



HUON VALLEY COUNCIL

MEDIA RELEASE

14 June 2018

Council proposal to operate Geeveston Visitor Centre

The Huon Valley Council received a report at this week's ordinary council meeting recommending that the running of the Geeveston Visitor Centre in the Geeveston Town Hall becoming a Council operation.

The Geeveston Visitor Centre is currently run by the Geeveston Town Hall Company (GTHCo). This is a Council company limited by guarantee, managed by a community based Board of representatives, formed in September 2015. The Board consists of up to five volunteer community members and two Council representatives (currently the Commissioner and the General Manager). Council still maintains ownership of the Geeveston Town Hall building.

Since its inception, the GTHCo has successfully established a fully functioning Visitor Information Centre, a Museum and a Gallery Space. This was to ensure the community had a hub of activity within the Town. This was completed within the timeframes specified by the endorsed Business Plan.

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor said the GTHCo Board had identified a number of risks in continuing to run the Visitor Centre.

"The Board and Council investigated the potential transition of the Visitor Centre to Council. A number of issues were identified which we felt needed addressing which have the potential to impact on the successful running of the Centre.

"These included the cost of accounting and financial systems, the need to manage and administer the Centre, staff relief during periods of leave and the ability to continue to sustainably run the Centre if the volunteer Board wasn't able to.

"Council believes there are benefits to the community by Council running the Geeveston Visitor Centre through streamlined policies and procedures; resource sharing and the ability to purchase bulk stock, for both Huonville and Geeveston. The Board will still be setting the direction of the Centre even though it will be managed by Council.

"We look forward to working with GTHCo about transitioning management of the Visitor Centre to Council," Commissioner Taylor said.

For more information

Adriana Taylor, Huon Valley Council Commissioner

PH: (03) 6264 0300

Contact: Communications & Media Unit, Huon Valley Council - Ph: (03) 6264 0314

Email: communications@huonvalley.tas.gov.au - Web: www.huonvalley.tas.gov.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/HuonValley