

Dear Mr Valentine

I hope you have had a great Christmas and New Year.

Thank you for your time at the hearing on December 14th.

The session seriously exposed the lack of community consultation by the Department of Justice on this matter. The DoJ officer was forced to admit that consultation only commenced after the decision to move to the Mooreville Road site was announced.

She claimed that there were no suitable sites found in their investigation in 2019 Note: the relocation decision was made in July 2020 - just 10 weeks after the Attorney General had announced the renovation work on the existing building would be "fast tracked". Now the project has blown out from \$15m to \$40m – surely grounds for a serious review.

My comment of "*You can't just get on Google Earth and realestate.com and say there's nothing here*" sums up the effort that DoJ went to. Neither the Council, BNW, commercial real estate companies or major landholders were contacted during the process. There is always land for sale in the CBD; one just needs to know who wants to sell at that time. Most sales are made off market and indeed Steve Kons purchased a major site off market just two weeks before the hearing.

A major statement was made at the hearing by Gerald Heathcote; who advised that he has 7000sqm of land in the block opposite the police station and is happy to discuss sale or lease of all or part of the block.

The Heathcote family is an old Burnie family with Gerald's father being Warden back in the 70s and I can assure you his offer is genuine.

A multi storey building could be constructed for a lot less than \$40m and even have overhead or underground access to the police station. This is the ideal site for a new courthouse and would cost a lot less than \$40m as it could be purpose built rather than be an expensive refit.

Another option is to use the existing fire station site and relocate that facility (as proposed by Mayor Kons in The Advocate 31/12). There are other potential options available.

I urge you to vote down this initiative or at least reopen the site evaluation. We are not against relocation and understand the current facility is not fit for purpose – we just want the court retained within the CBD.

It is vital we stop the fragmentation of our CBD and keep community services in our city. I understand the Health department was very interested in taking over the old UTas site so they could consolidate its administration in one area and maximise medical service space at the hospital if the relocation of admin functions made more space available there.

The Burnie community is united in its opposition to this relocation. There is no local voice supporting this idea. As a former Mayor I believe you could sense the level of frustration of this expensive alternative being thrust on the local community via a remote bureaucracy.

We are asking that the decision be reviewed via an open process in light of extreme public opposition and the poor (and remote) decision making of the department.

All the best for 2022!

Best regards.....ian

Ian Jones

President

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