

Threat to Small Arms Museum's future

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ONE of Lithgow's most important attractions, the Small Arms Museum, is facing a real threat to its future existence following a revelation a so far un-named organisation is attempting to buy the museum building out from under the managing committee.

And, ominously, it seems the bid is receiving a sympathetic ear from the owners of the site, Thales.

News of the threat to the museum and its multi million dollar collection has already sent shockwaves through those sections of the community made aware of the development at the weekend.

The museum was established in 1995 with the support of the previous operators of the factory, ADI.

ADI was subsequently taken over by the French owned multi national arms and aerospace conglomerate, Thales who have continued with the agreement.

Until now.

The museum is in the two storey building fronting Methven Street which during its working life housed the Small Arms Factory office block and the facilities for the factory full time security staff, including at one time a Federal Police unit.

It is the most modern building on the site.

However it was in a neglected state when leased from ADI for a peppercorn rental and has been transformed into a world class museum as a result of thousands of hours of volunteer man hours.

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