisitive process. In Bassendean Historical Society meetings since 2017 we've discussed collaborating with local businesses, designers, builders etc. to undertake the restoration works that we saw frustrating our Local Government. Bassendean has an enormous pool of talent and expertise right here, and many would be all too happy to contribute to restoration works. We also invited John Viska, president of the Australian Garden History Association to give an audio visual presentation on his thesis work Australian Colonial Kitchen Gardens, which was held in the Bassendean Memorial Library in August 2019. This inspiring event showed us the potential for the gardens surrounding the Pensioner Guard Cottage and Residence to become transformed into authentic productive gardens of the era, enhancing the visitor experience as part of a living, growing, seasonally changing, educational and interactive outdoor museum, created and maintained by local volunteers. In summary, I object to the proposal to dispose of the site for \$1 and would prefer it remain in public ownership and maintained for the benefit of the community, by the community.

Grogan, 5 Lamb Street, Bassendean

I am writing to you this day to express my extreme disappointment with the decision to award the above Historic property to the Museum of Perth without first conducting any due diligence on that entity whatsoever. You would be fully aware of the history of my involvement in the facility going back to being a foundation member of the Bassendean Historical Society inc, which ironically was formed initially by the senior staff at the TOB library. I have been a past President of the Society and I also played a major role along with the previous manager of Library Services Alan Caddy in obtaining a grant from LISWA to undertake a study of our archival storage, and this was undertaken by Paul Malone from Battye Library, and from that exercise we have eventually employed a full time archivist in our Library. My family has been in the local area for almost 192 years, with the arrival of the Hyde family in October 1829 on the "Atwick", and the arrival of Dr George Cowcher on the "Medina in July 1830, and he became the first practicing Doctor in the Guildford area. My Grandfather John Grogan came to West Guildford from Lawlers with my father (Jack) Patrick John Grogan in 1911 and purchased a 70 acre farm in Lord Street which he called "Cashel" after his home town in Ireland. Our family on both sides have played a major part in preserving and maintaining the history of our town over the years and would be horrified at this blatant misuse of authority. As you can see that is why most people don't leave our unique town and people want to live here because it gives them a sense of history and belonging which most Local Government Authorities in WA would envy and for the love of me I cannot work out the current idealistic views or direction of the current council. I am afraid that it seems after reading the council minutes on this matter that it is evident to me in the town that the decision to award our Historic buildings to a "work for the dole" organization is personal and idealistically driven and not about what the town wants or is about. As a matter of interest I was asked by the then senior staff to join the steering committee for the refurbishment of the 1893 residence and not as a member of the BHS but as a long time resident with a history of building and local knowledge, which at times I may say my thoughts of what was required conflicted with some members of the BHS. In conclusion, I repeat that should our town council hand over our asset to a 3rd party it will forever be on the consciences of the councillors who vehemently supported the gifting of the "Cottage" and adjoining building for a consideration of \$1 to the MOP. I strongly suggest that any further decision on this very sensitive matter be deferred until after the upcoming local government elections, and to reiterate my wife Susan Grogan and I oppose this decision.

Bostock

I am writing to oppose the disposal of the Pensioner Cottage to Perth Museum. This I believe will be the biggest mistake the Town Council of Bassendean can possibly make. My background is in research in colonial military history and for which I am writing a history for Western Australia. An important component of that is the Pensioner Guard's role in the development of the colony and their close connection with Bassendean with the unique survival of the Pensioner Cottage at 1 Surrey Street. Archaeological digging has also revealed artifacts connected directly to the pensioners. My research has revealed that the military pensioners are part of a worldwide settlement movement and therefore there is a world perspective not just local. It also appears that the best documented, photographed and most detailed history of military pensioners is here in Western Australia. Into this context the Pensioner Cottage fits as potentially a huge tourist attraction not only for Bassendean, but the whole of Perth. If the cottage and adjoining building were treated on the basis of a single museum unit with the right exhibits then it could become a great tourist draw card. Such a major attraction based around pensioner settlers already exists at Howick Village site, New Zealand and is a major attraction. Of course if the Cottage is disposed of and given to Perth Museum then this will not happen. It should be noted that the Perth Museum is a charity registered organization based mainly on tax payer funded grants to manage a small museum and 'volunteers' (in reality work for the dole and 'volunteers') in a computer room processing 'cultural' projects such as corrections of TROVE online newspapers. Many of the public are under the impression that Perth Museum is the same as W.A. Museum which it is not. Whether Perth Museum has the expertise or resources to run the Pensioner Cottage site is doubtful. Would the property be mainly a museum, a charity or a business? With up to fifty 'volunteers' on any one day with attendant parking problems? In short for the preservation of the cultural heritage of Bassendean, Perth, Western Australia and the world please do not go ahead with this disposal.

Laundon, 40 Elder Parade, Bassendean

If the Town of Bassendean is committed to its history, it would be great if the Pension Guard Cottage stays in our Bassendean history for future Generations . I am a local resident of 50 years and it would be disappointing to think our Council would sell this property for \$1 to a private organization.

Collins, 24 James Street, Bassendean

I object to the selling of the building to the Museum of Perth. I believe this is not the WA Museum and therefore there are no safeguards for its future protection. As this is a private organisation there is no justification for selling what belongs to the residents of Bassendean for \$1, well below market value.

Johnson, 6 Barton Parade, Bassendean

I would like to object to this proposal. Having watched the whole process for the last 25 years, all I have seen was poor management of what was once a well used community asset. A series of errors over decades from revolving administration & councillors with seemingly little or no long term historical connection or background relating to the place. At times purposeful demolition by neglect by a staff member who shall remain unnamed but is thankfully no longer with us. All of this at no fault of the community/ratepayers and in fact despite numerous good ideas and motivated volunteers offering free time and ideas to stop the rot. The community should not lose what was a valuable asset because of poor management by their representatives and the staff who work for them.

Megan Fraser

I object to the notion of selling the cottage buildings to the Museum of Perth for \$1, as they have nothing to do with the ACTUAL WA Museum & do not uphold the values of heritage and history that many residents in Bassendean do. I believe this is not the WA Museum and therefore there are no safeguards for its future protection.

Kojonup Historical Society

We are extremely disappointed that the Shire of Bassendean is going to sell the Bassendean Pensioner Guard cottage property to private hands. The Bassendean Pensioner Guard cottage along with Elverd's Cottage in Kojonup are the only two remaining cottages that were built by Enrolled Pensioner Guards in the very early part of WA. The cottages are an integral part of WA history and these cottages remain because of the passion of historical societies to retain and value the past. WA has lost so much of its British history to 'progress' and what is lost cannot be rebuilt. The considerations of sale do not elaborate on what happens after the four year term expires. The Kojonup Historical Society urges the Town of Bassendean to reconsider its options and take pride in its ownership of a building which is an important part of WA and Australian history and work with the BHS and community to restore and develop the site.

Busby, 8A Redlands Street, Bayswater

As a ratepayer in the Town of Bassendean and an active volunteer member of several groups in the Bassendean Town. I wish to fully object to the manner that the staff and councillors have chosen to dispense with an asset of the Town. There is a Bassendean Historical Group that exists and is also an asset of the Town. To have the Town staff and Councillors agree and propose to accept an offer of \$1 just beggars belief.

Ethan

I object to the notion of selling the cottage buildings to the Museum of Perth for \$1, as they have nothing to do with the ACTUAL WA Museum & do not uphold the values of heritage and history that many residents in Bassendean do. I believe this is not the WA Museum and therefore there are no safeguards for its future protection.

Andrew Laundon, 40 Elder Parade, Bassendean

It would be devastating if this local heritage was sold to a private museum. I have lived in Bassendean for 55 years and love the character and heritage of the area.

Paul Poliwka, West Road, Bassendean

I wish to register the following concerns with the proposed disposal of the Site:

1. Economic reasons – the Site was purchased in 1988 for \$67,000 and is now being proposed to sold for nominal consideration. Regardless of the identity of the purchaser, an asset of the Town of Bassendean (the “Town”) should not be disposed of for nominal consideration. The Town’s Administration put forward several alternate solutions that would see a net return to the Town of Bassendean. There needs to be clarification that subdivision of the Site is possible. There is no reason the newer historical building on the Site could not be preserved in private ownership. Further, there needs to be a demonstrated consideration of the option of a long term lease of the Site with renovations to be performed in lieu of rent. Town assets should not be sold, especially when the restoration of the Site was the subject of a substantial grant which the Town allowed to lapse.
2. Proposed Purchaser – the starting point is that the Town does not have to dispose of the Site to anyone. There is no obligation on the Town to choose any tender received through the tender process. To suggest otherwise, is to render any community consultation illusory. The community must be informed of the following regarding the proposed purchaser:
  - a. The Museum of Perth is not the Perth Museum and is governed by the articles of association of the Perth History Association Inc. and under those articles, that entity is permitted to dispose of the Site and to apply those funds towards its objects which are no limited to the Town. The Town needs to show it has reconciled these objects against its own:

“3.0 *Objects of the Association*

(1) *The objects of the Association are:*

(a) *educating visitors on the history of Perth, Western Australia;*

(b) *promoting tourism to Perth, Western Australia; and*

(c) *promoting and encouraging the arts by providing:*

(i) *a permanent exhibition of Perth's history; and*
  - b. That there is an alternate and statutorily based organisation that operates in a similar, and arguably more targeted, manner: The National Trust (WA). The community needs to be apprised of the National Trust’s position and there needs to be an explanation of how the Pensioner Guard Cottage (the “PGC”) is not apt for transfer to the

National Trust (WA). By way of example, there was a transfer of Anzac Cottage from the City of Vincent to the National Trust (WA). If the Town's imperative is to transfer the PCG for nominal consideration, an assessment of the restorative measures and freedoms of access to residents of the Town that would be granted by the National Trust (WA) need to be considered.

3. Responsibilities – the Town must not abdicate its responsibilities to the residents of the Town. The best way for the Town to ensure that the PCG remains accessible to the residents of the Town is to maintain ownership. As exposed in Council deliberations, the lodgement of a caveat is unsatisfactory. The Town should strive to provide a sense of community and place (for everyone – not just those descended from pensioner guards). The Bassendean Historical Society Inc. has demonstrated an ability to use the PGC in a collaborative community building fashion.

#### Irwin District Historical Society

Our Society has a long standing interest in convict history, being in an area of significant ticket-of-leaver and pensioner guard settlement from the 1860s onwards that still contains much evidence of their presence in landscapes, museum collections and local genealogies. We are also an old historical society, being founded in 1964 and now operate three museums, one of which has a focus on convicts, policing and justice. We are also a fellow affiliate with Bassendean Historical Society of the RWAHS. On these bases, we make the following submission for your consideration. The historic and heritage significance of the place have been long-recognised, to the local Bassendean communities and to communities across the whole State including convict and pensioner guard descendants, historians and scholars of the convict system, and heritage practitioners and regulators. The Heritage Council's Inherit database shows just two pensioner guard cottages on the State Register (of which Bassendean is one) and four others (two in ruins) on Local Heritage Surveys. They are a rare type of place, and rare evidence of the pensioner guard presence in local communities. It is troubling that the Council would chose to abandon its role as the steward of an important cultural resource for a nebulous short-term financial benefit, and even more concerning that this will set an example for other local governments to divest themselves of cultural assets such as historic sites. Is the 'Bassendean Solution' to cultural heritage a legacy for which the Council really wants to be remembered? The future of the Bassendean Pensioner Guard Cottage and Residence cannot be guaranteed by the Council if it relinquishes its ownership of the place, as is proposed. We urge the Council to consider leasing the property, and/or transferring ownership back to the Crown as a Crown Reserve for the conservation of historic buildings, and for which a State agency can act as the lessor. Selling the freehold cannot possibly offer any guarantees that the cultural heritage values and community access to the place will be maintained into the future. The Council made commitments to the Bassendean Historical Society and the local community in the 1980s, through its purchase of the site and then its use by the local community and local historical society as a local museum.

These commitments should be honoured. Local culture and history has a social and cultural value that may not be captured in financial terms but which nevertheless exists and should be valued and supported by the Council. Selling the Pensioner Guard Cottage and Residence, and the consequent ejection of the local historical society from the place, cannot be regarded in any way as being supportive of local heritage and history. We urge the Council to live up to its own *Town of Bassendean Strategic Community Plan, 2020-2030* in which it commits to “create a community closely connected to its history and heritage”. It appears that the ‘closely connected community’ already exists and does not need to be created but instead needs support from its own local government, not abandonment after more than 30 years of custodianship and caring for the place. In summary, we urge Bassendean Town Council to not proceed with selling the place but instead leasing it, ideally on a long-term renewable basis, for the purposes of a museum and research centre and the conservation of historic buildings, and preferably to Bassendean Historical Society.

Peterson, 8 Carnegie Road, Bassendean

As explained below, I believe that this proposal is a very bad idea and should not be proceeded with. My first concern is that it is unclear what body the Town of Bassendean is actually dealing with and proposing to, essentially, give the Pensioner Guard Cottage and associated 1893 residence. As far as I can see, the Museum of Perth (MoP) is not an incorporated body and is variously described on its own website as “run by” and “an initiative of” the Perth History Association Incorporated. As presented, I am doubtful that the so called “Museum of Perth” has the legal capacity to enter into the proposed contract envisaged by the description on the Town of Bassendean website. Furthermore, the documents displayed by the MoP and the ToB do not demonstrate the claimed financial capacities, current or future, of the MoP to undertake and complete in the intended time-frame the known required works, let alone any that may emerge in the course of undertaking work at the property. My second concern is that the Town of Bassendean appears to get little out of the proposal. As written up on the Town’s website, the focus and main intent, despite the feel-good words around heritage preservation, is to avoid spending money on doing the Town’s job of preserving and enhancing the Town’s heritage. The proposal as described on the MoP’s website is that the cottage be open at least weekly, but this is an easily abandoned undertaking since it was not a requirement of the Town. Likewise, the proposed use of the 1893 residence offers little space for serious use by the Bassendean community. My major concern relates to risk management. Putting an “absolute caveat” on the property will not prevent buildings falling down or becoming irreparably damaged or becoming inaccessible for one reason or another to the Bassendean community. The MoP claims to have entered into peppercorn rental agreements in other jurisdictions but for some reason the ToB has apparently not sought or offered such an arrangement with suitable time limits in this case. Dealing with incorporated bodies with few tangible resources such as is proposed in this case, can be a fraught business. The good intentions of the erstwhile members of such bodies can evaporate in an instant due to internal squabbles, the passing of individuals who have been leading, changes in direction of the organisation, changes in government and quasi-government grant-giving bodies either and other unforeseen circumstances.

The proposal essentially throws the risk of all of these things onto the ToB while if things go pear-shaped, the proposed acquirer disappears along with the asset or its proceeds on disposal to other parties or goes onto other ventures leaving the ToB holding a liability or deprived of a real or potentially significant community asset. The Town has already demonstrated an inability to properly manage (e.g., its gross underestimation of the costs of the proposal incorporating a child health centre and declining hundreds of thousands of dollars on offer to improve the buildings) this valuable site and its valuable buildings and I fear that this proposal will end up being very much regretted by the people of the district. I urge the ToB to have another try and the Council and senior staff to have a deeper look at what the objectives should be in managing the Town's assets and managing the risks to them.

Dr Sally Cawley, 2 Surrey Street, Bassendean

I have read on the Town's webpage about the decision of the Council to 'sell' the site for one dollar and a deed of agreement with the 'buyer'. I am appalled not only by the decision but the serious lack of information being provided to the people of Bassendean about it all in what is supposed to be sensible community discussion and feedback. Even the promise of an agreement with the 'buyer' about opening up the Cottage monthly to the community is odd given that volunteers have been opening it up each Sunday for months now. Basically, after neglecting the Residence in particular for years, the Town wants to 'sell' off the whole site to an entity about which not much is disclosed.

Collins, 24 James Street, Bassendean

I object to the selling of the building to the Museum of Perth. I believe this is not the WA Museum and therefore there are no safeguards for its future protection. As this is a private organisation there is no justification for selling what belongs to the residents of Bassendean for \$1, well below market value.

Davidson, 16 Railway Parade, Bassendean

It has come to my attention that the Town of Bassendean is considering the sale of 1 Surrey Street to the Museum of Perth. Whilst it is gratifying to hear that the Museum of Perth is tendering to make significant restorations to the site, I have the following concerns:

- that the contract enables the sale to go ahead for the payment of only \$1
- that the Museum of Perth needs to give a clear promise in the 'handover' for the renovation of the buildings on the site, including the Pensioner Guard Cottage, 1893 residence and the 1950s addition
- that the Town of Bassendean did not pursue and use their own heritage restoration grant in 2020 to enable the restoration of the complete site and thus keep it as part of the Town of Bassendean. The complete site shows the changes in buildings and their classification over a significant time period
- That the Town of Bassendean will no longer have involvement and direct control over the site's future.



As part of the Town's 'Bassendream' project, it has been continuously noted that the community places a high regard to the Town's history. I would urge the Town to reconsider and look carefully at this proposal to retain this very significant, unique historical site. I would also urge the Town to carry-out their own restoration plans through community engagement and thorough planning. I do not believe that the sale of such a site is beneficial for the Town.