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From: jennifer pascoe [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 August 2018 4:02 PM
To: Lithgow City Council
Subject: LITHGOW AREA WOMEN'S SHED - PERMANENT SITE

ATTENTION MR GRAEME FAULKNER, GENERAL MANAGER

Dear Mr Faulkner

We write to enlist Council's support in assisting us to find a permanent site to house the Lithgow Area Women's Shed ("the Shed").

We are a not-for-profit, tool-based initiative established for and by the women of Lithgow to promote the health, wellbeing and empowerment of its members through the conduit of connection, construction and community.

The Shed is currently in its formative stages, establishing a Committee, membership registration and developing strategies. A range of classes and workshops have taken place which have contributed to the growth of our membership base, with interest now in excess of 150 on Facebook and an increased demand for further workshops.

And herein lies our dilemma! While the Shed is progressing in theory, we are unable to proceed further in practice without an exclusive, designated space – a permanent site where meetings, training, workshops etc. can be held on an ongoing basis and where the group and its philosophies can expand and evolve and have the opportunity to exceed its expectations. We, therefore, seek Council's support in helping us to find this place - a place to call home.

We understand that there is a building in the Showground that is currently vacant, which we viewed in May. We believe this could be a suitable venue for our purposes.

If this building is viable for the Shed and once established, we would also appreciate exploring the prospect of working with Council in the future to develop its potential, e.g. re-activating the old netball site, establishing an art hub, picnic area, community garden, waste management Tip Shop, all of which would benefit the community.

By way of background information, the Shed grew out of a community consultation between Council and a diverse group of local women during International Women's Day 2018. It recognized the need for a place where women of all ages, cultures and circumstances can not only connect and learn from each other but also acquire practical, tool-based skills to enable them to live self-sufficient, independent lives.

More than ever, there is a need for women to not only recognize their worth but also have the opportunity to express it. Our philosophy is Empowering Women to Build our Future and with Council's support, we can help our local women to achieve this and create positive, transformative change for the community in the process.

We would be grateful for the opportunity to discuss the possible usage of the vacant Showground building. Please contact the undersigned on [REDACTED] Ali Kim (Secretary) [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Any assistance you can provide in helping the Lithgow Area Women's Shed to procure a permanent site would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Leanne Hopkins
President

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